

Special Meeting Budget Workshop - City of Plantersville
September 3, 2025

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in Special Meeting Budget Workshop at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 3, in Plantersville Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

Members Present:

Kim Allphin, Mayor	Brett Bratcher, Alderman
John Greenwood, Mayor Pro-Tem	Sandra Kuta, Alderman
Marilyn Bettes, Alderman, Board Secretary	Dedrick Mallard, Alderman

Visitors: Kobi and Valerie Buvinghausen, Dr. George and Diana Valdez

1. Call to Order: Quorum established. Mayor Allphin called the workshop meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Alderman Kuta gave the invocation. The pledges led by Alderman Bettes.

2. Public Comments: Dr. George Valdez introduced himself and wife, Diana. He stated that he and wife, Diana, have property in Plantersville and are now full-time residents. He advised that they are building new home in The Cedars and plan to build a medical clinic and facilities soon. Dr. Valdez is researching properties at this time and looks forward to serving the City and the community.

3. Budget Discussions: General Fund Expenses and Revenue Proposed FY 2025-2026:

Mayor Allphin provided each Board member a copy of the Budget Worksheet prepared with the expected revenues and expenses for the upcoming year. Discussion was held regarding the franchise fees that Entergy pays for ROW. Additional information will be obtained from the Entergy representative for the city account. The current receipt and deposit are less than the prior year. The method of projections and current KW usage seem to be low, and the additional documents are not readily available as the payment is made directly to financial institution. Alderman Bettes confirmed the contact is still Melissa Bochat, Mayor Allphin agreed and will provide information when received.

Alderman Mallard inquired as to the current utilities using city right of way areas and compensation being received. Mayor Allphin stated that multiple attempts have been made to the known users such as Brightspeed, Comcast and Suddenlink to no avail. Alderman Greenwood stated that new lines such as AT&T were just installed recently near his property. Alderman Kuta inquired about Midsouth Fiber as this would provide additional revenue to the city too.

Alderman Bratcher also stated that a company has a fiber optic cable in our area, and it should be researched.

Mayor Allphin asked for recommendations to source the current utilities; Alderman Mallard will research TxDot records for underground usage within the city limits and advise. Mayor Allphin will contact Ms. Bochat at Entergy for information she may have for aerial usage of ROW. Additionally, the cell towers should be paying for aerial usage.

Consensus of the Board for Mayor Allphin to speak with city attorney's office and ask for direction regarding the contact of these organizations and enforcement for collection.

Alderman Kuta asked for a line item for mowing and maintenance of the grass at median and unoccupied road frontages that are overgrown and would present a more attractive appearance as travelers and citizens would see an improvement. Discussion was held, the revenue is limited and possible ways to provide for this expense. Alderman Bratcher advised some taxes allow for tourism, beautification, etc. Alderman Kuta will research and advise the Board at later date. Also, additional vendors/contractors names and information from Grimes County Road & Bridge that the county uses for mowing and/or fencing. Alderman Kuta advised that she will continue to research and provide additional information.

The community outreach expense was increased to allow the City to provide additional funding for programs and events.

The auditing and financial service expense was based on the City annual audit for 24-25 and basic bookkeeping services.

Alderman Greenwood recommended lowering the professional services expense to \$25,000 and increasing road maintenance to \$150,000. The new work order maintenance would allow the city to bid out services for general road maintenance. The additional budgeting for this category allows the City to respond in a timely manner.

Agreement as in favor, the proposed expense to be \$150,000 on the upcoming budget.

Mayor Allphin stated the Election expense increased with consideration for the 2026 City of Plantersville election, as the current budget was amended as expenses were higher than projected, the process is performed by the Grimes Co. Elections Administration.

The Law enforcement listing to be determined, sourcing may be possible through a joint interlocal with local law enforcement such as constable's office, interlocal with sheriff's office and neighboring city.

Disaster fund increased to \$2,000 as the lower amount of \$500 would not provide any real service to the citizens and community. Alderman Greenwood also recommended a future joint meeting with the PS VFD to formulate a response plan together as in times of need, a planned response would benefit everyone.

The Office lease expense was increased to reflect the office space, internet and utilities to approximately \$325 per month since the current space may not be available as term expires November 1, 2025. Alderman Kuta will also research within the city limits for alternatives and report to the Board. Alderman Greenwood stated a joint meeting with the PS VFD should occur to discuss office extension.

The Plantersville Stoneham Volunteer Fire Department agreement was increased to \$10,000 as provided in regular meeting held on August 18, 2025.

Proposed Revenue Discussions:

Discussion: General Sales Tax and Mixed Beverage Tax revenues projected for upcoming year; additional information provided with local businesses and new construction at the corner of FM 1774 and Hwy 105 with the Friendly Food Mart. Also, allowance for available interest income from TexPool with the current average on quarterly/monthly basis.

Discussion: Final totals including the proposed budget revenues and expenses expected balance allow a positive of \$2,900.

Mayor Allphin asked Board of Aldermen if any additional changes or recommendations to the Proposed Fiscal Year Budget for 2025-2026 and there were none.

Public Budget Hearing: Mayor Allphin asked Board of Aldermen for date and time recommendations for the Public Hearing for Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026.. Aldermen requested it to be held 30 minutes before the regular monthly meeting as this should be a convenient time for interested citizens and public as they could also attend the regular meeting. Mayor Allphin will post in newspaper, website and media outlet as required by state statutes and guidelines.

4. Board Update/Discussion Items of Community Interest (no action may be discussed except to put on Agenda)

Alderman Bettes announced the Music Club of Navasota is hosting a special event on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. in Anderson, the Patriotic Singalong that will be honoring first responders and remembering the tragedy of September 11th. The Navasota HS Choir will sing and participate.

Also, the Navasota VFW is hosting a breakfast for Veterans, First Responders and Law Enforcement officers from 7 am to 11 am at the VFW headquarters.

The Bingo night on Monday, September 1 in the Town Hall was a success and it will be on First Mondays of the Month at the Town Hall. All were invited to attend.

The PS Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 6th planned 5:30 to 8:00 pm, more details to come.

The Plantersville Christmas Parade will be at 10 am on Saturday, December 6th.

City event "Treats on a Dirt Street" will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Plans underway with event chair, Valerie Buvinghausen. She provided copies of the 2025 flyer and asked the Aldermen to help publicize the event to get the word out and on everyone's calendar.

5. Closed Session (the Aldermen may meet in closed session if needed – Texas Loc Gov't 551.00 Code)

6. Return to Open Session

7. Return to open meeting: take action on items closed session

8. Mayor Allphin adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Approved: Kimberly Allphin Attest: Marilyn Bettes
Mayor, Kimberly Allphin Recording Secretary, Marilyn Bettes
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