



CITY OF TEXICO
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 28, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Community Center

City Officials' Present:

- Mayor Deborah Autrey- **(absent)**
- City Clerk Austen "Ozzie" McMullen
- City Attorney Rick Queener
- Judge Virginia Loera
- Chief Doug Bowman
- Chief Diane Queener
- Kenneth Sena- Public Works

City Council Members Present:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Rojas-Natividad
- Councilman Autrey
- Councilwoman Askew
- Councilman Carter- **(absent)**

MEETING SUMMARY

The City Council meeting began with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Edward Spalione, Curry County DWI Program Manager, discussed the department's efforts in harm reduction, prevention, and education, including the implementation of a new senior send-off program. Kenneth Sena reported on water conservation efforts and stated that approximately 1.8 million gallons of water had been produced. The Council approved the minutes from the April 14, 2026, meeting, tabled the Third Quarter Reports and Reconciliation Reports until May 12, 2026, meeting, approved the Fiscal Year 2026 audit fees, and approved posting the amended cemetery ordinance for public review prior to a public hearing. The meeting concluded with a motion to enter closed session pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1(H)(7) for threatened or pending litigation.

OPENING ITEMS

Mayor Pro-Tem Rojas-Natividad initiated the meeting at 4:34 PM, leading a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro-Tem called for a roll call, with Councilman Autrey and Councilwoman Askew both present, Councilman Carter was absent.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Pro-Tem Rojas-Natividad asked for any changes to the minutes from the April 14 meeting, noting a correction to the new business section. The minutes from the April 14 meeting are approved with minor changes, with Councilman Autrey making the motion and Councilwoman Askew seconding.

(Minutes were approved with noted changes by a roll call vote. Which was unanimous.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edward Spalione introduced himself as the Curry County DWI program manager, detailing his role in managing state funds and overseeing various prevention and harm reduction programs. Spalione explained the DWI task force, which included law enforcement, mental health, and other partners, focusing on youth-specific issues like substance use and truancy. He highlighted the new senior send-off program aimed at providing harm reduction messages to high school seniors, set to start next week. Spalione mentioned the social health program, which collaborated with local businesses to promote responsible alcohol sales, including a sticker shock campaign and an age verification initiative.

OLD BUSINESS

Kenneth Sena, Public Works Supervisor, reported on water conservation efforts and stated that approximately 1.8 million gallons of water had been produced, which he noted was typical for the season. Discussion followed regarding current watering restrictions, during which Mayor Pro-Tem Rojas-Natividad clarified regulations pertaining to the watering of trees and bushes.

FINANCIALS

Mayor Pro-Tem Rojas-Natividad recommended tabling the third quarter reports and reconciliation reports until the next meeting, with Councilman Autrey making the motion and Councilwoman Askew seconding.

(The motion to table the financials were approved unanimously.)

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 audit fees for Southwest Accounting Services was granted following a motion by Councilman Autrey and a second by Councilwoman Askew.

ALL FINANCIALS APPROVED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilman Autrey: YES

Councilwoman Askew: YES

Councilman Carter: (absent)

RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES

Discussion was held regarding **Amended Ordinance 3-411** pertaining to Joint Utilities. The ordinance was tabled pending additional language involving newly annexed properties. The motion to table was made by Councilwoman Askew and seconded by Councilman Autrey.

Amended Ordinance 6-410 regarding cemetery fees was discussed. The Council confirmed the pricing structure at \$1,250, consistent with prior direction provided during the previous meeting. The ordinance was approved for posting for a two-week public notice period, after which a public hearing and formal Council vote would be conducted.

ALL RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES APPROVED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilman Autrey: YES

Councilwoman Askew: YES

Councilman Carter: **(absent)**

REPORTS OF MAYOR, COUNCIL, PERSONNEL AND DEPARTMENTS

Judge Virginia Loera reported receiving more than \$1,600 in attorney collections and noted a related expense of approximately \$300 in fees. She expressed optimism regarding continued collections moving forward.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro-Tem Rojas-Natividad entertained a motion to go into closed session pursuant NMSA 1978 10-15-1 (H)(7) Threatened or Pending Litigation.

Motion was made by Councilman Autrey and seconded by Councilwoman Askew.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Autrey: YES

Councilwoman Askew: YES

Councilman Carter: **(absent)**

(Closed Session began at 17:51)

ROLL CALL VOTE TO EXIT CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Autrey: YES

Councilwoman Askew: YES

Councilman Carter: **(absent)**

(Closed Session ended at 18:30)

(Upon exiting closed session, council voted to ratify the temporary injunction between the City of Texico and Rene Rodriguez.) **(Approved unanimously.)**

(Council also voted to move forward with a declaratory judgement action on property rights for Hereford Ave. & Luther St.) **(Approved unanimously)**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

SIGNATURES

ATTEST:


Mayor: Deborah Autrey


City Clerk: Austen "Ozzie" McMullen

