

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2025**

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on June 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Cargill, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. The Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Father Kyle Nesrsta, St. Ferdinand Catholic Church. The Council members present: Mayor Cargill, Mayor Pro-Tem Moore and Council Members Mack-McClung, Thrailkill, and Moses. Council Member Behrends, Jr. was absent.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator, Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, Jose Martinez, Finance Director, and Chief Jerry Thornhill.

Public Comments:

- Waymond Lightfoot, City of Blanco resident, spoke in opposition of the proposed bypass routes, New Business Item 10.
- Collin Corbet, City of Blanco resident, spoke in opposition of the current proposed bypass routes, one of which would go through his property. He is also opposed to the route going through the ETJ and suggested the Council send a message to TxDOT. New Business Item 10.
- Jay Palmer, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding the Council's communications with TxDOT regarding the proposed bypass routes. He wants the Council to reaffirm a unanimous decision. Need one voice speaking clearly and unified. New Business Item 10.
- Libbey Aly, Blanco County resident spoke extending a big thanks from herself and the Chamber board, to the Council, Staff, and Police Department for their hard work during the 20th annual Lavender Festival. Note for next year, Thursday evening parking closes at 5:00 pm sharp.
- Mike Ethridge, Blanco County resident, spoke in opposition of the proposed bypass routes, saying this will ruin his property if the bypass were to go through. TxDOT needs to make a decision sooner rather than later, New Business Item 10.
- JoNell Haas, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding work the Transportation Committee (TPAC) has been doing regarding documenting for TxDOT and the County, historical data and they currently have over 900 entries documented that they have sent to TxDOT. Also, she is currently working on documenting Pittsburg, first Black slave properties. She attended the Texas Historical Commission Conference, many free things we can do such as Texas Archives, free digitalization, History Harvest, scan, digitization of photos, records, traveling Smithsonian museum, and digitizing the history we have. Texas Trail Region, 19 Hill Country counties, tourism.

- Bill Depew, City of Blanco resident, said he was disappointed that he did not win a seat on the Council. He spoke in favor of the reappointment of Planning & Zoning and Historic Preservation Commission commissioners, New Business Items 2 and 3. TPAC, He spoke in favor of Ken Welch stepping up as Chair of TPAC, New Business Item 7. Lastly, he spoke in regard to the monthly staff reports and suggested the Council add one for updates from the Utility/Public Works Department.

PRESENTATION (First Public Meeting):

General Land Office (GLO-CDBG-MIT) Resilient Communities Program (RCP) Comprehensive Plan – Presentation by Jerri Conrado, Langford Community Management Services, Inc. \$300,000 grant awarded with no matching fee for the revision of the Comprehensive Master Plan. Ms. Conrado shared information on the team, schedule of activities, goals and objectives, plan development, GIS, and the community engagement portal.

Staff Presentations:

1. City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator shared information on the Comprehensive Master Plan, UDC revisions, FY 26 Budget, July 3 to Council and first workshop, July 8 at 3:00 pm, and CIP presentation. Also, around town, this weekend PEC was in Blanco trimming trees. The contractor did not follow proper protocol with sealant and PEC is removing the crews and will reschedule remainder of the work for later in July.
2. City Hall, Jose Martinez, Finance Director, presented the May Monthly Financial Report to the Council. Eight months through the year. We have received about 95% of the Ad Valorum fees for the year. The Council discussed and asked questions. Audit update, working with Crowe, plan on having completed audit by the end of June. Just began the budget process, trying to hold the line this year and keep the budget as it was last year.
3. Police Department, Chief Thornhill, presented the May 2024 monthly report.
4. City Attorney, Tim Tuggey, gave a preliminary summary of the 89th Legislative action with possible impacts on the City of Blanco.

