

Minutes

December 18th, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting
Oran White Civic Center
701 N Tool Drive
Tool, TX 75143



1. Call to Order @ 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Bennett, Dumont, Figueroa, Salvato, Sayre, Stykes. Dumont Absent. Quorum was established with Mayor Bennett Presiding
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
4. Declare, if any, Council's Conflicts of Interest. No Conflicts of Interest from present Councilmembers.
5. **Citizen Comments:** Citizens wishing to speak on an agenda item must sign up to do so (3 Minute Maximum) *The Council will not comment on items not on the agenda; however, the Council may refer the item to City Staff for research, resolution or referral of the matter to the Council as a future agenda item.*
 - A. David Moses spoke on Item Nine during Item Nine
 - B. Diann Carroll spoke on Item Twelve during the time of Item Twelve
 - C. Michael Fladmark spoke on Items Nine, Eleven and Twelve during the time of Items Nine, Eleven and Twelve
 - D. Angela Kifer spoke on Item Twelve during the time of Item Twelve
 - E. Dale Price spoke on Item Twelve during the time of Item Twelve
6. **Staff Comments** - *Hear announcements concerning matters appearing on the agenda; items of community interest; Staff gives regards dealing with specific factual information or existing policy dealing within the City, that may have an impact on citizens, staff or the City Council of Tool. No formal action will be discussed or taken.*
 - A. Director of Maintenance and Operations Frank Martin presented the Monthly Report for the Maintenance Department and Animal Control highlighting road repairs and three animals were taken to the Humane Society of Cedar Creek Lake
 - B. Building Technician Heath Hamaker highlighted the 19 new building permits for the month of November
 - C. Court Clerk Stacy Hamaker provided an overview of the court monthly statistics which included how many cases were opened and closed in the court
 - D. Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Boyle presented the Code Enforcement Report and highlighted the amount of warnings versus citations issued
 - E. Chief of Police Robert Walker presented an overview of the police monthly statistics which included the amount of warnings versus citations issued.
 - F. City Controller Kimberly Kroha presented the Financial and Expenditure Report highlighting an increase in Ad Valorem Payments and sales tax fees. City Controller Kroha continued her presentation by stating that she was optimistic on having the ability to return funds expended from the Emergency Fund back to the Emergency Fund in the coming weeks. City Controller Kroha concluded by providing an update on the ongoing audits highlighting they are nearing completion.
 - G. City Administrator Julius Kizzee discussed the delivery of the mini excavator for the Maintenance Department, proposed drainage work on Guam Street that will be brought before the City Council in January and concluded by discussing Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) compliance for the Police Department and City Hall.

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H. City Secretary Kimberley Price discussed recent trainings she had completed which included Open Meetings Act, Public Information Act, Cybersecurity, and Records Management. City Secretary Price concluded by discussing an upcoming Records Management update which will begin in the spring.

Consent Agenda - *Approval of Consent Agenda items authorize each to be implemented in accordance with staff recommendations provided. An item may be removed from the consent agenda and added to the Statutory Agenda for full discussion upon request by a member of the Council present at this meeting.*

7. Approve Minutes: November 13th, 2025 Special Meeting / Election Canvass, November 14th, 2025 Emergency Meeting / Election Canvass and November 20th, 2025 Regular Meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes: November 13th, 2025 Special Meeting / Election Canvass, November 14th, 2025 Emergency Meeting / Election Canvass and November 20th, 2025 Regular Meeting was made by Councilmember Sayre with second by Councilmember Stykes. Motion Passed 4/0.

8. Approve Monthly Activity Reports for November 2025 as presented: (A) Executive Summary (B) Financial and Expenditure (C) Municipal Court; (D) Police (E) Maintenance; (F) Building (G) Code Enforcement and; (H) Animal Control. Motion to Approve Monthly Activity Reports for November 2025 as presented: (A) Executive Summary (B) Financial and Expenditure (C) Municipal Court; (D) Police (E) Maintenance; (F) Building (G) Code Enforcement and; (H) Animal Control was made by Councilmember Sayre with second by Councilmember Salvato. Motion Passed 4/0.

