MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2026

Mayor Tim Barker declared the Regular Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall, 120 E. Caney Street, Wharton, TX. Councilmember Russell Machann led the opening devotion, and Mayor Tim Barker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmembers present were:	Mayor Tim Barker, Councilmembers Terry Freese, Greg Hippel, Burnell Neal, Russell Machann, and Larry Pittman.
Councilmember absent was:	Amber Barbee.
Staff members present were:	City Manager, Joseph R. Pace; City Attorney, Paul Webb; Finance Director, London Davis, CPA; City Secretary/Assistant City Manager, Paula Favors; Public Works Director, Roderick Semien; Police Chief, Terry David Lynch; Emergency Management Coordinator, Ben Guanajuato; Detective Lt. Jason Barker; Finance Accountant, Leslie Lopez; Building Official, Claudia Velasquez; Assistant to the Building Official, Valerie Herrera; and EMS Director, Christy Gonzales.
Visitors present were:	Donna Wilson, Sean Butler of Butler-Cohen LLC, and Colby Primeaux with the Wharton County Leader Journal.

Roll Call and Excused Absences.

Councilmember Greg Hippel moved to excuse Councilmember Amber Barbee. Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Public Comments.

Mayor Tim Barker called for Public Comments. No comments were made.

Wharton Moment.

Mayor Tim Barker called for Wharton moments. The following comments were given:

The following comments were given:

1. Police Chief Terry David Lynch stated that Detective Sgt. Justin Pannel was selected to attend the LEMIT program.

2. Councilmember Burnell Neal gave his condolences to the family of Ms. Loretta Neal Craft, who was a long-time Wharton Independent School District teacher who had passed away.

Review and Consider:

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider the City of Wharton Financial Report for September 2026. After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to approve the City of Wharton Financial Report for September 2026. Councilmember Burnell Neal seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The second item on the agenda was to review and consider the Wharton County Jail-City Permits, Construction, and Demolition Fees:

A. Request from Judge Spenrath for the waiver of all City of Wharton permitting and construction fees associated with the construction of the new Wharton County Jail and Sheriff's Office located at 320 East Milam Street.
B. Request from Judge Spenrath for the waiver of any applicable fees or costs associated with the demolition of the existing Wharton County Jail and Sheriff's Office and the demolition of the existing structure located at 315 East Elm Street.

City Manager Joseph R. Pace presented a copy of a request from Judge Spenrath requesting the waiver of all City permitting and construction fees associated with the construction of the new Wharton County Jail and Sheriff's Office located at 320 East Milam Street and the waiver of applicable fees or costs associated with the demolition of the existing Wharton County Jail and Sheriff's Office, as well as the demolition of the existing structure located at 315 East Elm Street. Sean Butler of Butler-Cohen LLC stated that he did not intend to request a waiver of all permitting and construction fees. City Manager Pace stated Mr. Butler needed to schedule a meeting with City staff to discuss his questions and requests. After some discussion, no action was taken.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider a request from Mr. Julian Trevino for replat of 5 acres of land, being a replat of Lot 35 of the Hobben Oaks "corrected plat" situated in the Robert Kuykendall League, Abstract 39, Wharton County, Texas, for subdivision. Director of Planning & Development Gwyn Teves presented Mr. Julian Trevino's request to replat 5 acres of land, specifically Lot 35 of the Hobben Oaks "corrected plat," situated in the Robert Kuykendall League, Abstract 39, Wharton County, Texas, for subdivision. Director Teves stated the Planning Commission did not have a quorum, and the item was being forwarded to the Council for a final decision. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann moved to approve the request from Mr. Julian Trevino for replat of 5 acres of land, being a replat of Lot 35 of the Hobben Oaks "corrected plat" situated in the Robert Kuykendall League, Abstract 39, Wharton County, Texas, for subdivision. Councilmember Burnell Neal seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council approving an agreement for Medical Director Services between Dr. Jeffery Gubbels and the City of Wharton and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to

said agreement. EMS Director Christy Gonzales presented a copy of the draft agreement for Medical Director Services between the City of Wharton and Dr. Jeffery Gubbels. EMS Director Gonzales stated the contract expired on April 30, 2026, and the proposed agreement would cover a two-year period beginning October 26, 2026, and ending October 26, 2028. She said the contract terms were the same as the existing contract, except for an additional increase due to added responsibilities. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann moved to approve the City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-90, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-90

