

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 1, 2026

Stratford City Council met in special session with Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Zak presiding and the following:

Council: Ray Leron, Brad Reed, Michael Hood

Interim City Manager: Eddie Edwards

City Secretary: Kathy Rendon

Guests: Justin Lanning, Maida Arango, Kristin Elam

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

The Stratford City Council convened in Special Session at 12:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the invocation was given by Brad Reed

Council Business

a. Discuss and consider action re: fireworks being launched within City limits

The Council discussed the logistics of conducting a City-sanctioned fireworks display for the Fourth of July holiday. The primary issue before the Council was selecting an appropriate and safe launch location within City limits.

The Rodeo Arena, which had been used in prior years, was deemed unsuitable due to ongoing hotel construction in close proximity, as the presence of wood framing and building materials posed an unacceptable fire risk. The walking park was also considered but was similarly rejected due to concerns about proximity to neighboring properties which could be endangered if fireworks debris escaped the launch area.

The Council reached consensus that the infield dirt area of the large baseball field was the most appropriate venue, as launching from bare dirt would minimize fire risk. The Council also addressed the question of whether to allow the public to enter the grounds after the display and use personal artillery shell-type fireworks, as had been the informal practice at the Rodeo Arena in prior years. The Council agreed that no additional private fireworks should be permitted on the grounds, and that the area should be secured following the display. It was noted that responsibility for locking the Rodeo Arena grounds, if needed, would fall to the county judge. The Council further agreed that the fireworks display would be conducted by the City and fire department only.

A motion was made to authorize the City's fireworks display to be conducted at the baseball field infield for a period of five hours, with no additional private fireworks permitted on the grounds. The motion was made by Brad Reed and seconded by Ray Leron. The motion carried unanimously.

Following the vote, the Council briefly received an update from staff regarding Fourth of July community event preparations at City Park, including approximately twenty vendor booths offering food and goods, porta-potty arrangements funded through booth fees, and participation by community organizations including 4-H, Boy Scouts, and school cheerleaders. Fees were waived for school and civic organizations. It was noted that no band or DJ would be present, with background music planned instead, in keeping with the event's community fellowship focus. Staff also noted plans to pursue 501(c)(3) status for the Sherman County Events Committee to facilitate future fundraising and donations. The Council also briefly discussed the long-standing need for new or renovated restroom and concession facilities at City Park, including prior efforts to seek funding through the Area Foundation and the potential use of sales tax revenues, though no formal action was taken on this item.

Brad Reed thanked Maida and Kristin for putting the program together.

Interim City Manager Eddie Edwards distributed budget information to Council.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn at 12:30 pm was made by Brad Reed and seconded by Michael Hood. The motion carried unanimously.

Joe Zak, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:

Kathy Rendon, City Secretary