

CITY OF DENTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 2026

After determining that a quorum was present, the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a Work Session on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Stevens and Council Members George Ferrie, Joe Holland, Jill Jester, Suzi Rumohr, and Jordan Villarreal

ABSENT: None

Also present were Interim City Manager Cassey Ogden and City Attorney Mack Reinwand.

The posted agenda noted the registration process for in-person and public participation at this meeting. While citizen commentary received via the online registration process was not read, each member for the City Council received each online commentary as it was submitted. In-person and online comments received are reflected in the exhibit to the minutes of this meeting.

WORK SESSION

1. Citizen Comments on Consent Agenda Items

None

2. Requests for clarification of agenda items listed on this agenda for public hearing and individual consideration.

- Clarification:

- None

- Pulled For Individual Consideration:

- None

3. **Work Session Reports**

- A. ID 26-0778 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on Economic Development priorities. [Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 30 minutes]

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, City Council consensus was to bring back scenarios on the three priority options.

- B. ID 26-0558 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Fiscal Year 2026-27 preliminary utility budgets and rates for Solid Waste, Water,

Wastewater, Drainage, Electric and Customer Service. [Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 1 hour]

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, there was no direction provided as the item was for presentation/discussion purposes.

C. ID 26-0627 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on pending City Council requests for:

- 1) Boards and commissions nominations, vacancies, and absence policy
- 2) Mental health training for police officers
- 3) Creation of a Citizens' Committee of Art and Culture

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 30 minutes]

ID 26-0627 1) Boards and commissions nominations, vacancies, and absence policy

- Consensus for adding the item to the September Work Session on Boards and Commissions.

2) Mental health training for police officers

- Consensus for an Informal Staff Report (ISR).

3) Creation of a Citizens' Committee of Art and Culture

- Consensus for an Informal Staff Report (ISR).

The work session ended at 4:29 p.m.

CLOSED MEETING

Items are listed in the order they were heard.

1. The City Council convened into a Closed Meeting at 4:31 p.m. consistent with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, or as otherwise allowed by law, as follows:

C. ID 26-1128 Consultation with Attorneys - Under Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Consult with the City's attorneys on the legal status, expenses, strategy, and options for resolution of litigation in Cause No. 15-25-00018-CV styled "Appellant, Public Utility Commission of Texas // Cross-Appellant, City of Denton Operating as Denton Municipal Electric v. Appellee, City of Denton Operating as Denton Municipal Electric // Cross-Appellee Public Utility Commission of Texas" pending in the Court of Appeals for the Fifteenth Judicial District at Austin, Texas; Trial Court Cause Number D-1-GN-23-008974; where public discussion of these legal matters would conflict with the duty of the City's attorneys to the City of Denton and Denton Municipal Electric under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, or otherwise compromise the City's legal position.

DELIBERATED

- B. ID 26-1121 Deliberations Regarding Certain Public Power Utilities Competitive Matters - Under Texas Government Code Section 551.086; Consultation with Attorneys - Under Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Receive information from staff containing public power information related to a Power Purchase Agreement between the City of Denton as seller of power and electric energy services, and Core Scientific Inc.: discuss, deliberate and provide direction to staff regarding same. Consultation with City's attorney regarding issues associated with the above matter where public discussion of these legal matters would conflict with the duty of the City attorneys of the City of Denton under Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct of the State of Texas or would jeopardize the City's legal position in any administrative or potential litigation.

DELIBERATED

- A. ID 26-1043 Consultation with Attorneys - Under Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Consult with the City's attorneys regarding the City's protest of Water Use Permit Application No. 14133 where public discussion of these legal matters would conflict with the duty of the City's attorneys to the City of Denton and the Denton City Council under Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas or would jeopardize the City's legal position. This agenda item is related to Consent Agenda item ID 26-1039.

DELIBERATED

The closed meeting started at 4:31 p.m. and ended at 5:55 p.m. No votes or actions were taken during the closed meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

After determining that a quorum was present, the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Stevens and Council Members George Ferrie, Joe Holland, Jill Jester, Suzi Rumohr, and Jordan Villarreal

ABSENT: None

Also present were Interim City Manager Cassey Ogden and City Attorney Mack Reinwand

The posted agenda noted the registration process for public participation at this meeting. However, there were no online registrations or call ins on any items on the agenda.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. U.S. Flag
B. Texas Flag

2. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- A. ID 26-1052 Proclamation - National Parks and Recreation Month
PRESENTED
- B. ID 26-1087 Proclamation - Disability Justice Day
PRESENTED

3. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1) Scheduled Citizen Reports from Members of the Public

- A. ID 26-0999 Gary Steele regarding the need to create a Veterans Committee, Liaison and or advisory boards.
PRESENTED
- B. ID 26-1000 Tracy Duckworth regarding homelessness.
PRESENTED
- C. ID 26-1011 Amanda Conway regarding why we must end parking mandates.
PRESENTED
- D. ID 26-1012 Liam Gaume-Wakefield regarding why we must remove parking mandates.
PRESENTED
- E. ID 26-1013 Lauren Penn regarding reevaluating parking minimums and remove parking minimums city wide.
PRESENTED
- F. ID 26-1014 Kate Rose regarding removing parking mandates.
PRESENTED
- G. ID 26-1019 Chris Grieshaber regarding why we must remove parking mandates.
PRESENTED

2) Additional Citizen Reports (Open Microphone)

None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Villarreal moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Jester.

