



CITY OF KEMPNER

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING & AGENDA

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:00pm

BUDGET & TAX RATE HEARING

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND TAX RATE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE. A COPY CAN BE OBTAINED BY THE CITY SECRETARY DURING BUSINESS HOURS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will convene in a regular meeting in Council Chambers, located at 12288 E. HWY 190 Kempner Texas 76539. The items listed on this notice may be taken up by the Council.

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledges to Flags

2. Reports & Presentations to Council by City Staff and Invited Guests

- a. Budget Hearing for the proposed Tax Rate of .4189 per \$100 valuation.
- b. Citizen Comments (please see Additional Notices and Information at the end of this agenda).
- c. City Manager Report
- d. Mayor's Report
- e. Police Chief's Report
- f. Fire Chief's Report

3. Action Items

- a. Consent Agenda (all items on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be approved by a single motion to approve the consent agenda, or each item listed below may be acted upon independently should a council member make such motion)
 - i. Approval of the meeting minutes from the meeting held on July 14, 2026
 - ii. Approval of the July 2026 Financials.
- b. Approval of the amended plat of Tract 77 Indian Valley. A subdivision recorded in Cabinet 1, Slide 103, Plat records of Lampasas County, Texas.
- c. Acceptance and approval of the FY 26-27 Proposed Budget mandated Truth in Taxation form.

- d. Approval and Record vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-001 AN ORDINANCE, OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR
- e. Approval and Record vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-002 AN ORDINANCE, OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, RATIFYING AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR
- f. Approval and Record Vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-003 AN ORDINANCE, OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, ADOPTING A TAX RATE TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR
- g. Adoption of Title 2 Chapter 2 Hours Worked and Personal Time Off (PTO)

4. Workshops

- a.

5. Council and Staff Announcements

- a. Staff Announcements
- b. Council Announcements
- c. Next Regular Meeting date is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM in council chambers.

6. Adjournment.

Certification Of Legal Posting:

I hereby certify that this agenda has been posted on the City message board affixed to the exterior wall of the Eisenhower / Clark Municipal Building AND has been posted on the City of Kempner official website (kempnertx.gov) at least 3 business days prior to the start of the meeting.

Shaleah Stevens

Signature of Certifying Official

City Secretary

Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official

August 5, 2026 @ 3:15 PM

Date and Time signed:

Additional Notices and Information

General Statement of Mayor Wilkerson:

Hello neighbors,

Below is some information you should find useful when reading the agenda and what to expect while attending our meetings. I have the responsibility to ensure the meeting is being held in a lawful and organized manner. I have an obligation to each of you to ensure:

- Each council member is afforded the opportunity to express their opinions on matters brought before them;
- Each citizen is treated with respect and afforded the opportunity to be heard;
- Each council member and staff member is treated with respect by the general public and other staff and council members

The Council may discuss and/or act on the items listed on this agenda. Legally, the Council may take official action only on the items listed under #3 “Action Items”. All other items listed on the agenda offer the council opportunity to hear information on related matters and provide directions to City Staff on items or additional information needed for the issue to be placed on a future agenda for action by the council.

Citizen Comments: Any person may bring an issue to the attention of the City council during this time on matters NOT ON THE AGENDA. State law prohibits the Council from discussing issues or matters that are not on the agenda. Bringing an issue (not on the agenda) before the council during this time makes the council aware of the information and may lead to the matter being placed on a future meeting agenda. The Council has adopted a policy granting 3 minutes for each person to talk. Although you do not have to legally give your name and address, there is a sign-in sheet at the back of the room. Signing in on the sign-up sheet will allow your representatives to contact you to follow up on your concerns.

Citizens’ input on City Matters: The City Council wants to hear from those we represent. When a matter is being taken up by the Council, a member of the public in attendance at the meeting who desires to be heard on the matter may be called upon when that issue is being discussed.

Closed (Executive) Sessions: The council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during a meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) 072 (Deliberation about Real Property), .073 (Personnel Matters), .076 (Deliberation about Security Devices), and .086 (Economic Development).

Accessibility: The Isenhour / Clark Municipal Building is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodation or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Please contact the City Secretary at (512) 932-2180 or email citysecretary@kempnertx.gov for information or assistance.

John “JW” Wilkerson



CITY OF KEMPNER

REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 11, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

BUDGET & TAX RATE HEARING

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND TAX RATE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE. A COPY CAN BE OBTAINED BY THE CITY SECRETARY DURING BUSINESS HOURS

THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 12288 E. HWY 190, KEMPNER TX 76539.

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledges to Flags

The meeting started at 6:00 PM. The quorum consisted of David Richardson (place 1), Tom Combs (place 2), Rob Green (place 3), Elliot Whitton (place 5) and Mayor Wilkerson. Also in attendance were Gene Isenhour (Municipal Court Judge), Rebecca Ramos (City Manager), Heriberto Rodriguez (Police Chief) and Shaleah Stevens (City Secretary). Each person notated in these minutes will be referred to as place/title only throughout this document. Gene Isenhour led the invocation.

2. Reports & Presentations to Council by City Staff and Invited Guests

a. Budget Hearing for the proposed Tax Rate of .4189 per \$100 valuation.

The Mayor opened the hearing by asking the City Manager to present what has been worked for the 2026-2027 budget.

