



CITY OF KEMPNER

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING & AGENDA Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 6:00pm

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. Citizen Comments (please see Additional Notices and Information at the end of this agenda).
- b. City Manager Report
- c. Mayor's Report
- d. Police Chief's Report
- e. 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 May 12, 2026
 - ii. Approval of the May 2026 Financials.
- b. Approval of Title 5. Financial Administration Chapter 2. Investments
- c. Resolution 2026-06-09-001 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A PORTION OF CITY INVESTMENT FUNDS FROM TEXPOOL TO TEXPOOL PRIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 5, CHAPTER 2, INVESTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR INVESTMENT AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
- d. Approval of Ordinance No. 2010-02-09-001 (R2026-2) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR RULES AND STANDARDS REGULATING THE USE OF THE FACILITIES OF THE SYLVIA TUCKER

MEMORAIL PARK WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; AND
PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, OPEN MEETINGS, PENALTY AND EFFECTIVE
DATE.

4. Workshops

- a. Lampasas Central Appraisal District FY 26-27 proposed budget

5. Council and Staff Announcements

- a. Staff Announcements
- b. Council Announcements
- c. Next Regular Meeting date is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 14, 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

Shaleah Stevens City Secretary

Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official

June 3, 2026 at 2:45PM

Date and Time signed:



CITY OF KEMPNER

REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 9, 2026, AT 6:00 PM

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), Dan Long (place 4), Elliot Whitton (place 5) and Mayor Wilkerson. Also in attendance were 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. Place 1 led the invocation.

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

- a. Citizen Comments- Megan Olney requested the council to consider the speed to be reduced from 35 mph. Moved to next meeting for further discussion.
- b. City Manager Report-See attached
- c. Mayor's Report- Held until the end
- d. Police Chief's Report- See attached
- e. Fire Chief's Report- The fire department reported 10 calls out of 50 total in the city in May 2026, including: two motor vehicle crashes and seven medical calls. A warning was given that grass fires were beginning to occur, and residents were urged to use caution if a burn ban is lifted. The Mayor emphasized continued coordination with police and zero tolerance for burning during a burn ban.

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 May 12, 2026.

ii. Approval of the 2026 Financials.

Place 1 made the following motion: to approve the consent agenda

Seconded by: Place 2

Passes by all present

b. Approval of Title 5, Financial Administration Chapter 2. Investments

The city manager explained that the city's investment policy had originally been adopted in 2018 and had not been revised since. The proposed revision would allow the city to consider investment options that were not available in 2018, including additional Texas Pool-related options.

Place 2 made the following motion: to approve Title 5 Financial Administration Chapter 2 Investments

Seconded by: Place 4

Passes by all present

c. Resolution 2026-06-09-001 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A PORTION OF CITY INVESTMENT FUNDS FROM TEXPOOL TO TEXPOOL PRIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 5, CHAPTER 2, INVESTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR INVESTMENT AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The council decided it would be cleaner to consider the matter closer to the budget adoption and postponed the resolution until the August 2026 council meeting.

Place 2 made the following motion: to postpone Resolution 2026-06-09-001 for the August meeting

Seconded by: Place 5

Passes by all present

d. Approval of Ordinance No. 2010-02-09-001 (R2026-2) **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEMPNER, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR RULES AND STANDARDS REGULATING THE USE OF THE FACILITIES OF THE SYLVIA TUCKER MEMORIAL PARK WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, OPEN MEETINGS, PENALTY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The city manager explained that the ordinance incorporated prior council direction and included an attached fee schedule, including options for shorter use periods and additional hours. Because the fee schedule is attached to the ordinance, it can be updated without redoing the full ordinance.

Place 1 made the following motion: to approve Ordinance No. 2010-02-02-001(R2026-2)

Seconded by: Place 2
Passes by all present

4. Workshops

a. Lampasas Central Appraisal District FY 26-27 proposed budget

The Mayor explained that the chief appraiser, Mr. Salcedo, would give a full presentation first, followed by council questions and then citizen questions. The Mayor noted that tough questions were expected but emphasized that the questions should be focused on the numbers, not personal in nature.

