

City Council Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2026, 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum

The Mayor called the Budget Workshop to order. Members Leah, Chandra, and Velma were confirmed present. Mayor Pro Tem Marie was noted as absent. A quorum was established.

The Mayor led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Present: Leah, Chandra, Velma **Absent:** Marie

2. Discuss this year's budget

The Council reviewed a budget analysis prepared by CPA Chris Turner, who participated remotely. City Administrator Sam Dosier presented Turner's recommendations, which addressed several areas requiring budget adjustments across the Administrative, Court, Police, Street, and Water/Sewer funds.

Key adjustments recommended by the CPA included:

Turner recommended increasing the Employee (EE) Insurance budget to \$16,674.72 across departments, noting that prior expenses had been incorrectly posted to general insurance. Correspondingly, general insurance was recommended to be reduced to reflect more accurate allocations now being applied. Gas and electric expenses in the administrative fund were recommended to be reduced significantly, from \$16,778 to \$6,781, based on corrected allocation methods carried over from street fund expenses.

For Court revenues, Turner recommended an annualized upward adjustment to \$263,865, reflecting increased activity following the hiring of new officers. The state 0.25% payment expense was similarly adjusted to an estimated \$58,330. Court EE

insurance was recommended at \$5,456.81, with the prior administrator having charged all such costs to the administrative department rather than distributing them across departments.

For the Police fund, capital outlay and loan proceeds were recommended to be adjusted to \$174,447 to reflect the final financing cost of the new police cruisers. Police EE and general insurance budgets were recommended for significant upward revision—to \$16,674 and \$35,089 respectively—due to additional officers now on payroll and new equipment. Auto expenses were recommended to increase from \$7,668 to \$23,009 for the same reasons. The Council acknowledged Chief Gregory's request for a \$1/hour raise for the department's investigator, with the cost offset by a \$2,000 reduction in the overtime budget. The hiring of a new officer, Samantha, was noted as a forthcoming agenda item.

For the Street fund, Turner recommended adjusting the gas and electric budget from \$7,169 to \$39,016, as those expenses had historically been charged entirely to administrative. The Council discussed the possibility of an interlocal agreement with Henderson County for road maintenance assistance, and City Administrator Dosier noted an ongoing email exchange with TxDOT regarding drainage issues along FM 31 and the recent road construction's impact on local businesses. These matters were identified for discussion in a forthcoming meeting with TxDOT.

For the Water/Sewer fund, sewer revenues were recommended to be reduced by approximately \$15,960 to \$127,852 due to a rate decrease enacted at the prior month's meeting. Water revenues were recommended to be adjusted to \$491,004 with raw water sales separated into its own line item. On the expense side, increases were recommended for contract labor (to \$194,567), credit card fees (to \$7,812), equipment repairs, general insurance (from \$0 to \$22,681), and lab fees (to \$108,081). Decreases were recommended for auto expense (to \$223), building repair and maintenance (to \$22,645), chemicals, miscellaneous expense (to \$9,350), and supplies (to \$37,000). The Council noted that contract labor costs for Aqua Services had been running between \$17,000 and \$20,000 per month due to ongoing waterline repairs, and expressed concern that the recommended budget increase may still be insufficient. It

was suggested that the City's water operator be consulted for a more accurate estimate given the aging infrastructure.

The Council also discussed the following operational and financial matters:

Court Account Separation: Effective December 2, the Council previously approved a separate account for court revenues. City Administrator Sam Dosier reported that the credit card and check deposit machine would be configured with three separate account designations—water, general, and court. The judge's salary and a portion of police salaries may be drawn from the court account going forward, with allocations to be reviewed after one month of activity.

Bank Account Structure: The Council discussed concerns over insufficient funds (NSF) charges resulting from the current payroll transfer process, whereby funds must be manually transferred from the general account to the payroll account prior to each payroll run. The consensus was that the payroll account should be pre-funded on a regular cycle—monthly or quarterly—to eliminate NSF charges. The Council further discussed the need to simplify and consolidate the City's fourteen bank accounts and to clearly document the purpose of each. These questions were deferred to a planned working session with Chris Turner.

WarrantSync Software: Chief Gregory's department presented a proposal for WarrantSync, a software add-on to the existing CopSync platform used by multiple agencies in Henderson County. At an annual cost of approximately \$3,000, the system would automatically sync active municipal court warrants across all CopSync-enabled agencies, allowing officers in the field to be notified of open Trinidad warrants during routine stops. The Council expressed support for the concept, noting the system requires no additional hardware and is expected to increase fine collection revenue. No formal action was taken.

Animal Control Contract: The Council discussed the absence of a formal animal control contract. A December 2025 proposal from Cedar Creek Humane Society in Tool was presented, offering a monthly contract for up to five animals (dogs and/or cats) at \$1,625 per month, regardless of whether the full allotment is used. The Council noted that the City of Athens animal shelter is effectively at capacity and unavailable for

routine use. The need for a contracted solution was underscored by the existence of five known stray animals currently in the city that cannot be taken into custody without a shelter placement. The additional need for animal quarantine capability in the event of a bite incident was also noted. No formal action was taken, but the Council agreed the matter needs to be budgeted.

Budget Simplification: The Council expressed a shared desire to simplify the budget's line item structure, specifically questioning large "miscellaneous" revenue and expense categories. The Mayor and City Administrator agreed to meet with CPA Chris Turner on approximately May 15th—following the Mayor's scheduled surgery recovery—to work through the budget line by line and develop a cleaner, more transparent format for Council review.

3. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Velma and seconded by Leah. The motion carried unanimously.



Approved on 10/20/26

Mayor: 
Dennis Haws