- The FY 2024-2025 tax rate was 0.3787. The council accepted a COPS grant for an officer's salary, anticipating a 0.3% annual tax increase over three years to cover the full cost.
- For FY 2025-2026, the anticipated rate was 0.4120, but due to newly identified taxable properties, the rate was maintained at 0.3787.
- For FY 2026-2027, the anticipated rate was 0.4453. The city filed a proposed rate of 0.4189 after losing \$1,362,449 in taxable value between June and July. This represents an annual impact of \$87 per median household.

The Mayor intervened, stating: "I am going to throw a wrench in the entire thing." He proposed an alternate tax rate by removing two-line items from the budget: money set aside for the judge's salary and funds for employee buybacks upon leaving in good standing. The Mayor stated, "I'm looking at a proposed tax rate instead of what you see up there. Of .3715 (three seven one five), which is below the .3787 (three seven eight seven) that we have now."

Place 2, suggested "go with that and just maintain and put that as a rainy-day fund." The Mayor responded, "I hate that philosophy... we have the opportunity to start making it go down." The Mayor stated the city already has a healthy fund balance and that this is an opportunity to lower the tax burden.

Place 5 asked if keeping the current rate and dedicating the funds to the officer's salary to avoid future increases would be a better investment. The Mayor explained that with the COPS grant, the proposed budget already captures 66% of the officer's salary and a small increase would still be necessary next year to cover the final third.

Judge Isenhour expressed his support for the Mayor's recommendation. The Mayor opened the floor for public comments 6:11 PM. No members of the public offered comments and closed the public hearing at 6:12 PM.

The final proposed tax rate for the upcoming vote was announced as 0.3715.

- b. Citizen Comments (please see Additional Notices and Information at the end of this agenda). Brennan Barber informed the council that the bat boxes are installed and the project was completed. He also stated there is 1 extra board, spare nails and glue for the city to hold on to for possible maintenance on the boxes in the future. The Mayor stated that if there were any repairs the city would reach out to Mrs Barber to help get the work completed. The City Manager agreed to hold on to the material for future use.
- c. City Manager Report- see attached
- d. Mayor's Report- none
- e. Police Chief's Report- not present
- f. Fire Chief's Report not present

3. Action Items

- a. Consent Agenda (all items on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be approved by a single motion to approve the consent agenda, or each item listed below may be acted upon independently should a council member make such motion)
 - i. Approval of the meeting minutes from the meeting held on July 14, 2026
 - ii. Approval of the July 2026 Financials.

Place 3 made the following motion: to approve the consent agenda

Seconded by: Place 2

Approved by all present

- b. Approval of the amended plat of Tract 77 Indian Valley. A subdivision recorded in Cabinet 1, Slide 103, Plat records of Lampasas County, Texas.

Place 2 made the following motion: to approve amended plat of tract 77

Seconded by: Place 1

Approved by all present

- c. Acceptance and approval of the FY 26-27 Proposed Budget mandated Truth in Taxation form.

Place 3 made the following motion: to approve the FY 26-27 Proposed Budget mandated Truth in Taxation form.

Seconded by: Place 5

Approved by all present

- d. Approval and Record vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-001 **AN ORDINANCE, OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR**

Place 3 made the following motion: Approval and Record Vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-001

Seconded by: Place 5

Recorded Votes: Place 1,2,3,5 all FOR and Place 4 was absent

- e. Approval and Record vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-002 **AN ORDINANCE, OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, RATIFYING AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR**

Place 2 made the following motion: Approval and Record vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-002

Seconded by: Place 3

Recorded Votes: Place 5,3,2,1 all FOR and Place 4 was absent

- f. Approval and Record Vote of Ordinance 2026-08-11-003 **AN ORDINANCE, OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, ADOPTING A TAX RATE TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR**

Place 2 made the following motion: Approval and Record Vote of Ordinance

2026-08-11-003 at a rate of .3715

Seconded by: Place 3

Recorded Votes: Place 3,2,1,5 FOR and Place 4 was absent

g. Adoption of Title 2 Chapter 2 Hours Worked and Personal Time Off (PTO)

The Mayor stated this is an annual update to the policy regarding overtime for Police Department employees who are required to work holidays and other additional hours. Each year, as part of the budget process, we review and update the policy when budget changes affect overtime provisions.

Place 3 made the following motion: Adoption of Title 2 Chapter 2 Hours Worked and Personal Time Off

Seconded by: 5

Approved by all present

4. **Workshops**

5. **Council and Staff Announcements**

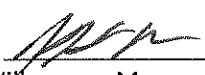
- a. Staff Announcements- none
- b. Council Announcements- none
- c. Next Regular Meeting date is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM in council chambers. **Correction: Although the date previously stated for the next regularly scheduled meeting was announced at the time, that date was stated in error. The record should reflect that the next regularly scheduled meeting is September 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM in council chambers**

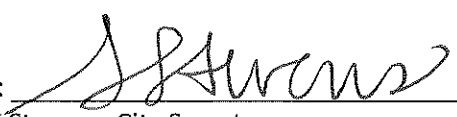
6. **Adjournment.**

Place 1 made the following motion: To adjourn.

Seconded by: Place 3

The meeting adjourned at: 6:30 pm

APPROVED: 
John (JW) Wilkerson- Mayor

ATTEST: 
Shaleah Stevens- City Secretary