

City of Wortham, meeting held at City Hall Council Room, 108 W. Main
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Council Present: Mayor Patty Jones, Michael Busby, Deborah Evans, and Patrick Evans

Council Absent: Jeff Carr and Cliff NeSmith

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

Others Present: Kasi Wright, Amber Brooks, Rickyll Kirksey, Brandon Gibbs, Crystal Hutchins, David Burgeson, Nicki Burgeson, Kerri Butler, Brandy Hughes Chenault, Will Owen, Scott Harper, Sheryl Harper

At 6:37 p.m., Mayor Jones called the meeting to order, announced a quorum was present, and led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Informal Citizen Comments:

None

Citizen Participation:

1. Jennifer Chhor was not present regarding her request to open a social club in Wortham. Councilmember P. Evans motioned to table this request. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion to table carried.
2. Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to approve the request of Rickyll Kirksey of Manning Enterprise to host a multicultural music festival on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., including blocking off the brick streets, in downtown Wortham. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
3. Councilmember Busby motioned to table the proposal by David Burgeson of Renaissance Systems, Inc. (RSI) for a complimentary network assessment of the City's computer and IT systems. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. Before a vote was taken on the motion to table, Mr. Burgeson of RSI withdrew the proposal for a complimentary network assessment. Councilmember Busby motioned to accept the withdrawal. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
4. **Consent Agenda** - All consent agenda items listed are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be moved from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.
 - A. Councilmember P. Evans motioned to approve the minutes of March 10, 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
5. Councilmember P. Evans motioned to table the adoption of the Distracted Driving Policy to be added to the City's Personnel Policy until the proposed Distracted Driving Policy is revised to take into account use of devices while driving by police department and by public works due to the nature of those job descriptions. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion to table carried.
6. Councilmember Busby made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Tonya Rissmiller, City Secretary. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
7. **Executive Session:** At 7:16 p.m., Councilmember P. Evans made the motion for the Council to move into closed session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551.074, Personnel Matters, of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate the appointment, **employment**, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the following public officers or

- employees: City Secretary. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
8. **Reconvene Into Regular Session:** At 8:16 p.m., Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to reconvene into Regular Session. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
9. **Action from Executive Session:** Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to hire Kasi Wright as City Secretary at a rate of \$39.00 per hour, without insurance benefits. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
10. Councilmember P. Evans made a motion to table the hiring of a utility clerk as a stand-alone job separate from the court clerk's functions. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion to table carried.
11. Councilmember P. Evans made a motion to update the authorized representatives for the Vera Bank signature card to be the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, City Secretary, and Utility Clerk. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
12. Councilmember P. Evans made a motion to approve the hiring by the Wortham Economic Development Corporation of a new clerk (Crystal Hutchins). Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
13. Councilmember Busby made a motion to approve Resolution No. 854-0426 authorizing the preparation and submission of an application for Texas Water Development Board's Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) Program, including completion of all required pre-application items. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
14. Councilmember Busby made a motion to approve final payment of repairs for the Wortham Volunteer Fire Department's side-by-side vehicle, which payment will be fully offset upon release of the remaining insurance claim payment on the side-by-side. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
15. Councilmember D. Evans made a motion to approve Resolution No. 855-0426 renewing the bank note with Farmers State Bank for the Wortham Volunteer Fire Department's expansion/new building. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS – March 2026

The following were reviewed:

- Finance Department - monthly financial report.
- Public Works - monthly activity.
- Police Department - monthly activity.
- Fire Department - monthly activity.
- WEDC – no report.

Adjournment:

At 8:45p.m., Councilmember P. Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by D. Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.



Patty Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kasi Wright, City Secretary