



**CITY OF TATUM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2025
6:00 PM**

Mayor

Michael Henry

City Council

Wendell Moore J.R. Smith
Tate Smith – Mayor Pro-Tem
Robin Palmer
Jonathan Knapp

City Secretary

Jackie Muckleroy

Mayor Michael Henry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Prayer was observed by all in attendance.
The Pledge of Allegiance was observed by all in attendance.
There were no citizen comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion and Motion to approve purchase of mass communication software from one of the following vendors:
Wendell Moore motioned to discuss the purchase of mass communication software. Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion.

Wendell Moore made a motion to go with ReGroup, and Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion.
All in favor. None opposed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Information Only:

- Police Dept: Chief James Smith
 - See reports in packet
- Public Works: Cody Jones spoke on behalf of Mike Morton
 - See reports in packet
- Volunteer Fire Dept: Cody Jones spoke on behalf of Chief Gibson
- Economic Dev Corp: Mr. Nakia Smith
 - TEDCO purchased the FSR Building on Johnson St/Hwy 43.
 - Will relocate to the new building in the next six months.
 - Will be used as an “incubator” location for small businesses needing meeting locations.
 - The land next to Tractor Supply is being cleared and is where O'Reilly will be located.
 - Working with Grant Works for grants.
 - If all goes well, we are looking to have an additional 4-5 new businesses in Tatum.
- City Administration: City Secretary Jackie Muckleroy
 - Reviewed financials for the first month in the new fiscal year.
 - Provided updates on CDBG and Street Grants
 - Informed the council that, because we have several grants, it has been recommended that we set up an additional bank account solely for grant funds. This will allow for ease of tracking and transparency.
 - Advised Council of significant increases in TMIRP insurance costs for coverage of assets, etc. Advised Council that she would send this information to them via email.
 - TXHB Annual Benefits renewal is in effect until August 15, 2025. Employees have been notified and instructed to have their benefit renewals completed by then.
- Mayor Mr. Mike Henry
 - The Texas Legislature has a bill on banning THC in Texas moving through the Senate. This will impact the smoke shops in our area, as it will restrict the use of certain products. Chief Smith stated that we currently have a ban on the sale of the items in question, but shops have been allowed to sell them. Mayor Henry noted that since this was the case, the City Attorney, Ron Stutes, was notified and suggested that, before any action is taken, we wait for the outcome of the vote in the Texas House.

- Advised Council on changes in the Open Meeting Act. As of September 1, 2025, the required posting time is not three (3) business days. It is no longer 72 hours.
- Chief Smith inquired if the officer's report provided in the packet was necessary. Tate Smith and Robin Palmer stated that they would like to keep it in the packet. All agreed. The officer's detailed report will remain in the packet.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion and Motion: Approve last month's meeting minutes and checks for the City of Tatum
JR Smith motioned to approve last month's meeting minutes and checks, and Wendell Moore seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

- Discussion and Motion: John Hightower – Disputing Tow Fee
Tate Smith motioned to discuss the tow fee, and Wendell Moore seconded the motion. To discuss.

Mr. Hightower spoke to the Council and explained his version of the traffic stop. He stated that after a discussion with the officer, he told him to tow the truck. He requested that he be reimbursed in full for the tow fee. Mr. Palmer asked why this matter was not before the court instead of the council. Chief Smith said that this was not a court issue and that it was at the officer's discretion. Jonathan Knapp stated, "You did tell him to tow the truck". Malantha Palmer said, "If it is the officer's discretion, why is there a question?" Tate Smith asked if Mr. Hightower and Chief Smith could talk about it and work something out. Mr. Palmer asked if it was DPS that towed the vehicle, would he be asking them to pay the bill? Mr. Hightower responded, "If it were them, they wouldn't have towed it. Wendell Moore stated that the city should pay for it because it was unnecessary, and asked if the city could pay half. After further discussion, Wendell Moore motioned that the city pay half of the towing bill, and Tate Smith seconded the motion. Robin Palmer was opposed. All others were in agreement.

- Discussion and Motion: Amend and Approve Revised Council Procedures
JR Smith motioned to discuss amending the revised council procedure, and Robin Palmer seconded the motion. Wendell Moore motioned to approve revised council procedures, and Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

- Discussion and Motion: Approve/Accept TEDCO Budget

Wendell Moore motioned to approve the TEDCO Budget. Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

- Discussion and Motion: Truth in Taxation proposed No new Revenue Tax and Voter Approval Tax Rate

Robin Palmer voted to approve and adopt the tax rate of .0204535 and JR Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

Motion 2

- Discussion and Motion: Discuss, consider, and adopt a resolution to designate authorized signatories for
The Texas Community Development Block Grant program.

JR Smith motioned to discuss, and the motion was seconded by Jonathan Knapp. Jonathan Knapp motioned to approve the resolution, and JR Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

- Discussion and Motion: Approve Engagement Letter for Auditor for FY 25-26

Wendell Moore motioned to approve the engagement letter for the auditor for fiscal year 2025-2026. Robin Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

- Discussion and Motion: Nominating Candidates for Rusk Co. Appraisal Board of Directors. Wendell Moore motioned to approve nominating candidates to the Rusk County Appraisal Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Knapp. All in favor. None opposed.

- Discussion and Motion: Approve investment fund amounts to be transferred to Hilltop Security

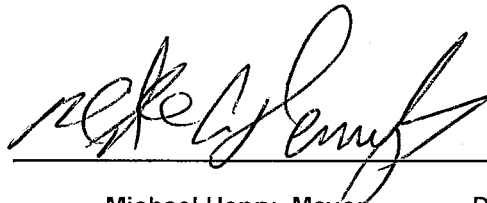
Mayor Henry suggested that we move \$1.5 million over to Hilltop as an initial investment. City Secretary, Jackie Muckleroy, suggested that we transfer a smaller amount, maybe \$50,000 initially, and allow it to time before checking it out to see how quickly we could withdraw if needed. Jonathan Knapp agreed, but suggested half of one of the money market accounts, approximately \$160K. Wendell Moore made a motion to approve transferring \$160,000 to Hilltop Security with the understanding that we would use this as a trial run to see how fluid the liquidation transfer would be before transferring additional funds.

The motion was seconded by Jonathan Knapp. All in favor. None opposed.

- Information Only: CenterPoint Energy – Compliance Filing Rate Schedule - Rider Tax Act 2022 Ms. Muckleroy informed the council of the letter received from CenterPoint regarding the compliance filing and projected increases. This was information only and did not require a motion.

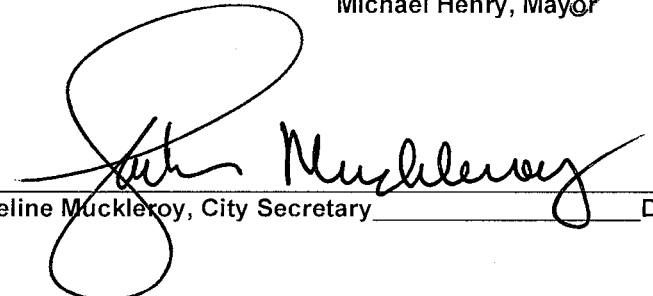
Wendell Moore motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by JR Smith. All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.



Michael Henry, Mayor Date

ATTEST:



Jacqueline Muckleroy, City Secretary Date