Consent Agenda: *The following items may be acted upon in one motion.* No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by the Mayor or a Council Member, in which those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to approve consent agenda item one as presented and pull item two and move to new business item 11, seconded by Council Member Mack-McClung all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Appeal of sign permit that was denied from the applicant Jon Brieger, RedBud Café (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore to approve appeal of sign permit for applicant Jon Brieger, RedBud Cafe, seconded by Council Member Thrailkill, all in favor, the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of Planning & Zoning Commissioners (term is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027--- 2 year term). **A motion was made by Council Member Mack-McClung to approved Planning & Zoning Commissioners for a new two-year term, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of Blanco Historic Preservation Commissioners (term is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027--- 2 year term). **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore to approve the current Historic Preservation Commissioners with the addition of Beth Andrew, for a new two-year term, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027, seconded by Council Member Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval to install signs as needed to enforce the Jake Brake Ordinance (Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Moore, Jr.). We have a current ordinance in place but need approval to add the signs to enforce the ordinance at a cost of approximately \$1,500. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore to approve the two signs at a cost not to exceed \$2,000, seconded by Council Member Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of Blanco Celebration of Excellence and Key to the City. Mayor Cargill proposed creating a program to issue “Key to the City” to recognize individuals who contribute to the community, starting with Marlene from Milam & Green for her induction into the Whiskey Hall of Fame. Cost of giant key, \$136.00, plaque, \$33.00. The Council discussed **A motion was made by Council Member Mack-McClung, to initiate the “Key to the City” program with the first recipient being Marlene at Milam & Green, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of Pay Increase for City Prosecutor from \$100.00 to \$150.00 per hour. Laurie Cassidy presented a request to increase the city prosecutor Doug Montgomery’s hourly rate from \$100 to \$150. The Council discussed. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore to approve the increase in the city prosecutor’s pay from \$100 to \$150 per hour, seconded by Council Member Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of Ken Welch to Chair the Transportation Planning and Advisory Committee. Dennis Moore, Jr. to remain the Council liaison. **A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to approve the appointment of Ken Welch as Chair of the Transportation Planning and Advisory Committee, seconded by Council Member Moses, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
8. Discussion (No Action) on Review of five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). John Schmeling with SPI presented a draft CIP Projects Map (2026-2030), Other Projects (not on the map), and draft CIP Budget by Asset graphs (Street, Water, Wastewater). **No Action Taken.**

9. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of Resolution 2025-R-00X Declaring Certain Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale. The Council discussed the list of property and vehicles provided by Warren Escovy and Chief Thornhill. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve Resolution 2025-R-009 Declaring Certain Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale, seconded by Council Member Thrailkill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
10. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on City Communications with TXDOT on Planning for Highway 281 Relief Route. The Council discussed. A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to **Table Item, seconded by Council Member Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
11. *(Moved from the Consent Agenda)* Approval to Dissolve the Bond Oversight Committee. Mayor Pro-Tem Moore abstained from the vote. Bond Oversight Committee was formed. The Mayor would like to open the committee for applications for financial oversight. Keep continuity, take applications for additional members and reaffirm committee in approximately two months. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to table this item and bring back for retooling and taking of applications immediately, seconded by Council Member Thrailkill, motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Pro-Tem Moore abstained from the vote.**

Closed regular meeting 8:05 pm and convened into executive session.

Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code: in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074.

1. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award and Notice to Proceed.
2. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Consultation with City Attorney regarding Economic Development Project.

Closed executive session at 9:13 pm and convened into regular meeting.:

Executive Session Item 1:

1. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award and Notice to Proceed.

A motion was made by Council Member Moses to authorize Jeff Chapman to retain expert witness services not to exceed \$25,000, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

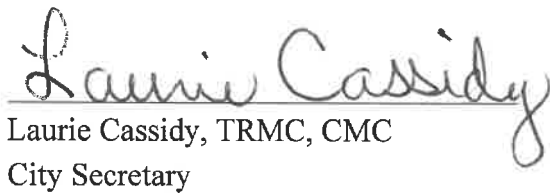
A motion was made by Council Member Mack-McClung to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Candy Cargill, Mayor

ATTEST:


Laurie Cassidy, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 8 day of July, 2025.

