

Minutes

July 31st 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.
Budget Workshop Meeting
Oran White Civic Center
701 N Tool Drive
Tool, TX 75143



1. Call to Order @ 10:10 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Bennett, Dumont, Figueroa, Fladmark, Sayre, Stykes. Stykes Absent. Quorum was established with Mayor Dumont Presiding.
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
4. Declare, if any, Council's Conflicts of Interest. No Conflict 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. Billie Hathaway spoke on Item Seven during the Public Hearing

Public Hearings – *The Tool City Council shall open relevant public hearings to receive citizen testimony regarding the following items. The public comment period begins on the first date notice is published and extends to the close of the public hearing. Public comments may be submitted either in writing to the City of Tool City Council, Office of the City Secretary, 701 N. Tool Dr., Tool, TX 75143, or electronically via email at contact@tooltexas.org. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the city's public record.*

6. **Open, announce the time and conduct a public hearing to receive testimony on the following @ 10:12 a.m.**
7. An unsafe building located at 105 Janice Circle, Tool, TX, 75143 reputedly owned by Galen Hartman
8. An unsafe building located at 613 Turquoise Trail, Tool, TX, 75143 reputedly owned by Morris & Payne Dale Taulton
9. **Close public hearing and announce the time @ 10:18 a.m.**

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:*

10. Take Action on an unsafe building located at 105 Janice Circle, Tool, TX, 75143, reputedly owned by Galen Hartman. Motion to Table action on an unsafe building located at 105 Janice Circle, Tool, TX, 75143, reputedly owned by Galen Hartman was made by Councilmember Bennett with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Tabled 4/0.
11. Take Action on an unsafe building located at 613 Turquoise Trail, Tool, TX, 75143, reputedly owned by Morris & Payne Dale Taulton. Motion to Table action on an unsafe building located at 613 Turquoise Trail, Tool, TX, 75143, reputedly owned by Morris & Payne Dale Taulton was made by Councilmember Sayre with second by Councilmember Bennett. Motion Tabled 4/0.

Minutes

July 31st 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

Budget Workshop Meeting

Oran White Civic Center

701 N Tool Drive

Tool, TX 75143



12. Receive, Consider and Discuss the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the City of Tool, as presented by the City Administrator and City Controller. City Administrator Julius Kizzee presented the updated budget and concluded by stating that the City was still presenting a balanced budget. Motion to Move Item 14 (Tax Rate) prior to Item 12 (Budget) was made by Councilmember Figueroa with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Passed 3/1. Councilmember Bennett Opposed. Councilmember Figueroa stated that the budget looked very clean and provided good detail. Councilmember Figueroa concluded by stating that City Administrator Kizzee and City Controller Kimberly Kroha put a lot of work into the budget and thanked them for their work.
13. Consider, Act, and Take Record Vote on the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, as presented by the City Controller. Motion to Table action on the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was made by Councilmember Figueroa with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Tabled 4/0.
14. Consider, Act, and take Record Vote on the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, as presented by the City Controller. Councilmember Figueroa stated that City Administrator Kizzee had budgeted very conservatively and continued by stating that he felt that the Tax Rate had not been calculated properly. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that once the Tax Rate was recalculated, he believed the tax rate would be closer to what the rate was for the past fiscal year and not the proposed voter approval rate of \$0.441656 per \$100 valuation. City Administrator Kizzee continued by discussing the certified home values from the Henderson County Appraisal District and concluded by explaining how the tax rate was calculated. Councilmember Figueroa stated that there was an error in the calculation of the tax rate. City Administrator Kizzee stated that the math calculated by himself and by Councilmember Figueroa were both correct and that the TNT Tax Rate Worksheet completed by himself and City Controller Kimberly Kroha was done correctly. City Administrator Kizzee continued by stating that the calculations on the TNT Tax Rate Worksheet had also been reviewed by Henderson County and they also verified that the TNT Tax Rate Worksheet was completed correctly. Councilmember Figueroa stated that per the calculations on the Tax Rate Worksheet, it showed that the over 65 age group would not pay any City of Tool taxes and that was not in line with the tax freeze that was approved. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that there was a big difference between a tax freeze for over 65 and no taxes for over 65. Councilmember Bennett requested additional information regarding how the math was calculated for the tax rate worksheet. Councilmember Figueroa and Councilmember Bennett stated that the proposal of the rate of \$0.441656 per \$100 valuation was very surprising to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that this was something that he told the City Council in October of 2024 that an increase in the Tax Rate was a real possibility due to the senior tax freeze. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that he could not vote on this item until the tax rate worksheet calculations were reviewed again. Councilmember Fladmark stated that a tax rate in line with the tax rate worksheet would have to be adopted by the City Council. Councilmember Bennett inquired why in past year's the City of Tool has had a large budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year. Councilmember Bennett continued by stating that the Voter Approval Rate is not the rate that must be approved to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that Councilmember Bennett was correct and that Council could adopt a lower rate if necessary, after review. Kizzee also discussed the math on the tax rate, based in Chapter 26 of

Minutes

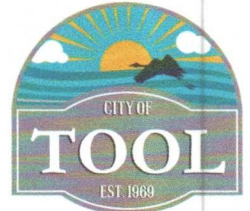
July 31st 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

Budget Workshop Meeting

Oran White Civic Center

701 N Tool Drive

Tool, TX 75143



the Tax Code. Motion to Table action on the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was made by Councilmember Figueroa with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Tabled 4/0.

