



CITY OF KEMPNER

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING & AGENDA Tuesday, July 8th, 2025, 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 June 24, 2025.
 - ii. Approval of the June Financials.
 - iii. Approval of the Quarterly Report

4. Workshops

- a. Budget Workshop

5. Council and Staff Announcements

- a. Staff Announcements
- b. Council Announcements
- c. Next Regular Meeting date is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025, 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 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Hayleigh Talasek
Signature of Certifying Official

Hayleigh Talasek, City Secretary
Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official

7/3/2025 at 11:13AM
Date and Time signed:



CITY OF KEMPNER

MEETING MINUTES

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JULY 8th, 2025, 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), Rob Green (place 3), Dan Long (place 4), Elliott Whitton (place 5), and Mayor Wilkerson. Also in attendance was Gene Isenhour (Municipal Court Judge" Judge"), Rebecca Ramos (City Manager), Jacob Gallegos (Peace Officer), and Hayleigh Talasek (City Secretary). Each person notated in these minutes will be referred to as place/title only throughout this document. Judge led the invocation

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

- a. Citizen Comments- The Council welcomed the CTX Stars Cheer and Dance group, a local organization based in Kempner that provides a safe and encouraging environment for young girls to connect, build confidence, and grow through cheer and dance. The group performed a cheer routine for those in attendance, showcasing their enthusiasm, discipline, and team spirit. The Council expressed appreciation for their positive impact on the youth in our community.
- b. City Manager Report- The City Manager informed the Council that she recently attended Public Information Officer (PIO) training. Mayor stated that in accordance with the requirements of House Bill 33, the City is mandated to designate an official PIO by January 2026. Once appointed, the designated individual will have one year to complete the mandatory training. At this time, the City is strategically postponing the official appointment to avoid rushing the required training and to minimize associated costs. Although the City Manager has attended preliminary training, the formal one-year training requirement will still apply once the official designation is made.

- c. Police Chief's Report- By Officer Gallegos, the report is attached. Place 2 inquired whether the downed unit referenced in the report was repairable or what the City intended to do with it. The City Manager responded that the unit, along with seized vehicles and Dodge Chargers, will be sold through a sealed bid process. Citizen Tracie Pace asked how the vehicles would be advertised for sale. The Mayor stated that the sales would be advertised online and possibly in the local newspaper, emphasizing that the City will make every effort to ensure the public is informed through multiple channels.
- d. Fire Chief's Report- None, Not present
- e. Mayor's Report- None

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 June 24th, 2025.
 - ii. Approval of the June 2025 Financials.
 - iii. Approval of the Quarterly Report

Place 3 made the following motion: To approve the consent agenda.
Seconded by place 2
Motion passed unanimously.

4. Workshop (non-action items)

- a. Budget Workshop
The City Manager presented an updated budget reflecting revised figures from the Lampasas Central Appraisal District (LCAD). These updates include adjustments for properties under protest, newly identified properties, and additional disabled homestead exemptions.

The Mayor reported that all budget requests from the Police Department and the City Manager's office were incorporated into the proposed budget, with the exception of new radar units for police vehicles. The Police Chief will purchase these units using funds from the department's restricted forfeiture account. The proposed budget maintains the current tax rate with no increase. The Mayor explained that this year's additional revenue identified by LCAD offsets the need for a tax rate increase. However, he noted that a tax increase is anticipated in the next fiscal year to fund two-thirds of the third officer's salary, compared to the one-third budgeted for the current year.

The updated budget includes a detailed line-item calculation sheet to enhance financial transparency, breaking down costs by item (e.g., per cell phone). The City Manager will upload the updated budget to the City's website for public access.

During Council discussion:

Place 2 inquired about the significant increase in the Information Technology (IT) budget. The City Manager explained that the increase (located on page 8) reflects scheduled email service renewals (both annual and biennial) and the five-year website renewal cycle.

Place 3 asked why the repairs and maintenance line item in the Administration department was reduced. The Mayor responded that the previous budget included funds to replace the second HVAC unit, which will be completed this year and does not need to be budgeted for again in the upcoming year.

The Mayor further explained that the police vehicle budget now includes the purchase of a third vehicle. This vehicle will be financed over several years to avoid a large one-time expenditure. The full cost is budgeted upfront this year as advised by Jack, with future budgets accounting for the remaining balance after each annual payment.

Place 3 asked about the long-term plan for police vehicles. The Mayor stated that the ultimate goal for the department is to operate with three full-time officers, with the Chief's current truck becoming a spare unit. Over the next 4–5 years, the oldest vehicle will be replaced, initiating a regular replacement rotation every few years.

Place 3 also inquired about the contents of the park improvement budget. The City Manager noted that \$12,000 is allocated for park improvements, including fencing, electrical upgrades on the opposite side of the berm for events, pavilion rental, and the early stages of a trail-style Christmas lights display with sponsorship opportunities. Additionally, a \$14,000 grant application for park improvements has been submitted, requiring a 50/50 match, which could potentially double available funds to \$28,000 if awarded.

Place 3 asked whether staff received what they needed in the budget. The City Manager responded that, after discussions with staff, everyone is satisfied with the allocations. While salary increases were modest, they represent a positive step forward.

The Mayor concluded the workshop by informing the Council that upcoming Council meetings will include time dedicated to a budget workshop, providing the Council with an opportunity to openly discuss the ongoing budget process. The Mayor also announced that the official budget hearing is scheduled for August 12, 2025, during which the Council will formally adopt both the FY 2025–2026 budget and the property tax rate.

5. Council and Staff Announcements

- a. Staff Announcements- none
- b. Council Announcements- none
- c. The next Regular Meeting date is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 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: 6:31PM

APPROVED: _____

John (JW) Wilkerson- Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Hayleigh Talasek- City Secretary