Statutory Agenda - *The purpose of this section is to have full discussion upon request by the Tool City Council. Ideas, thoughts and decisions are formulated by City Council and staff plans, operations, policies, and/or future projects, including the following:*

9. Consider, Discuss and Take Action on amending and revising the contract between the City of Tool and the Eight at Tool 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation. Motion to Accept the amendments and approve the contract between the City of Tool and the Eight at Tool 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation was made by Councilmember Salvato with second by Councilmember Figueroa. Motion Passed 4/0.

10. General Discussion regarding the engagement of residents/groups for the Adopt-A-Road Program for the City of Tool. City Administrator Kizzee presented this item by stating that this idea was from Councilmember Sayre and that Councilmember Sayre would like to see areas cleaned up around the city especially along Highway 274. City Administrator Kizzee continued by stating that if the City Council wanted to move forward with this initiative, he would bring it before the City Council next month. Councilmember Sayre stated that he would like to see citizen involvement in maintaining the city. Councilmember Sayre concluded by stating that he would like to see business and groups help in the maintenance of city streets.

Ordinance Readings

11. Consider, Discuss and Take Action, on first reading, to adopt Ordinance 2025-08, City of Tool, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2026, of the City of Tool, Texas, Authorizing the Issuance and

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Sale of \$475,000 City of Tool, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2026 for Police Station, Drainage, Maintenance Department and Park Projects; Levying an Annual Ad Valorem Tax and Providing for the Security for and Payment of Said Note; and Enacting other Provisions relating to the Subject. City Administrator Kizzee invited Drew Whittington from Government Capital (GovCap) to answer any questions that the City Council may have in regard to the proposed Tax Note. Councilmember Stykes inquired regarding the review time needed from the Comptroller to which Drew Whittington discussed the review process and concluded by stating that funding for the note would take place on January 16th, 2026. Mayor Bennett inquired regarding the fees associated with the proposed Tax Note to which Drew Whittington stated the fees for this project would be \$25,000.00. Mayor Bennett inquired what the total financed amount for this project would be to which Drew Whittington stated that the total financed cost of this project would be \$471,124.83 for the City of Tool to receive \$450,000.00. Drew Whittington stated that the City of Tool received an interest rate of 4.75% for this project, which was a very good interest rate right now and concluded by stating that the length to pay off the tax note would be seven years but would allow for an early payoff after year three of the note. Councilmember Stykes inquired whether the City would have the ability to borrow against the tax note once it is paid down to which Drew Whittington stated that this note did not offer the ability to borrow against and that if additional funds were needed, the financing of those funds would be considered a new transaction. Councilmember Stykes inquired that if additional funds were to be needed, would the process be the same or similar to the process the city is currently following for a tax note to which Drew Whittington stated that as long as legislation does not change, the process would be the same as the current process to obtain a Tax Note. Mayor Bennett inquired if the money had limited uses to which Drew Whittington stated that yes, the Tax Note had limited uses. City Administrator Kizzee highlighted the limited uses which included Paradise Bay Drainage project, a portion of the Police Department remodel, a portion of the Maintenance Barn project and future expenses for projects of this type for the following 18 months. Mayor Bennett inquired if the mentioned projects had been paid for previously to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that yes, the projects mentioned had been either fully paid or for the outstanding projects partially paid for with cash on hand. Councilmember Sykes inquired regarding language referencing the Maintenance Department and not a Maintenance Barn to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that the language provided in the Ordinance was statutory language. Mayor Bennett stated that she was not in favor of this ordinance and inquired what the money received from the tax note would be used for since there had not been any mention of any projects. Mayor Bennett continued by stating that she did not agree with spending money to finance a project when the city already had the money in the bank and that some of the mentioned projects had already been paid for previously in cash. Councilmember Figueroa stated that the purpose of this tax note would give the city the ability to keep capital in the bank for future projects. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that with the proposed tax note, it would make the Capital Improvement account balance close to one million dollars at the end of fiscal year 2025-2026 and would provide the city with opportunities. Councilmember Figueroa continued by discussing how the city benefited from the Litchfield Annexation and discussed the potential annexation of the portion of the Arnold Hills Subdivision that is outside the City of Tool. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that you make money with money and concluded by stating that this money from the tax note would make the city money. Mayor

