



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Denton Enterprise Airport

ACM: Frank Dixon

DATE: December 2, 2025

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton amending Chapter 3, titled "Airports," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Denton regarding airport governance; providing a repealer clause; providing for penalties; providing for codification; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date. Airport Advisory Board recommends approval (5-0).

BACKGROUND

The Denton Enterprise Airport operates under the guidance of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA has many policies that regulate the operation of an airport, including grant assurances, policies, orders, and advisory circulars. To assist in compliance with these various FAA documents, many airports establish their own regulations including local ordinances, rules, regulations, and minimum operating standards.

The Denton Enterprise Airport has undertaken a comprehensive review of its regulatory framework, including on Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances. Chapter 3 serves as the foundation for the Airport's governance, operational authority, and user responsibilities. It was last revised in 2021 and is now being updated to reflect evolving legal standards, operational needs, and industry best practices.

Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances governs the legal and operational framework of the Airport. It governs the Airport's authority to regulate activities, issue permits, and enforce compliance. Among the updates, the proposed changes include the:

- Removal of the Airport Advisory Board's ("AAB") obligation to maintain bylaws as these requirements are covered through other Council directives;
- Streamlining of lease-related approvals by allowing certain actions to be handled administratively; and
- Shifting of enforcement mechanisms from civil court proceedings to the more standard municipal court process. Additionally, the revisions replace broad, general enforcement language with clearly defined violations, enhancing transparency and enforceability.

This regulatory update is one of the Airport's FY 2025–2026 strategic initiatives. It is intended to enhance safety, improve operational efficiency, and ensure that the Airport remains competitive and compliant in a rapidly evolving aviation environment. The process includes third-party legal and operational reviews, as well as extensive stakeholder engagement to ensure the final documents reflect the needs and concerns of the Airport community.

The timeline for these updates began in August with the drafting of revised documents, internal reviews, and an introductory discussion with the AAB. In September, public input was sought through two informational town halls related to the proposed updates. Additionally, Airport staff met with or solicited feedback from the Airport's major tenants, lessees, and businesses regarding the proposed changes, and the revised documents will be updated accordingly. The AAB recommended that the Council adopt the changes on October 8, 2025, by a vote of 5-0.

OPTIONS

1. Adoption of the ordinance.
2. Request further modification by staff.
3. Take no action at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of this item.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

- October 8, 2025 – Airport Advisory Board Recommendation
- August 13, 2025 – Airport Advisory Board Work Session

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

Upon adoption, the updated regulations would go into effect after fourteen (14) days. Staff anticipates an implementation and educational process over the ensuing several months.

FISCAL INFORMATION

No direct financial impact.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Ordinance
3. Amended Chapter 3 (clean)
4. Amended Chapter 3 (redline)
5. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
Ryan Adams, C.M.
Airport Director