

**MINUTES
AGENDA
PUBLIC MEETING
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THE TOWN OF HORIZON CITY, TEXAS
Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 6:00 PM**

Notice is hereby given that a Regular City Council Meeting of the Town of Horizon City, Texas was held on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM**, at City Council Chambers, 15021 Darrington Road, Horizon City, TX 79928, at which time the following was discussed and considered:

1. Call to order; Pledge of Allegiance; Establishment of Quorum

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm. City Council Member Scott Quiroz was absent. Quorum established. Deputy City Clerk, Armando Bustillos sat in for City Clerk, Elvia Schuller.

2. Open Forum:

No one signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the CONSENT AGENDA are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member(s) of the City Council requests one or more items be removed from the CONSENT AGENDA to the REGULAR AGENDA for separate discussion and action prior to the City Council's vote to adopt the CONSENT AGENDA.

3. Approval of Minutes from:

August 25, 2026 Special City Council Meeting.

4. Request to Excuse Absent Council Members:

5. Approval of Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Council Member Gardea, seconded by Council Member G. Ortega to excuse absent Council Member Quiroz and approve the remainder of the consent agenda. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Aye, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor/CIP Manager

On a Resolution adopting the updated Capital Improvement Program for FY 2027 - FY 2029.

Planning Director, Art Rubio and CIP Manager, Jesse Sanchez spoke regarding this item. Rebecca Dominguez of Decker Architectual Firm, asked about upcoming projects.

7. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/CIP Manager

On a Resolution adopting the updated Capital Improvement Program for FY 2027 - FY 2029.

Planning Director, Art Rubio and CIP Manager, Jesse Sanchez spoke regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Avila, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to approve the resolution adopting the updated Capital Improvement Program for FY 2027 - FY 2029. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Aye, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

8. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/CIP Manager

On the approval of a Professional Services Agreement with ASA Architects for the preparation of 2026 ADA Transition Plan in the amount of \$105,000.00, Town Project No. SPEC0007, funded by 2023 Certificates of Obligation.

CIP Manager, Jesse Sanchez spoke regarding this item and made a floor amendment changing the amount from \$105,000.00 to \$105,523.00.

A motion was made by Council Member Gardea, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to approve the Professional Services Agreement with ASA Architects for the preparation of 2026 ADA Transition Plan in the amended amount of \$105,523.00, Town Project No. SPEC0007, funded by 2023 Certificates of Obligation. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Aye, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

9. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/Police Chief

On a resolution authorizing the Chief of Police to accept 4 breaching kits and 37 tactical protective helmets to the Horizon City Police Department from a private donation by Ms. Marilie Walker.

Police Chief, Marco Vargas spoke regarding this item. The Mayor and members of Council thanked Ms. Walker for her generosity.

A motion was made by Council Member Mendoza, seconded by Council Member Gardea to approve the resolution authorizing the Chief of Police to accept 4 breaching kits and 37 tactical protective helmets to the Horizon City Police Department from a private donation by Ms. Marilie Walker. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Aye, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

10. PRESENTATION:

Mayor/Finance Director

Budget Statement/Taxpayer Impact Statement: Regarding Agenda Item No. 13 (budget discussion/adoption) listed above, the City provides the following information in compliance with Texas Government Code §551.043(c):

Taxpayer Impact Statement

Fiscal Year (Tax Year)	Median— Valued Homestead	Tax Rate Per \$100 of Value	Estimated Property Tax Bill
FY 2025-2026 (TY2025)	\$204,668.00	Adopted 2025 Tax Rate:\$0.535368	\$1,095.73
FY 2026-2027 (TY2026)	\$210,000.00	2026 No New Revenue Tax Rate: \$0.533945	\$1,121.28
FY 2026-2027 (TY 2026)	\$210,000.00	Proposed 2026 tax rate based on the proposed budget for 2026-27: \$0.595788	\$1,251.15

11. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor/Finance Director

2nd Reading of Ordinance No. _____ An Ordinance of the Town of Horizon City, Texas enacting the municipal budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year; funding municipal purposes; authorizing expenditures; providing for repealer and severability clauses.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan spoke regarding this item. No one from the public spoke.

12. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/Finance Director

2nd Reading of Ordinance No. _____ An Ordinance of the Town of Horizon City, Texas enacting the municipal budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year; funding municipal purposes; authorizing expenditures; providing for repealer and severability clauses.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan spoke regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Gardea, seconded by Council Member Ames to approve the Ordinance of the Town of Horizon City, Texas enacting the municipal budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Nay. Motion Passed.

13. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/Finance Director

On ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the adopted annual budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan spoke regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Ames, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to approve ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the adopted annual budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Nay, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

14. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor/Finance Director

Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate - On the proposed 2026 tax rate of \$0.595788, which is an increase to the total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year of \$11.58 or 3.50%. Individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan spoke regarding this item. No one from the public spoke.

15. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor/Finance Director

2nd Reading of Ordinance _____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Horizon City, Texas, approving the 2026 ad valorem tax rate and levy of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits of the city; providing for penalties and interest; and providing for the following: findings of fact; severability; savings clause; publication and effective date.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan spoke regarding this item. No one from the public spoke.

16. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/Finance Director

2nd Reading of Ordinance _____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Horizon City, Texas, approving the 2026 ad valorem tax rate and levy of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits of the city; providing for penalties and interest; and providing for the following: findings of fact; severability; savings clause; publication and effective date.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan, Mayor, Andres Renteria and City Attorney, Sylvia Firth spoke regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Ames, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to approve the ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Horizon City, Texas, approving the 2026 ad valorem tax rate and levy of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits of the city. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Nay, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. The City Attorney informed Council that this item required 60% of the governing body vote in favor of the adoption of the tax rate in order to pass. Motion Failed.

After continued deliberation on this item, Council Member, G. Ortega announced he was amending his original vote from Nay to Aye.

A second poll was taken on the original motion made by Council Member Ames, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to approve the ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Horizon City, Texas, approving the 2026 ad valorem tax rate and levy of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits of the city. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

A second motion was made by Council Member Ames, seconded by Council Member Mendoza that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.595788, which is effectively a 11.58 percent increase in the tax rate. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

A third motion was made by Council Member Ames, seconded by Council Member Gardea that a proposed rate to pay debt service 0.216317 per \$100 of taxable value be approved. This rate exceeds the Town of Horizon City Debt service rate described under Texas Tax Code Section 26.05(a)(1) of \$0.000000 by \$0.216317. The excess revenue collected from the proposed rate will be used for debt service payments. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

17. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/Finance Director

That the Town Council approves and adopts the attached pre-employment background check policy attached to this Resolution for non-public safety employees. The policy will be effective on the date approved by the Town Council.

Finance Director, Lily Gaytan and City Clerk, Elvia Schuller spoke regarding this item. Council Member Ames requested that the motion include changing the words “may be included” under Types of Background Checks in the policy language to “will be included”.

A motion was made by Council Member Gardea, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to approve and adopt the pre-employment background check policy for non-public safety employees and amend the language in the policy to read “will be included” instead of “may be included” as requested by Council Member Ames. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Aye, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye.

Item #18 was taken after Item #5.

18. Discussion and Action:

Mayor/Planning Director

This item was postponed at the 8/11/26 Regular City Council Meeting: 1st Reading of Ordinance

_____, An Ordinance Vacating a 10' Public Utility Easement located at 14207 Desierto Bonito St in a portion of Lot 59, Block 20, Rancho Desierto Bello Unit 12A, Town of Horizon City, El Paso County, Texas.

Planner, David Ruiz spoke regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Mendoza and seconded by Council Member Ames to approve an Ordinance Vacating a 10' Public Utility Easement located at 14207 Desierto Bonito St in a portion of Lot 59, Block 20, Rancho Desierto Bello Unit 12A, Town of Horizon City, El Paso County, Texas. The Deputy City Clerk polled the Council: G. Ortega – Aye, Quiroz – Absent, R. Ortega – Nay, Avila – Aye, Ames – Aye, Gardea – Aye, Mendoza – Aye. Motion Passed.

NOTE: Action on this item was taken and recorded in error. This is a 1st Reading of an Ordinance and should have been listed as a “Discussion Only” item. This Ordinance has not been approved and is set to go before Council for a 2nd reading and approval at the next regular city council meeting.

19. **Executive Session**

The City Council of the Town of Horizon City reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices,) and 551.087 (Economic Development).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Mendoza and seconded by Council Member G. Ortega to adjourn at 7:53 PM.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Attest:

Elvia Schuller, City Clerk

Andres Renteria, Mayor