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR SERVICES BETWEEN DR. JEFFERY GUBBELS AND THE CITY OF WHARTON AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WHARTON TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SAID AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton wishes to authorize the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute an agreement between Dr. Jeffery Gubbels and the City of Wharton for Medical Director Services for the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Department; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton and Dr. Jeffery Gubbels wish to be bound by the conditions as set forth in the agreement; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council and Dr. Jeffery Gubbels wish the agreement to become effective on October 26, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes this resolution to become effective immediately upon its passage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS as follows:

Section I. That the Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute, on behalf of the City of Wharton, the Medical Director Services Agreement with Dr. Jeffery Gubbels for the City of Wharton Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program.

Section II. That the City of Wharton and Dr. Jeffery Gubbels are hereby bound by the conditions as set forth in the agreement, which shall commence on October 26, 2026, and will expire on October 26, 2028.

Section III. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

Passed, Approved, and Adopted this 26th day of October 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council approving a sub-agreement between the City of Wharton and Wharton County regarding the HB 300 Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to the sub-agreement. EMS Director Christy Gonzales said that in July 2026, Wharton County received notice from the Texas Comptroller's Office that the City of Wharton EMS was awarded a Rural Ambulance Service Program Grant of $350,000. Director Gonzales said that, according to the Wharton County Auditor, Wharton County received the grant funds to purchase the replacement ambulance, Unit 1122. She said the agreement established the terms, conditions, and responsibilities of both parties. Director Gonzales stated that the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) required the County, as the grant recipient, to enter into a written sub-agreement with the City, the approved ambulance service provider. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann moved to approve City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-91, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A SUB-AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WHARTON AND WHARTON COUNTY REGARDING THE HB 300 RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WHARTON TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE SUB-AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, Wharton County and the City of Wharton wish to enter into a sub-agreement regarding the HB 300 Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute the sub-agreement; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes this resolution to become effective immediately upon its passage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS as follows:

Section I. The Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute the sub-agreement with Wharton County regarding the HB 300 Rural Ambulance Service Grant.

Section II. The Mayor of the City of Wharton is hereby authorized to execute the agreement.

Section III. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of October 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The sixth item on the agenda was to review and consider an ordinance amending the City of Wharton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42, Occupational Licenses, Taxes and Regulations, Article IV, Division 4, Mobile Food Courts and Mobile Food Establishments, Sections 42-220 to 42-235; providing that a violation of the ordinance or any part of the code as adopted hereby shall constitute a penalty upon conviction of a fine; providing for separability and setting an effective date. Building Official Claudia Velasquez stated that during the 89th Texas Legislature, the Legislature enacted House Bill 2844 to create a statewide system for licensing and regulating mobile food vendors. Building Official Velasquez said the legislation added Chapter 437B to the Texas Health and Safety Code and, with limited exceptions, took effect July 1, 2026. She said the new law applied to municipal ordinances, rules, policies, and procedures adopted before, on, or after its effective date. Building Official Velasquez said that under Chapter 437B, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) issues mobile food vendor licenses and administers the statewide health-inspection program, and vendors must obtain a separate state license for each food vending vehicle. She said a municipality may not prohibit a state-licensed vendor that complies with other lawful state and local requirements that do not conflict with Chapter 437B. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann moved to approve City of Wharton Ordinance No. 2026-11, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WHARTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 42, OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, TAXES AND REGULATIONS, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 4, MOBILE FOOD COURTS AND MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, SECTIONS 42-220 TO 42-235; PROVIDING THAT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE OR ANY PART OF THE CODE AS ADOPTED HEREBY SHALL CONSTITUTE A PENALTY UPON CONVICTION OF A FINE; PROVIDING FOR SEPARABILITY AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas:

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Wharton Code of Ordinances to read as follows:

DIVISION 4. MOBILE FOOD COURTS AND MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Sec. 42-220. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Food Truck Court means a property used or developed to accommodate more than one food truck as the primary use of the property while possibly accommodating areas on the property for entertainment or recreational opportunities. Food truck courts must have a valid certificate of occupancy in addition to all other applicable permits and inspections.

