

CITY OF WINONA
Regular City Council Meeting
Community Center
520 Dallas St., Winona TX 75792
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 06:00pm

MINUTES

On this 17th day of March 2026, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas Street, Winona, Texas at 06:00pm in a Regular City Council Meeting. The meeting was open to the public and the following were present:

Members Present: Mayor Rachel Moreno, Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden, Alderman Shanna Clark, Alderman Terry Cole, Alderman Luis Diaz, Alderman Gary Fox

Members Absent: None

Guest Present: Rusty Smith and Marilyn Gentry

A. CALL TO ORDER

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call. Public notice of this meeting has been given, and a quorum is present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

At this time Mayor Rachel Moreno asked everyone to observe in the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation prayer was given.

C. VISITORS OPEN FORUM

Rusty Smith discussed the proposed change regarding Starr Lodge's water and sewage rates which became commercial rates. He explained that this would place budget constraints on the lodge that would prevent it from participating in regular philanthropic activities such as scholarships, especially as a nonprofit organization. He asked that a commercial exemption for nonprofit organizations be discussed at the next meeting.

Marilyn Gentry inquired about police deployment in the area as well as concerns about code enforcement within the city. Mayor Moreno asked which specific codes were believed to be violated. An officer present at the meeting offered assurance that county and state police services in the area would respond as quickly as possible to threats.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council agreed to table the minutes for January 20th, 2026. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

E. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES

1. Utility Department

- a) Monthly Report:** Updated by Craig McCollum. About 10 gas meters were changed the past month, with a goal of 150 meters to be changed by the

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end of May. Inclement weather has affected the wells, each time power goes out the wells must be restarted. Church Street has been repaved and maintenance on Old Hwy 155 has been completed. There have been issues with Apple devices getting access to Omnia support to view meter updates. New meters are creating issues with decimals, giving some customers an unusually high bill. Over two weeks of field work and analysis has helped to resolve this issue. Mailing and technical difficulties created issues and delays with billing, if an email was not recorded on file.

2. Mayor's Updates

- a) **Debate Forum:** A group of in-town and out-of-town individuals has gathered to create a debate forum. It is scheduled for April 9th, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The community center has been rented and paid for by the candidates.

F. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consider and/or approve the Notice of Election for the City of Winona May 2, 2026 general election and authorize Gina Duke to sign all related documentation.** After discussion, Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to approve the order, and it was seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark. All in favor, none opposed, Motion carried unanimously.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 06:37 pm, and Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden seconded. All in favor, none opposed, Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the council, this meeting was adjourned.

Rachel Moreno, Mayor

Craig Mccollum Maintenance Supervisor