For the presentation, the appraisal district discussed property exemptions, including agricultural and homestead exemptions, staff achievements and certifications, their digitization project, building repairs, purchases and mapping issues. Discussion occurred regarding the increase in the business personal property exemption threshold to \$125,000, which reduced taxable business personal property values. For Kempner, approximately \$1.1 million in business personal property value became exempt. The city reported 693 accounts, approximately \$5.9 million in growth, and an estimated increase in tax revenue if the current tax rate remains unchanged.

The Chief Appraiser reported decreases in agricultural and homestead exemption accounts, noting changes were influenced by ongoing exemption audits. The Chief Appraiser stated it reviewed exemption eligibility countywide, removing ineligible exemptions and returning taxable value to the tax roll. Updates were provided on exemption application processing, with most applications submitted electronically and reviewed in accordance with state timelines. For Kempner, 53 business personal property accounts totaled about \$1.1 million, but roughly \$974,900 was exempted, resulting in an estimated 85% loss in that category. In 2026, Kempner had 693 accounts with approximately \$5.9 million in growth, a 6.24% increase. The Chief Appraiser stated that if the tax rate remains the same, the city could receive an estimated \$22,000 increase, compared with \$26,000 the prior year. Agricultural properties decreased countywide, from 4,879 properties to 4,809 properties. There was a decrease of 51 homestead accounts, or 0.74%, due to a required five-year audit that began on January 1, 2025. For the exemption audit, the district monitored 19,914 accounts eligible for exemptions such as homestead or disabled veteran exemptions. From May 2025 to May 2026, staff worked 543 accounts and removed 326 exemptions countywide, adding approximately \$32 million in market value back to the taxable roll. There were still 392 accounts pending, and the completion rate was 58%.

Regarding the certification and staff achievements, the Chief Appraiser stated that two (2) appraisers passed both their level 3 and 4 state exams in one year, usually a five-year process. Now they are both state-certified and dual trained in collection and appraisal roles. Both plan to attend the Chief Appraiser Institute for their acceptance in September of 2026.

With the digitization project the appraisal district completed the first phase of about 90 filing cabinets at a cost between \$72,000 and \$78,000. They stated that two years of work is still required to complete the project. The proposed 2027 budget was reported as \$1,738,342. The district identified approximately \$751,269 in unfunded mandates after excluding building costs, utilities, salaries, and other funded items.

Budget requests from the appraisal district include one additional collection or administrative position, replacement of one vehicle, an added travel vehicle, continued investment in appraisal staff training and development, competitive wages and benefits for

retention, enhanced IT infrastructure and cybersecurity, and continued GIS mapping projects.

A Kempner-specific mapping correction project was presented by the Chief Appraiser. When the presenter took office, staff reviewed smaller taxing units to ensure properties were properly mapped and coded to the correct tax entities. Properties were not mapped correctly and were not coded to Kempner's tax jurisdiction. After corrections, Kempner's mapping is nearly complete. Sixteen Kempner properties were identified with approximately \$2.37 million in market and appraised value, covering 51.76 acres, that had not been mapped or coded to the city. The city was estimated to have lost nearly \$9,000 per year in revenue. He stated that over 10 years, this represented about \$64,000 in revenue loss, and the issue may have existed for 10 to 30 years or longer. The budget includes \$20,000 to continue this mapping work.

The presentation included cost allocation figures for 2026, total projected tax revenue for all taxing units collected by the district was about \$41.571 million. Kempner's projected allocation was \$15,125, compared with \$14,331 the prior year, an increase for the city of \$794. Kempner's appraisal portion was listed as \$11,989. The Chief Appraiser noted that these numbers were created before the school district bond, which may affect the final figures. Kempner's total taxable value was reported as \$94,784,000, with a current tax rate of 0.3787. Kempner's exemptions for 2026 totaled \$19,547,259, up from approximately \$13 million the previous year. He said this increase was affected by more sales and more people moving into the community. Angela Baker added that exempt properties still must be appraised at market value, and that managing exemptions creates more work for the appraisal district, not less. At the county level, exemptions totaled about \$630 million across all taxing units, with Kempner accounting for about \$19 million. Kempner also received about \$2.4 million in new value for the year.