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Bennett inquired if this tax note would create a tax rate increase to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that he would not know the effects of the this until the preliminary home values are released in May. Councilmember Sayre inquired if new homes were built would it help lower the tax rate to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that new values could possibly help prevent a tax rate increase. Motion to, on first reading, to adopt Ordinance 2025-08, City of Tool, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2026 was made by Councilmember Salvato with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Passed 3/1. Councilmember Stykes Opposed.

Resolution Adoption

12. Consider, Discuss and Take Action, on first reading, to Adopt Resolution 2025-11R, Council Rules of Procedure, repealing Resolution 2025-04R, Council Rules of Procedure, as presented by Councilmember Greg Figueroa. Councilmember Stykes inquired why Councilmember Figueroa wanted this item to be placed on the Agenda to which Councilmember Figueroa stated that some items in the current Council Rules of Procedure followed parliamentary rules that required super majority and not state law that required a super majority. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that when a super majority is required statutorily, the City Council would require a super majority vote. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that state law supersedes city law and that this resolution would ensure the city is following all requirements. Mayor Bennett stated that she and Councilmember Figueroa had met and discussed some changes they felt were necessary to the resolution. Mayor Bennett continued by discussing some of the requested changes to the resolution, highlighting the City Administrator's duties in regard to disciplining employees, agenda preparation and the motion to reconsider on an agenda item. Councilmember Stykes stated that he did not agree with the social media policy that was included in the resolution citing he did not agree with action being taken by the City Council against him for being a voice for the citizens if they are unhappy with something going on in the city. Councilmember Sayre stated that he felt that in regard to Councilmember Stykes comment that this resolution was geared toward your intention behind the action not just the action alone. Mayor Bennett inquired what the social media policy was for city employees to which City Administrator Kizzee explained the social media policy. Mayor Bennett continued by explaining the difference between disparaging remarks and critical remarks. Motion to, on first reading, to Adopt Resolution 2025-11R, Council Rules of Procedure, repealing Resolution 2025-04R, Council Rules of Procedure was made by Councilmember Salvato with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Passed 4/0.

13. **Council Comments** - *Hear announcements concerning matters appearing on the agenda; items of community interest; and/or inquiries of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policy from the Mayor, Councilpersons, and City staff, for which no formal action will be discussed or taken.*
 - A. All Present Councilmembers wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Mayor Bennett discussed the upcoming Candy Cane Trails event at the Eight at Tool Park

14. **Closing**
 - A. Next Meeting: January 15th, 2026
 - B. Adjourn. Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilmember Figueroa with second by Councilmember Stykes. Motion Passed 4/0. Meeting Adjourned @ 7:22 p.m.

A meeting that is “open to the public”, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, is one that the public is permitted to attend. The act does not entitle the public to choose the items to be discussed or to speak about

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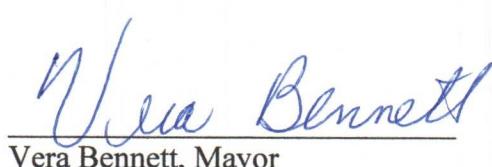
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items on the agenda. If the City Council, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, should determine that an executive session is required, then such executive session, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.001 et seq., will be held by the Council at the date, hour and place given in this notice, concerning but not limited to the following sections and purposes of the Act: 551.071 Private consultation with the city's attorney; 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property; or, 551.074 Discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel. Should any final action, final decision or final vote be required in the opinion of the City Council regarding any matter considered in such executive session, then the final action, final decision or final vote shall be in the open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting.

I certify that the above notice of meeting, a true and correct copy, was posted on the bulletin board in front of Tool City Hall prior to the required 72 hours and that the city's official newspaper was notified.



Vera Bennett

Vera Bennett, Mayor