Motion carried

AYES (7): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Stevens and Council Members Ferrie, Holland, Jester, Rumohr, and Villarreal

NAYS (0): None

- A. ID 26-1108 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing three members to the Committee on the Environment; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1108
- B. ID 26-1109 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing three members to the Mobility Committee; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1109
- C. ID 26-1110 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing three members to the Development Code Review Committee; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1110
- D. ID 26-1111 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing two members to the Economic Development Partnership Board and the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number Two Board; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1111
- E. ID 26-1112 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing one member to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One Board; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1112
- F. ID 26-1113 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing an alternate member to the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1113
- G. ID 26-1114 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing one ex officio member to the Discover Denton Advisory Board; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1114
- H. ID 26-1115 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing a member and proxy to the North Texas Commission; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1115
- I. ID 26-1116 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing two members to the Denton Community Shelter (Loop 288) Advisory Board; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1116
- J. ID 26-1117 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing a Primary Member and Alternate Member as official voting representatives to the North Central Texas Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Council; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1117

- K. ID 26-1118 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing one member to the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1118
- L. ID 26-1120 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton appointing one member to the Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1120
- M. ID 26-1033 Consider adoption of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver Supplemental No. 1 to the Water and Wastewater Utility Relocation Standard Utility Agreement ("Agreement") by and between the City of Denton ("City") and the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT"), for the reimbursement of design, property acquisition and related services, construction, inspection, project management, and other direct costs associated with the adjustment, removal, and relocation of City facilities of both Water and Wastewater Utilities along I-35E from US 380/University to Milam Road ("Utility Relocations Project" (TxDOT CSJ# 0195-03-087)), within the County and City of Denton, Texas; providing for the expenditure of funds in an amount not to exceed \$13,898,958.57 for water and wastewater utility relocation; and providing an effective date. The Public Utilities Board recommends approval (6-0).
ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-1033
- N. ID 26-1032 Consider adoption of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver Supplemental No. 1 to the Water and Wastewater Utility Relocation Standard Utility Agreement ("Agreement") by and between the City of Denton ("City") and the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT"), for the reimbursement of design, property acquisition and related services, construction, inspection, project management, and other direct costs associated with the adjustment, removal, and relocation of City facilities of both Water and Wastewater Utilities along I-35E from US 380/University to Milam Road ("Utility Relocations Project" (TxDOT CSJ# 0195-02-074)), within the County and City of Denton, Texas; providing for the expenditure of funds in an amount not to exceed \$8,598,481.46 for Water and Wastewater Utility Relocation efforts; and providing an effective date. The Public Utilities Board recommends approval (6-0).
ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-1032
- O. ID 26-1018 Consider adoption of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver Supplemental Agreement No. 3 to the Standard Utility Agreement ("Agreement") by and between the City of Denton and the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT"), for the reimbursement of design, property acquisition and related services, construction, inspection, project management, and other direct costs associated with the adjustment, removal, and/or relocation of water utilities along I-35E from Mayhill to Loop 288 more specifically called the I-35E/Mayhill Utility Relocations Project (Utility ID No. U00008008) for water relocation efforts, within the County and City of Denton, Texas; providing for the expenditure of funds not to exceed an increase of Five Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety-Six and 55/100 dollars (\$556,496.55) therefore; and providing an effective date. The Public Utilities Board recommends approval (6-0).
ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-1018

- P. ID 26-0944 Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit to the Department of Housing and Urban Development a 2026 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development with appropriate certifications, as authorized and required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute agreements necessary in furtherance thereof; authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to sign releases of liens and subordination agreements upon certain conditions; and providing for an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-0944

- Q. ID 26-0943 Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton providing for the abandonment, relinquishment, and quitclaim of a portion of various permanent water lines, generally located along IH35E from FM1173 to Loop 288, and along US 77, situated in the Nathan Wade Survey Abstract No. 1407, BBB & C RR Co. Survey Abstract No. 141, all in the City and County of Denton, Texas, and more particularly described in the attached Exhibit "A" (collectively, the "Property Interests") to be recorded by Denton County Clerk, Real Property Records, Denton County, Texas granted to the State of Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT") by the City of Denton; providing for the quitclaim thereof to TxDOT, providing for the terms and conditions of the abandonment, relinquishment, and quitclaim made herein; providing for the conveyance of easements to the TxDOT; providing for the indemnification of the City of Denton against damages arising out of the abandonment herein; providing for consideration to be paid to the City of Denton; providing for severability and an effective date. (Project Number 630519525 Northwest Water Transmission Line Improvement Project)