The Mayor requested to go to slide 21 of the presentation stressing that state officials should not blame local entities for property tax increases when the state comptroller requires appraisal values to fall within that specific range. The Mayor stated the state sets those requirements, not the council or the appraisal district.

Questions and concerns about the proposed budget were brought to the attention of the Chief Appraiser. Place 2 questioned, with last year's big proposal and the ask for this year, with another increase, where did we go wrong with the last budget and what are the concerns for this year? They responded with, the 2024 and 2025 CAD budgets were not appropriate and that the district had overspent by about \$149,000 over two years. Unexpected or inherited costs included a leaking roof costing \$49,000, an air conditioning issue costing more than \$18,000, and mapping issues costing an additional \$20,000. The districts representative said the mapping vendor's rates increased by 20% because monthly work exceeded the originally budgeted 40 hours. In 2025, the district improved from 80% to 82%, correcting 454 missing accounts, including 79 for smaller taxing units. The district representative said that with 3,256 accounts remaining, correcting them at the current pace would take approximately 7.5 years.

Place 5 raised concerns about vehicles and salary increases, stating that even in a union shop they had not seen raises around 20%. Ms. Baker explained the district has a 2012 and a 2018 vehicle, they intend to keep the 2018 vehicle and want to replace the 2012 single-cab truck because it is limited for training and increasingly costly to maintain. She said the district added four appraisers or staff positions, making it difficult to transport six appraisers using only two single-cab pickups. Also stating using district vehicles for training in Austin would be cheaper than paying state mileage reimbursement and wear and tear on personal vehicles. The Mayor asked how many personal-vehicle miles were

used for training in Austin. Ms. Baker estimated that she personally drove more than 1,000 miles and that another employee did the same, totaling at least 2,000 miles. Additional travel to Fort Worth was also mentioned as an unusual requirement for catching up on classes. The representative said the district now has four appraisers and collection staff who need to travel for training. The Mayor questioned whether buying or leasing vehicles would really be cheaper for taxpayers than mileage reimbursement. The representative clarified that the vehicles would be used not only for training but also for appraisal work. The Mayor asked for reimbursement totals from the prior fiscal year and for more details on the proposed vehicle lease. The lease was described as a five-year lease, with approximately \$17,000 budgeted for two vehicles plus insurance, and preventive maintenance included. The vehicles were estimated at about \$54,000 and \$38,000, for a total of \$92,000 over five years. The district agreed to provide reimbursement numbers later.

The appraisal district discussed salary increases in the district budget. A representative stated part of the increase was due to newly created positions, including a Chief Deputy Administrative Assistant for Collections and an Administrative Officer, with approximately \$60,000 attributed to the new employee. A letter from Randy Bean regarding a reported 50.3% increase in the Chief Appraiser salary was mentioned. Board Member Chris Harrison clarified that the comparison used the prior Chief Appraiser's 2020 salary and stated the current Chief Appraiser was hired at a higher starting salary due to recruitment challenges, with the current increase reflecting approximately 3%.

On salary increases, the Chief Appraiser said some of the apparent increases were not a raise but a new job creation, including a chief deputy administrative assistant for collections and one new administrative officer, about \$60,000 of the increase was for the new employee. Place 5 referred to a letter from Randy Bean showing the chief appraiser salary increasing by 50.3%. Board member Chris Harrison responded that the document was not the budget presentation but Bean's letter. He said the comparison was misleading because it compared the prior chief appraiser's 2020 salary of \$85,690 with the current chief appraiser, Salcedo, who was hired at \$125,000 because of the condition of the CAD and the difficulty of attracting candidates. Chris Harrison said Salcedo's salary is now \$128,750, which represents a 3% raise, not 50.3%. The Mayor stated he met with Mr. Bean and found some of his arguments compelling, especially on transparency. The Mayor also said they had done their own math and calculated that the chief appraiser increase, including the 3% raise plus medical, was closer to 9%. Place 5 also noted a concern that the appraisal supervisor line appeared to show a 55% increase from the previous budget to the current budget.