Ice Cream Truck means a motor vehicle in which ice cream, popsicles, ice sherbets, or other frozen desserts of any kind are carried for the purpose of retail sale on the streets of the City.

Mobile shall mean the state of being in active, but not necessarily continuous, movement.

Mobile Food Establishment means an operator of a vehicle-mounted, self or otherwise propelled, self-contained food service operation designed to be readily moveable (including, but not limited to, catering trucks, trailers, push carts and roadside vendors) used to store, prepare, display, serve or sell food that requires temperature control. The mobility of a mobile food establishment unit must be completely maintained at all times. No drive-through service shall be permitted from a mobile food establishment.

Sell shall mean the act of exchanging a good for a profit or in return for a donation.

Sec. 42-221. Scope.

This division shall regulate all mobile food establishments operating within the City's corporate limits., as set out in the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 437B.

Sec. 42-222. Permit Requirements.

(a) **Compliance with State Law.** Nothing in this division shall be construed to require a mobile food vendor to obtain a municipal mobile food vendor license, health permit, or health inspection prohibited by Chapter 437B of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended. In the event of a conflict between this division and Chapter 437B, the provisions of state law shall control. Nothing herein limits the City's authority to enforce otherwise lawful zoning, land-use, building, fire, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, utility, parking, property maintenance, or other regulations not preempted by state law.

Every mobile food vendor operating within the City shall possess a valid Mobile Food Vendor License issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services, when required by state law.

(b) Upon request by the Code Enforcement Department, a mobile food vendor shall present proof of the required State license.

(c) *Display of permit.* the state-issued state health permit, license, and certifications, shall be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place where it can be read by the general public on the Mobile Food Establishment.

Sec. 42-223. Exceptions.

The ordinances and regulations listed in this division shall not apply to the following:

(1) Concession stands. A food establishment operated on a seasonal basis for the purpose of providing food at organized events/festivals or sporting events associated with an independent school district, university, community college, nonprofit organization, privately owned school, or the City.

(2) Benefit or fundraiser meals. A meal provided for the sole purpose of raising money for an event that is sponsored or recognized or organized by a group associated with an independent school district, university, community college, nonprofit organization, privately owned school, the City, or a private individual(s) or an organized mass gathering of people such as a concert, sporting event, trade show, flea market, farmers' market, carnival, circus, or other similar type of show or celebration.

Sec. 42-224. Operational Requirements.

(a) Mobile Food Establishments shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) Mobile Food Establishments shall comply with all sanitation and construction regulations as outlined in TAC § 229.169 of the Texas Food Establishment Rules, as amended.

(2) All Mobile Food Establishments are subject to compliance with food and beverage certificates as outlined in V.T.C.A., Alcoholic Beverage Code § 11.46 General Grounds for Refusal, § 11.49 Premises Defined; Designation of Licensed Premises, § 61.43(5), § 109.31 Municipal Regulation of Liquor, as amended.

(3) The issuing, suspension, and revocation of licenses for the handling of food by mobile food establishment owners, operators, or their employees shall be regulated by the food handling administrator.

(4) Except for Ice Cream Trucks, Mobile Food Establishments are prohibited from operating on public rights-of-way. Exception: City-sponsored events.

(5) A permitted Mobile Food Establishment may operate at construction sites.

(6) Any properly permitted Mobile Food Establishment may operate in a location in or immediately adjacent to City-sponsored civic events.

(7) Mobile food vendors shall comply with the City's adopted fire code and other applicable fire-safety requirements; provided, however, that the City shall not require an additional fire inspection of a food vending vehicle when prohibited by Chapter 437B of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

(8) Mobile Food Establishments owning or leasing property:

a. Shall be properly screened by a privacy fence of a height not less than six feet in a way to avoid adverse impact upon adjoining properties and the uses thereof;

b. Shall provide permanent (not porta-potty) restrooms for all persons operating the unit, including employees;

c. Allowed to remain on premises during non-operating hours;

d. Shall install a grease interceptor for disposal of grease and greywater as set forth in chapter 86 (Utilities and Services Grease Traps) of the Code of Ordinances, Section 86-23.

e. Connection of a Mobile Food Establishment to a source of electricity, water, and sewer is required on site. A permit shall be obtained from the Code Enforcement Department for each connection, and the connection shall be inspected and found to comply with city codes. Each permit shall be maintained with the Mobile Food Establishment at all times and made available upon request by city personnel.