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-0943

- R. ID 26-1055 Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, a Texas home-rule municipal corporation, authorizing the approval of a first amendment to a contract between the City of Denton and Samsara Inc., amending the contract approved by City Council on June 3, 2025, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$434,929.00; said first amendment to provide additional devices for the light duty vehicles for the Solid Waste and Recycling Department; providing for the expenditure of funds therefor; and providing an effective date (File 8679 - providing for an additional first amendment expenditure amount not-to-exceed \$73,685.00, with the total contract amount not-to-exceed \$508,614.00). The Public Utilities Board recommends approval (6 - 0).

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-1055

- S. ID 26-1056 Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, a Texas home-rule municipal corporation, rejecting any and all competitive proposals under RFP 9050 for electric substations transformer oil and breaker SF6 testing for Denton Municipal Electric; and providing an effective date (RFP 9050). The Public Utilities Board recommends approval (6 - 0).

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-1056

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Z26-0003b Hold a public hearing and consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, Texas, regarding a request to rezone approximately 9.487 acres of land from a Rural Residential (RR) zoning district to a Residential 1 (R1) zoning district. The subject site is generally located on the south side of FM 2153, approximately 4,646 feet east of the intersection of FM 2153 and Running Bear Road in the City of Denton, Denton County, Texas; adopting an amendment to the City's Official Zoning Map; providing for a penalty in the maximum amount of \$2,000.00 for violations thereof; providing for a severability clause and an effective date. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted (6-0) to recommend approval. Motion for approval by Commissioner Riggs and second by Commissioner Garland (Z26-0003b, Rifkin Addition, Sean Jacobson).
ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. Z26-0003b

All members of the City Council received the comments as submitted and had the opportunity to review all submissions prior to the start of the meeting and consider such comments when voting on the item. The summary of public commentary/registrations are noted on Exhibit A.

The item was presented and discussion followed.

The public hearing was opened and citizen comments received are noted on Exhibit A.

With no other callers on queue, the public hearing was closed.

Following discussion, Council Member Rumohr moved to adopt the item as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Jester.

Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Pro Tem Stevens and Council Members Ferrie, Holland, Jester, Rumohr, and Villarreal

NAYS (0): None

RECUSE (1): Mayor Watts

- B. ID 26-1085 Hold a public hearing and consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton authorizing the submission of an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) local parks non-urban outdoor recreation grant program 2027 in the amount of \$750,000 for materials and construction costs for the addition of trails and the renovation of Roberts Field at Mack Park; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-1085

All members of the City Council received the comments as submitted and had the opportunity to review all submissions prior to the start of the meeting and consider such comments when voting on the item. The summary of public commentary/registrations are noted on Exhibit A.

The item was presented and discussion followed.

The public hearing was opened and citizen comments received are noted on Exhibit A.

With no other callers on queue, the public hearing was closed.

Following discussion, Council Member Villarreal moved to adopt the item as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Rumohr.

Motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Stevens and Council Members Ferrie, Holland, Jester, Rumohr, and Villarreal

NAYS (0): None

6. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. ID 26-1057 Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton, Texas authorizing the submission of an application to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant Program in an amount up to \$35,000,000 for the funding of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure project; designating the City Manager as the authorized representative of the City for the purposes of furnishing such information and executing such documents as may be required in connection with such grant application and the rules of the TWDB, and to take those actions necessary in connection with such application, award and administration of the grant; designating the City's financial advisor, engineer and bond counsel and authorizing them to aid, assist and appear on behalf of the City before TWDB; approving the TWDB application filing and authorized representative resolution document and the execution thereof by the Mayor; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 26-1057

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Citizen comments received are noted on Exhibit A.

Following discussion, Council Member Jester moved to adopt the item as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Villarreal.

Motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Stevens and Council Members Ferrie, Holland, Jester, Rumohr, and Villarreal

NAYS (0): None

7. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Council Members expressed items of interest.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

CHRIS WATTS
MAYOR
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

KRISTI FOGLE
INTERIM CITY SECRETARY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: _____

EXHIBIT A - July 21, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting

**Speaker Commentaries/Registrations
Online, Email, Phone**

Name	Address	City	Agenda Item	Position	Method	Comments
Aaron Ball	3203 Palos Verdes Drive	Corinth	26-1085	No stated	In Person	See video for comment.
Lauren Penn	2308 Georgetown	Denton	26-1085	No stated	In Person	See video for comment.
Willie Hudspeth	623 Newton Street	Denton	26-1085	No stated	In Person	See video for comment.
Larry Lawrence	3225 Stonecrop Trail	Argyle	26-1085	No stated	In Person	See video for comment.