Chris Harrison argued that some budget comparisons are misleading because the CAD was in disarray for at least a decade before 2024, especially in mapping and appraisal operations. He said that when he joined the board in 2024, the office was behind, had potentially risked school funding, and needed to catch up on properties that had not been properly mapped or appraised. Chris Harrison explained that in 2025 they helped scale the budget back to under \$900,000 to prove a point, but that reduction created shortfalls that continued into 2026. He emphasized that as more properties are correctly identified and added to the tax rolls, the tax burden can be spread more fairly across the county rather than falling on only a smaller group of taxpayers.

The Mayor questioned a salary increase by comparing the adopted 2026 budget to the proposed 2027 budget. The Mayor cited an Appraiser Supervisor RPA 4 position, increasing from \$54,600 in the current adopted budget to \$73,847 in the proposed budget.

Angela Baker explained that the apparent increase was affected by internal restructuring. In 2025, two employees left for a neighboring county, and salary and benefit promise made by a prior interim chief appraiser or contractor had to be honored. Some employees also changed roles, including a collection supervisor stepping down and another employee moving into that position. They stated that the relevant pay increase was only about 5%, from approximately \$68,000, rather than the larger increase suggested by comparing the original line items. Chris Harrison added that some salary increases are tied to training and reducing contractor costs. For example, one employee is pursuing a commercial appraiser license, and once trained and working in that role, the CAD may be able to eliminate a contractor fee of about \$30,000 per year. The council member clarified that their comparison was based on the adopted 2026 budget.

The CAD's proposed budget, transparency, salary increases, certification pay, staffing, and public accountability were spoken on. The Mayor compared the City of Kempner's budget transparency to the CAD's website, noting that Kempner provides detailed, itemized budget information online, including costs such as information technology and email expenses. He stated they could not find similar details on the CAD's website and expressed concern as a representative of a taxing entity. They also said citizens had reported needing to file open records requests to obtain financial information from the CAD, whereas at the city, residents can ask budget questions directly without filing such requests.

Comments were made regarding concerns over annual government salary increases and transparency in budget reporting. Place 5 noted their own calculations showing the Chief Appraiser compensation increase, including benefits, appeared higher and raised concern regarding an apparent increase in the Appraisal Supervisor budget line.

Discussion occurred regarding salary increases between the adopted FY2026 and proposed FY2027 budgets. District representatives stated changes reflected restructuring, staffing changes, and prior salary commitments, noting the actual employee increase was approximately 5% rather than the larger amount shown in budget comparisons. Additional comments noted some increases support training efforts intended to reduce future contractor costs.

Council spoke regarding employee benefits, annual raises, and retention strategies. The chief appraiser stated there are updates to leave policies as well as the addition of certification pay for eligible employees. Council members discussed balancing employee retention with public concerns regarding recurring pay increases. Comments emphasized that incentives and benefits can support recruitment and retention, but that the council's role is to review and vote on the proposed budget rather than manage CAD operations. Additional comments suggested employee benefits and workplace policies can also support retention efforts.

The Mayor asked whether the CAD had considered non-salary recruitment and retention tools. A CAD representative said the organization had Increased vacation time for new employees to 40 hours per year, shortened the eligibility period from one year to six months and increased sick time from 40 hours to 80 hours per year. Policies were reportedly presented in October 2025 and amended in December 2025. Certification pay was also added, but employees only receive it after certification. Place 5 discussed whether annual raises and cost-of-living adjustments are common for average residents. Place 5 said many people in private industry or self-employment do not receive automatic raises every year, while others emphasized the need to retain employees and encourage growth through certification and incentives. The Mayor acknowledged that certification pay and stipends can be appropriate for retaining qualified staff, similar to law enforcement stipend

pay.