(b) Mobile Food Establishment inspections are conducted by the Texas State Health Department.

Sec. 42-227. Signage.

All signage pertaining to or advertising a food truck and/or its menu shall be attached to the food truck. There shall be no limit on the amount of signage allowed on a food truck while it is parked at a Food Truck Court or operation site. A food truck shall not be outfitted with "changeable signage" as defined and/or set forth in chapter 66 (Signs) of the Code of Ordinances. With the exception of one sandwich board, which may be placed during business hours but must be removed daily.

Sec. 42-228. Off-street Vehicle Parking.

(a) *Mobile Food Establishments.*

(1) One off-street vehicle parking space shall be required for each table that is provided for use by food truck customers. If no tables are provided, no off-street vehicle parking shall be required.

(b) *Food Truck Courts.*

(1) Two off-street vehicle parking spaces shall be required for each table that is provided for use by the food truck customers. If no tables are provided, no off-street vehicle parking shall be required.

Sec. 42-229. Authority to Enforce.

The Code Enforcement Department shall have authority to enforce the provisions of this division and to enlist the assistance of all appropriate agencies in the enforcement effort.

Sec. 42-230. Enforcement and Penalties.

(a) The Code Enforcement Department may enforce this division.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) Operates a Mobile Food Establishment without possessing a valid license required by the State of Texas;

(2) Violates any applicable building, fire, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, utility, parking, or property maintenance regulation adopted by the City; or

(3) Fails to comply with any lawful order issued by the City under authority granted by state law.

(c) A violation of this division is punishable as provided by the City's general penalty provisions. Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

(d) Nothing in this division shall prevent the Code Enforcement Department from immediately revoking a food truck court permit should such vendor be in violation of this division or any other city code or ordinance.

Sec. 42-231. All Codes and Ordinances Effective.

In addition to the provisions of this division, all other applicable Rules and Regulations as per Chapter 437B of the Texas Health and Safety Code shall apply to the operation of any Mobile Food Establishment and Food Truck Court, and shall be in full force and effect. This policy shall be effective even if the vendor has applied for and obtained a valid license and permit to operate, should the violations occur either prior to or subsequent to obtaining such permit.

Secs. 42-232—42-235. Reserved.

Fine and Penalty for Violations

Sec. 18-145. Penalties. Any person violating any of the terms or provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than $100.00 or more than the maximum provided in section 1-5 for each offense. If the terms or provisions of this article are violated by any corporation or firm, the officers and agents actively in charge of the business of such

corporation or firm and the person actually performing the work for such corporation or firm shall be subject to the penalties provided in this section.

Separability

If any court of competent jurisdiction rules that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is invalid or unconstitutional, any such portion shall be deemed to be a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and any such ruling shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective on the 6th day of November 2026.

Passage and Approval

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas, on the 26th day of October 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By:_____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
PAUL WEBB
City Attorney

Councilmember Terry Freese seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The seventh item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council accepting, through the Office of the Governor, the Operation Lone Star Grant for the Wharton Police Department and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said grant. Chief Terry D. Lynch stated that on or about October 6, 2026, the City Staff received notification from the Governor's Office that the City was awarded the

Operation Lone Star Grant. Chief Lynch said the grant was awarded in the amount of $242,700.00, with no city match. After some discussion, Councilmember Greg Hippel moved to approve the City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-92, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, THE OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT FOR THE WHARTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WHARTON TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SAID GRANT.

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton City Council wishes to accept, through the Office of the Governor, the Operation Lone Star Grant for the Wharton Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, The purpose of the grant is to enhance interagency border security operations supporting Operation Lone Star, including the facilitation of direct actions to deter and interdict criminal activity and detain non-citizen inmates; and,

WHEREAS, The grant would be for the time period of September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027, or one year; and,

WHEREAS, Said total of the grant is in the amount of $242,700.00 with no match from the City; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents relating to said grant.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS:

SECTION I. The Wharton City Council hereby accepts, through the Office of the Governor, the Operation Lone Star Grant for the Wharton Police Department.

