

City of Wortham, meeting held at 107 S. 2nd, Wortham, Texas

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting on June 10, 2025

Council Present: Mayor Patty Jones, Michael Busby, Cliff NeSmith, Patrick Evans, Deborah Evans, and Jeff Carr

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

Regular Council Meeting - held at the Wortham Fire Department

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

Informal Citizen Comments:

Brent Jones of the Wortham Area Chamber of Commerce spoke about (1) blocking off downtown for the 4th of July parade and post-parade booths and activities; and (2) blocking off downtown and waiving Ordinance 8.01 “Alcohol” for the 2025 Blues Festival to be held on September 13, 2025.

1. Consent Agenda -

A. Councilmember Carr made the motion to amend the minutes for May 20, 2025, as requested by Mayor Jones, to add Kasi Wright’s name in paragraph 2 of such minutes to indicate that Kasi Wright helped with interviewing city secretary candidates. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

B. Councilmember Carr made the motion to approve the following consent agenda: minutes for May 13, 2025, and May 27, 2025. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

2. Councilmember Carr made the motion to approve:

A. Blocking downtown for the 4th of July parade and post-parade booths and activities. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

B. Blocking of downtown and waiving Ordinance 8.01 “Alcohol” for the 2025 Blues Festival to be held on September 13, 2025. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

3. Councilmember Nesmith made the motion to approve the police department’s purchase and financing, up to a maximum of \$100,000, of a police vehicle with the upfitting and personal property related to police station improvements, and to adopt Resolution 838-0625 regarding a finance contract for such purchases. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

4. Mayor Jones described the Proposed Agreed Order dated May 19, 2025, for Enforcement Case No. 67153 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) against the City of Wortham, which was a \$19,600 penalty fine for violations of effluent limitations under the Texas Water Code and TCEQ rules. Councilmember NeSmith further explained that the violations resulted from failed aerators which have since been replaced. Mayor Jones and Councilmember Nesmith also explained that the penalty fine could be resolved by the City of Wortham contributing to a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), which is a project to benefit the local environment. Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to table this item, but to also move forward with working with TCEQ in resolving the violation payment with a SEP. Seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

5. Mayor Jones described TCEQ's Notice of Violation dated May 28, 2025, for the City of Wortham's failure to submit proof of public notification of violations issued to the City of Wortham regarding the water supplied to its customers. Councilmember NeSmith explained that the violation was due to missing the deadline for reporting, and at the time of the meeting, the data required to prepare the public notification had not yet been completely gathered. Councilmember Carr motioned to table this item until the data required for the public notification was complete, then post the public notification, and then submit proof to the TCEQ of the public notification. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.
6. Councilmember NeSmith made the motion to take no action regarding Oncor's request that the City of Wortham suspend all sail boating activities at the lake located at FM 246 until further notice due to Oncor's safety concerns with the proximity of its transmission lines. Seconded by Councilmember P. Evans. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.
7. Councilmember Busby made the motion to accept Farmers State Bank's Positive Pay product for fraud prevention. Seconded by Councilmember D. Evans. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

Monthly Staff Reports:

The following reports were reviewed:

Finance Department - May 2025 monthly financial statements were provided.

Public Works - May 2025 monthly activity was provided.

Police Department - May 2025 monthly activity report was provided.

Fire Department - May 2025 monthly activity report was provided.

EDC - no report.

Adjournment:

At 7:49 p.m., Councilmember P. Evans made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Busby. The vote was 5 to 0. Motion carried.

Patty Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tonya Rissmiller, City Secretary