However, the Mayor emphasized that the council's role is not to manage the CAD but to question the proposed budget and decide whether to approve or disapprove it as one of eleven voting entities. The Mayor encouraged the CAD to think beyond pay increases. They cited the city's recent policy allowing employees to begin accruing leave immediately upon hire rather than waiting six months, calling it a useful benefit for employees facing family emergencies. The speaker said money is a strong retention tool but not the only answer.

Frustration was expressed about prior CAD budget requests. The Mayor said the council had historically supported CAD requests, but local board decisions had sometimes rejected them. They referenced a prior 78% increase and said the CAD was now returning with an overall 9.8% increase. A CAD representative said the 2026 budget is more aligned with what the CAD needs to operate. Chris Harrison stated several major costs should fall off within the next two to three years, including approximately \$86,000 to \$90,000 in payments. They also said contract work should decrease as employees become certified. Mapping, digitizing, and paper record cleanup were described as a three-year process costing around \$70,000 to \$80,000 that should eventually go away.

The discussion also touched on state mandates. The Mayor objected to the phrase "unfunded mandate," preferring to call it a "legislatively mandated property tax increase," because local property taxes are the only way to pay for such requirements. Place 4 asked about the chief appraiser's salary. One speaker initially understood the salary to have increased from \$85,069 in 2025 to \$128,000, believing that was described as a 3% raise. A CAD representative clarified that the new chief appraiser was hired at \$125,000 per year, and the 3% raise applied to that \$125,000 figure, not to the prior \$85,069 salary. The chief appraiser explained that when they came in during 2024, the offer was \$125,000, the office had only two employees out of five positions, and payroll did not exceed the budget. A council member stated that, from a layperson's perspective, the chief appraiser position increased by 50.3% over two budget cycles, even if the increase reflected hiring a different or more qualified person. The Mayor expresses that taxpayers may struggle to understand or justify such an increase, especially residents facing financial hardship. The Mayor also said they had ensured the CAD received the document being discussed in advance so the CAD would not feel ambushed.

The discussion then turned to exemptions and revenue impacts. Place 2 objected to the CAD presenting exempted property value as a "loss," arguing that exemptions are created by law and are not something local entities choose. They said the language made it sound as though the CAD wanted taxing entities to advocate against exemptions to regain money. A CAD representative said they were simply communicating the equivalent impact on taxable value. The Mayor clarified that the issue was not necessarily the facts but the way the information was being presented. They explained that exemptions occur only after being placed on a constitutional ballot following approval by two-thirds of the Texas House and Senate and then a statewide vote. The frustration they said is that the entire state can vote on measures that affect local tax rates, but the state does not help pay for the local impact. The discussion ended with agreement that transparency about exemptions and their financial impact is still important, because local officials can use that information when contacting state legislators and asking them to address the burden placed on local taxing entities.

The Chief Appraiser representative explained that the 2025 budget had originally been about \$1.1 million but was reduced to approximately \$890,000, a reduction of nearly 40%. They stated they had agreed to work with that lower budget but believed it was too

low. For 2026, after separating out collections from appraisal district functions, the appraisal district budget was described as approximately \$1.27 million.

Place 2 asked who pays for schooling for employees' transportation, and whether employees owe the district service time after completing training. The Chief Appraiser stated that employees cannot be contracted to stay and cited state law requiring the employer district to pay for required training. Staff turnover and staffing levels were also discussed. The Chief Appraiser said that when they arrived, turnover averaged about 2.5 employees per year. After certification pay, salary increases, vacation, and sick leave changes, turnover dropped to zero. Current staffing was stated to have 10 employees, with a request for one additional employee this year. The representative said 13 total personnel would be ideal for the district's Tier 2 status, but they were not asking for all those positions at once. Participants acknowledged that while Tier 1 and Tier 2 staffing benchmarks matter, asking for several new employees at once would be difficult for boards and taxing units to accept.

