

City of Wortham, meeting held at 107 S. 2nd, Wortham, Texas
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Council Present: Mayor Patty Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Busby, Deborah Evans, Patrick Evans, and Cliff NeSmith

Council Absent: Jeff Carr

Staff Present: Tonya Rissmiller, Waylon Gierisch, and Kelly Craig

Others Present: Citizens and attendees

At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and announced a quorum was present. Councilmember D. Evans gave an invocation.

Informal Citizen Comments

Kelly Dragustinovis addressed the Mayor and City Council voicing her support for her daughter Emma Calame regarding a Wortham High School disciplinary matter and commending Interim Police Chief Kelly Craig for his assistance in the matter.

Emma Calame addressed the Mayor and City Council regarding the negative impact on her personally of a Wortham High School disciplinary matter.

Basil Zangare addressed the Mayor and City Council voicing his dissatisfaction with the interaction, as described on social media, between the Wortham Police Department and Wortham High School regarding a Wortham High School disciplinary matter.

Regular Session

1. Citizen Participation:

A. Brent Jones of Wortham Ex-Students Association was present to request waiver of Ordinance 5.03 “Fireworks” during the Wortham High School homecoming football game on October 24, 2025, in celebration of the Wortham Ex-Students Association’s 80th anniversary.

2. Councilmember Busby made the motion to approve the request by Brent Jones of the Wortham Ex-Students Association to waive Ordinance 5.03 “Fireworks” during the Wortham High School homecoming football game on October 24, 2025, in celebration of the Wortham Ex-Students Association’s 80th anniversary. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

3. **Consent Agenda** - Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to approve the following consent agenda:

A. Approve minutes of September 9, 2025.

Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

4. Councilmember Busby made the motion to approve Resolution No. 844-1025, which denies Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC’s proposed increase in revenue and its proposed changes to rates. Seconded by Councilmember NeSmith. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

5. Councilmember NeSmith made the motion to approve entering into a general services agreement, as revised by the City’s attorney, with Schaumburg & Polk (SPI). Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

6. Councilmember Busby made the motion to table any action on Resolution No. 845-1025, regarding budget amendments and overages for the 2024-2025 operating budget. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion to table was carried.

7. **Executive Session:** At 6:48 p.m., Councilmember NeSmith made a motion for the Council to move into closed session pursuant to Section 551.074- Personnel Matters, Texas Government

Code, to deliberate the appointment, employment, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee:

- A. Interim Police Chief Kelly Craig
- B. Corporal Ashleigh Daniel

Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

8. **Reconvene into Regular Session:** At 7:54 p.m., Councilmember P. Evans made the motion for the Council to close executive session and to reconvene into regular session; seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

9. **Action from Executive Session:**

A. Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to appoint Kelly Craig as Chief of Police at a full-time annual salary of \$67,000. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

B. Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to approve any disciplinary action deemed appropriate by Chief Craig regarding Corporal Daniel's interaction with Wortham High School related to a school disciplinary matter. Seconded by Councilmember NeSmith. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

10. Councilmember Busby made the motion to table any action on the municipal waste services agreement with Republic Services since Republic had not yet provided an updated agreement. Seconded by Councilmember Deborah Evans. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion to table was carried.

11. EDC Board members:

A. Councilmember NeSmith made the motion to approve Waylon Gierisch as the City Liaison to the Wortham EDC A/B Board (non-voting member). Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

B. Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to approve Hagen Proulx to the Wortham EDC A/B Board. (voting member). Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS - September 2025

The following were reviewed:

- Finance Department - monthly financial report.
- Public Works - monthly activity.
- Police Department - monthly activity.
- Fire Department - monthly activity.
- WEDC - monthly activity.

City Secretary Tonya Rissmiller administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Chief of Police Kelly Craig.

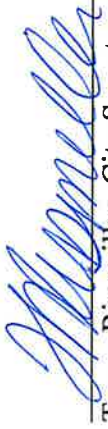
Adjournment:

At 8:10 p.m., Councilmember NeSmith made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 4 to 0. Motion carried.



Patty Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tonya Rissmiller, City Secretary