15. Receive, Consider, and Take Action to Approve the Application for Participation in the Local Government Investment Cooperative (LOGIC) Trust. David Shechtman a representative of the Local Government Investment Cooperative (LOGIC) Trust presented this item. Councilmember Bennett inquired if the interest rates were to be locked in to which David Shechtman stated that the interest rates were not locked. Councilmember Fladmark inquired regarding the investment amount to which David Shechtman stated that it was up to the discretion of the city to determine investment amounts. Councilmember Figueroa inquired if Local Government Investment Cooperative interest rates were competitive to what the city currently earns to which David Shechtman stated that LOGIC is currently out performing the city's current interest rate. Councilmember Bennett inquired if City Administrator Kizzee had negotiated the interest rates with the City of Tool's bank to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that he had spoken with the bank previously regarding bank fees and interest rates on the city's accounts. Motion to Approve the Application for Participation in the Local Government Investment Cooperative (LOGIC) Trust was made by Councilmember Sayre with second by Councilmember Figueroa. Motion Passed 4/0.

Resolution Adoption

16. Consider, Discuss and Take Action on first reading, to Adopt Resolution 2025-05R, Strategic Commitment. Mayor Dumont presented this item, highlighting the need for framework for the following in the City of Tool: Public Improvement Districts (PID's), Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ's), Chapter 380 Agreements and a growth task force, which was a council-introduced item at the July 2025 regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Figueroa stated that the City of Tool is open for business. Councilmember Bennett stated that a Town Hall meeting was needed to get involvement from the community on these items. Councilmember Fladmark stated that this resolution would be a good starting point on the overall plan for the city going forward. Councilmember Figueroa stated that this was a well written resolution and that the approval of this resolution would only be a starting point not a commitment on a particular deal. Councilmember Fladmark and Councilmember Bennett requested changes to the Resolution. Motion to Adopt on first reading Resolution 2025-05R, Strategic Commitment with amendment to line item four changing it to read the City Council directs staff to initiate the recommendations for financial tools to use initially for Paradise Bay, The 81 acre development and engage with apartment developers was made by Councilmember Fladmark with second by Councilmember Sayre. Motion Passed 4/0.

17. **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. City Secretary Kimberley Price provided an update on the deadline to turn in an Application for a Place on the November General Election.

Minutes

July 31st 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

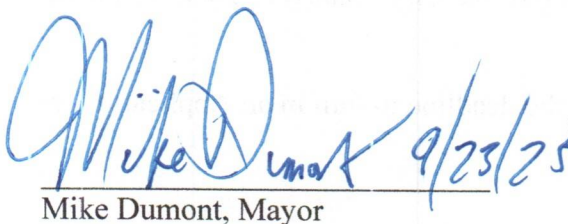
Budget Workshop Meeting
Oran White Civic Center
701 N Tool Drive
Tool, TX 75143

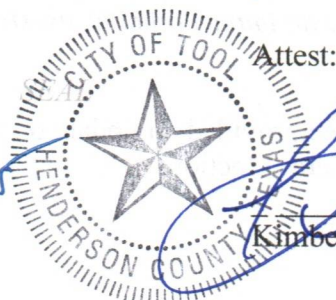


18. **Council Comments** - *Hear announcements concerning matters appearing on the agenda; items of community interest; and/or inquiries of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policy from the Mayor, Councilpersons, and City staff, for which no formal action will be discussed or taken.*
- A. Councilmember Fladmark thanked everyone for coming to the meeting
 - B. Councilmember Sayre thanked everyone for coming to the meeting
 - C. Councilmember Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked City Administrator Kizzee and City Controller Kroha for their hard work on the budget and tax rate. Councilmember Bennett concluded by discussing the vendor market scheduled for Saturday night at the Eight at Tool Park
 - D. Councilmember Figueroa thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that the budget was very detailed and that we would get the tax rate figured out.
 - E. Mayor Dumont thanked the city staff for all of their hard work and concluded by thanking the citizens for coming to the meeting.
19. **Closing**
- A. Next Meeting: August 21st, 2025
 - B. Adjourn @ 12:21p.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 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.


Mike Dumont, Mayor



Attest:


Kimberley Price, City Secretary