SECTION II. The Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said grant.

SECTION III. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of October 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Burnell Neal seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The eighth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council authorizing the City Manager to purchase a patrol vehicle for interdiction task force operations through the Operation Lone Star Grant. Police Chief Terry David Lynch presented a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase a patrol vehicle for interdiction task force operations through the Operation Lone Star Grant. Chief Lynch stated the total cost of the vehicle purchase is in the amount of $51,200.00 plus the cost of upfitting. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann moved to approve City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-93, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-93

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A PATROL VEHICLE FOR INTERDICTION TASK FORCE OPERATIONS THROUGH THE OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT.

WHEREAS, The Wharton Police Department wishes to purchase a patrol vehicle for interdiction task force operations through the Operation Lone Star Grant; and,

WHEREAS, Said vehicle will be purchased from Sandy Sansing Auto Group; and,

WHEREAS, Sandy Sansing Auto Group is a member of the Governmental Purchasing Cooperative; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the City Manager to purchase said vehicle in the amount of $51,200.00 from Sandy Sansing Auto Group through the Governmental Purchasing Cooperative; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement related to the purchase of the vehicle.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS:

SECTION I. The Wharton City Council authorizes the City Manager to purchase said vehicle in the amount of $51,200.00 from Sandy Sansing Auto Group through the Governmental Purchasing Cooperative.

SECTION II. The Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute the agreement related to the purchase of the vehicle.

SECTION III. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of October 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON

_____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Greg Hippel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The ninth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council approving a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Task Force Program and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said Memorandum of Agreement. Police Chief Terry David Lynch stated the Wharton Police Department wished to participate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) 287(g) Task Force Program, with Sergeant Justin Pannell as the department's initial designated representative. Chief Lynch said Sergeant Pannell's participation would complement his existing narcotics and human smuggling interdiction responsibilities, which he performed in cooperation with members of the Kerr County task force. He said these opportunities could help offset eligible operational expenses and provide additional support for our law enforcement initiatives. Police Chief Lynch stated City Attorney Paul Webb had reviewed and had approved the Memorandum of Agreement with DHS. After some discussion, Councilmember Larry Pittman moved to approve the City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-94, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-94

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TASK FORCE PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WHARTON TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SAID MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton City Council wishes to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Wharton Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Task Force Program; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents relating to said Memorandum of Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes this resolution to become effective immediately upon its passage.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS:

SECTION I. The Wharton City Council hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Wharton Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Task Force Program.

SECTION II. The Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said Memorandum of Agreement.

SECTION III. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of October 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By:_____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Greg Hippel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The tenth item on the agenda was to review and consider an update of City of Wharton Grant Programs. Planning and Development Director Gwyn Teves presented an update of the City of Wharton Grant Programs. After some discussion, no action was taken.

The eleventh item on the agenda was to review and consider the update on the City of Wharton's ongoing projects. City Manager Joseph R. Pace presented an update on the City of Wharton's ongoing projects. After some discussion, no action was taken.

The twelfth item on the agenda was to review and consider appointments, resignations, and vacancies to the City of Wharton Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

A. Resignations.
B. Appointments.
C. Vacancies.

After some discussion, no action was taken.

The thirteenth item on the agenda was to review and consider the City Council Boards, Commissions, and Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee Meeting held on October 12, 2026.

After some discussion, no action was taken.

The fourteenth item on the agenda was to review and consider the Department Head Reports:

A. City Secretary/Personnel.
B. Code Enforcement.
C. Community Services Department/Civic Center.
D. Emergency Management.
E. E. M. S. Department.
F. Fire Department.
G. Legal Department.
H. Municipal Court.
I. Police Department.
J. Public Works Department.
K. Water/Sewer Department.
L. Weedy Lots/Sign Ordinance.
M. Wharton Regional Airport.

After some discussion, no action was taken.

Adjournment.

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Greg Hippel moved to adjourn. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

