

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

9/18/2025 - City Council Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Brown declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Craig Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Marie Robb, Council Member Sharon Lewis, Council Member David Finklea, Council Member Bob Brown, Council Member Alex Porretto, and Council Member Beau Rawlins.

3. INVOCATION

Rev. Alicia Besser - Moody United Methodist Church

The invocation was given by Rev. Alicia Besser of Moody United Methodist Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

American Flag Texas Flag - Honor the Texas Flag. I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state, under God, one and indivisible.

Mayor Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag.

5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

6. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS OF COUNCIL, OFFICER BOARDS, AND CITY MANAGER

6.A Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0415, the City Council may report on any of the following items:

1. Expressions of thanks, gratitude and condolences
2. Information regarding holiday schedules
3. Recognition of Individuals
 - a. Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day Proclamation
 - b. Constitution Week Proclamation
 - c. Fullen Jewelers, Inc Day Proclamation
4. Reminders regarding City Council events
5. Reminders regarding community events
6. Health and safety announcements

Council Member Brown reported on the following:

- **Ongoing work of the Short Term Rental Committee to revise regulations; a Public Form is scheduled on October 9th at 5:00 pm at the Historic 30th Street Water and Electric Station.**
- **Stewart Beach Redevelopment Plan - a Public Form is scheduled on October 6th at 5:30 pm at the Historic 30th Street Water and Electric Station.**

Council Member Lewis reported on the following:

- **Leon Phillips/Fat Cat A/C Project is moving into Phase 2; information is available on the Vision Galveston website.**
- **Priscilla Files provided information on the Arbor Day tree giveaway on October 4th at the Depot on Market.**
- **Requested a moment to acknowledge the young lady who was involved in taking the life of her mother, one of CM Lewis' former students, asking that we keep her and her family in our thoughts and prayers during this challenging time.**

Mayor Pro Tem Robb reported on the following:

- **WGIPOA meeting on Saturday at 9:00 am at the Courtyard Marriott.**
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters PAWS Gala is next Saturday and tickets are still available.**

Council Member Porretto reported on the following:

- **The impact of Charlie Kirk's assassination, emphasizing the importance of maintaining respectful political discourse. He called for unity and civility, reminding everyone of their shared identity as members of the same community, state, and nation.**
- **Proclamations:**
- **Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day Proclamation was presented by Mayor Brown.**
- **Constitution Week Proclamation was presented by Council Member Lewis.**
- **Fullen Jewelers, Inc. Day Proclamation was presented by Council Member Brown.**

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7.A 25-066 - Scott Allen; 25-067 - Steve Esquivel; 25-068 - Beatrice Botley; 25-069 - Den LLC, RRH; 25-070 - Valente Elizondo; 25-071 - One Gas c/o The Claim Center, LLC; 25-072 - One Gas c/o The Claim Center, LLC; 25-073 - Ryan Aguilar; 25-074 - Linda Frazee

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8.A Consider For Approval An Ordinance Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Creating A Planned Unit Development (PUD) Overlay Zoning District For A Auto Service Station Land Use In The Commercial (C) Zoning District To Allow For The Land Use Of "Auto Service Station", On Property Commonly Known As 5703 Stewart Road, And Which Is Legally Described As Hall And Jones Survey, Lot 5, Part Of Lots 2, 3, 4 And Adjacent North 1/2 Of Alley (5-0), Block 1, Johnston Addition, In The City And County Of Galveston, Texas; Planning Case Number 25P-034; Making Various Findings And Provisions Related To The Subject; And Providing For An Effective Date. (C. Gorman)

Ordinance No. 25-048 was read by caption. Teresa Evans provided staff comments. The public hearing was opened. Michael Gaertner spoke in favor of the PUD. The public hearing was closed. Council Member Porretto made a motion to approve the ordinance, with Council Member Brown seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

8.B Consider for approval an ordinance of the City of Galveston, Texas levying ad valorem taxes for tax year 2025 in the amount of 43 cents and 0.200 mills (\$0.430200) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of property valuation for the tax year 2025; Making various findings and provisions related to the subject. (C. Ludanyi)

The Ordinance was read by caption. Finance Director Csilla Ludanyi provided staff comments. The public hearing was opened. Becca Scoville, Speakers in favor of a tax increase were Becca Scoville, Angela Brown, Donna Deigs, Susan Syler, Trey Click, and Tarris Woods. An unknown speaker ws opposed to a tax increase. John Paul Listowski wished the Council good luck on their decision. The public hearing was closed.

(1) Mayor Brown made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.4302, which is effectively a 5.26% increase in the tax rate. Council Member Lewis seconded the motion. In favor: C. Brown, Lewis, Finklea, and B. Brown. In opposition: Robb, Porretto, and Rawlins. The motion failed.

(2) Council Member Porretto made a motion to adopt the no new revenue rate, with Council Member Rawlins seconding the motion. In favor: Robb, Porretto, and Rawlins. In opposition: C. Brown, Lewis, Finklea, and B. Brown. The motion failed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

9.A Agenda Items

9.B Non-Agenda Items

Flo Taylor commented on the unhoused population in Galveston and what will help in this area; she is working with Streetscape Ministries.

Joe Cappadona, Chair of the Sister Cities Program Committee, spoke on the upcoming 60th anniversary celebration with Sister City Niigata, Japan.

10. ORDINANCES (NOT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS)

11. CONSENT ITEMS

The Following Items Shall Be Considered For Action As A Whole, Unless One Or More Council Members Objects. The City Manager Is Authorized To Execute All Necessary Documents Upon Final Approval By The City Attorney.