The Mayor noted that added properties helped the city avoid raising its tax rate in the current year to fund a police officer. The council member also said early budget work for the next year suggests the city may still need to raise its tax rate, but likely not as much as previously expected, partly due to the added properties. Several council members expressed frustration that CAD is asking for another budget increase after a large prior increase. They asked CAD to provide clearer long-term planning, including a two- or three-year outlook, information showing when temporary costs will fall off, information showing when contracts or corrective expenses will end. The Mayor and Place 2 agreed such information would make future increases easier to explain to constituents.

A citizen, Suzette Witten, reminded the council that CAD had requested a significant increase the prior year and was now asking for more. She raised concern that costs and taxes tend to rise but rarely come back down. She asked how much revenue from newly found properties would offset the proposed increase. CAD representatives stated that found properties had increased taxable value from about \$37 million in 2025 to about \$41 million as of April 23, 2026, nearly an 11% increase. They said the requested budget increase was about \$149,000 and that the additional taxable value found by CAD was more than paid for the prior year's budget increase and would cover the current request. However, they clarified that CAD does not set or collect taxes; it only manages inventory and appraisals. Taxing units decide how to use the taxable value and whether to adjust tax rates. A council member asked CAD to include in an updated presentation how much additional value and revenue would come back to the county, since city residents also pay county taxes. CAD said the county would be the largest recipient of the newly discovered taxable value.

Chris Harrison stated he spearheaded the budget in 2025 and scaled that back to less than \$900,000 to prove the point. Harrison stated we (the Appraisal District) were working with someone that the job was a little above their head. The Mayor confirmed with Harrison his previous chief appraiser would come in and throw a budget out; the council would approve it. The Board is now stating that same appraiser was incompetent for the position. The Mayor stated that if he were ever to make that statement, he would hope the citizens of Kempner would boot him out of office. Incompetence is not a reason to address the budget it is a personnel matter. The Mayor states last year we had a seventy-eight percent increase request and another, roughly, ten percent increase this year. We're being asked to flip a bill, a big bill in a short period of time over something that should have been addressed a different way; especially when this council had the CADS back for years.

Citizen Paul Miceli asked about CAD board terms and whether board members from

the period of alleged prior incompetence were still serving. Chris Harrison explained that some board turnover had occurred, and they expressed confidence that the current board is strong. David Barclay, a board member, described past difficulties finding qualified leadership and said the board is now trying to develop internal capacity for the future. The Mayor raised prior concern about internal controls related to mapping software funding. He stated that money appeared to have been allocated for one purpose and then spent elsewhere during a transition period. He asked whether internal control changes had been made to prevent similar issues from happening again, and the response was affirmative.

The Chief Appraiser thanked the Mayor and council for keeping the discussion professional and not personal. They explained that the current board and staff were dealing with issues they inherited and were trying to understand countywide impacts while staying within budget constraints. The Mayor commended the representative and emphasized that difficult conversations would continue but should always be handled with respect and dignity.

5. Council and Staff Announcements

a. Staff Announcements- The Mayor announced that preliminary budget numbers had been prepared based on early estimates from the CAD. Certified estimates were expected between July 20, 2026, and July 23, 2026, with the last day being July 20, 2026. Council members were told they would receive printed or digital copies of the basic budget, and citizens could request copies without filing an open records request. The Mayor said the additional time would allow review before certified numbers were received, after which the budget figures would be rerun. The council is planning to be ready for the budget hearing and possible budget adoption during the August 2026 meeting.

b. Council Announcements- none

c. Next Regular Meeting date is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM in council chambers.

6. Adjournment.

Place 2 made the following motion: To adjourn.

Seconded by: Place 5

The meeting adjourned at: 8:08 PM

APPROVED: 
John (JW) Wilkerson- Mayor

ATTEST: 
Shaleah Stevens- City Secretary