Mayor Brown made a motion to approve Consent Items 11A through 11X, with Council Member Lewis seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

- 11.A Consider for approval the establishment of a list of Pre-Qualified Underground Utility Locating Firms to conduct underground field investigation services for City of Galveston Projects, for a period of three (3) years with two (2) 1-year automatic renewal periods. (R Winiecke)
- 11.B Consider for approval the establishment of a list of Pre-Qualified Engineering Firms to conduct Professional Engineering Services for City of Galveston Projects, for a period of three (3) years with two (2) 1-year automatic renewal periods. (R Winiecke)
- 11.C Consider for approval the establishment of a list of Pre-Qualified Surveying Firms to conduct Professional Surveying Services for City of Galveston Projects, for a period of three (3) years with two (2) 1-year automatic renewal periods. (R Winiecke)
- 11.D Consider for approval authorizing the City Manager to execute the 2026 Texas Department of Transportation Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) Grant, which allows the airport to be reimbursed up to \$100,000 in eligible airport maintenance expenses upon final approval of the City Attorney (M. Shahan).
- 11.E Consider approval of a contract with Bear Services, L.P., for the Fleet Fuel Farm Underground Storage Tank (UST) Replacement Project in the amount of \$1,210,132.00. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents upon final approval by the City Attorney. (R Winiecke)
- 11.F Consider for the approval of a one-year agreement with GPS Insight through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Organization (contract #102924-GPI), to provide GPS monitoring for City vehicles and authorize the City Managers staff to execute the contract upon final approval by the City Attorney. (D. Smith)
- 11.G Consider for the approval allowing the purchasing of heavy-duty auto parts and services, utilizing the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Contracts, with the listed vendors for fiscal year 2025-26 and authorize the City Managers staff to execute the agreements upon final approval by the City Attorney. (D. Smith)

- 11.H Consider for the approval allowing the purchasing of fuel station parts and services, utilizing the Choice Partners Cooperative Purchasing Contract, with the listed vendor for fiscal year 2025-26 and authorize the City Managers staff to execute the agreement upon final approval by the City Attorney. (D. Smith)
- 11.I Consider for approval replacing a practice backboard damaged by Hurricane Beryl at Menard Park Tennis Courts from Foster Fence, utilizing Buyboard Contract #757-24, for a total cost of \$27,267.00; authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents upon final approval of the City Attorney. B. Sanderson
- 11.J Consider for approval the acceptance of a donation valued between \$35,000.00 and \$40,000.00 from Galveston Island Tree Conservancy, for irrigation repairs to help safeguard trees in the Broadway esplanades between 59th and 10th Streets. B. Sanderson
- 11.K Consider for approval the acceptance of a donation valued at \$370.00 from Galveston Island Tree Conservancy, for three (3) "Black Diamond" Crape Myrtles and one (1) American Beautyberry tree for the landscape beds at Lasker Park. B. Sanderson
- 11.L Consider for approval the acceptance of a donation valued at \$70,500.00 from Galveston Island Tree Conservancy, for the gift and installation of up fifty (50) street trees and one (1) year of irrigation on Ball Street from 33rd to 45th Streets. B. Sanderson
- 11.M Consider authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Immaculate Construction, for \$35,233.82 for the removal of existing painted flooring and installing an epoxy anti-microbial flooring system in two locker rooms and three restrooms at McGuire-Dent Recreation Center, upon final approval by the City Attorney. B. Sanderson
- 11.N Consider for approval the purchase of 21 scanners from SCW using TD Synnex/NCPA/Omnia 01-170 contract for \$21,337.26. (H. Dean)
- 11.O Consider for approval purchasing Flock Safety Aerodome Drone as First Responder with a cost of approximately \$150,000.00 utilizing grant funding from the FY26 S8224 Catalytic Converter Grant (Grant# 608-26-0840400C). (D. Balli)
- 11.P Consider for approval the purchase of influent lift station pump repairs for the Main Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), in the amount of \$71,784.00, with Zone Industries. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents upon final approval by the City Attorney. (T Arnold)
- 11.Q Consider for approval an increase to the disposal fee tonnage rate charged to

ThirdParty Haulers as prescribed by terms of the BFI contract for the operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station. The increase is proposed at 2.77% as in accordance with the 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers ("CPI-W"). The inflationary adjustment of \$2.10 per ton increases the rate from \$75.76 per ton to \$77.87 per ton for this customer segment, effective October 1, 2025. City Departments, Sanitation Customers and Galveston's citizen users of the facility are not impacted by this increase. (D Bender)

11.R Consider for action the ratification of a contract with FOCUS Merchant Services to provide merchant services to the city.

11.S Consider for approval the FY 2026 Park Board of Trustees Annual Budget

11.T Consider Approving The Purchases Of Goods And Services Using Various Contracts Through BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative, OMNIA Partners, Choice Partners, Goodbuy Purchasing Cooperative, National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA), Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative, Texas Department Of Information Resources (DIR), Tx Smart Buy, And Texas Multiple Award Schedule Program (TXMAS). Estimated Costs For Products Not To Exceed Council Approved Budgets. (M. Caruso)

11.U Consider for Approval of a Two-Year Agreement Related to the Services of Judge for the Municipal Court of the City of Galveston, Jim Schweitzer. (Legal)

11.V Consider for approval an agreement with Mitchell Time & Parking for Services in connection with City of Galveston Parking Meters and Support Services (H. Morris)

11.W Consider for approval a resolution and interlocal agreement between the City of Galveston and the Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston for the lease of the property at Seawolf Park for the Naval Museum; Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents upon final approval by the City Attorney. (Legal)

11.X Consider for approval Minutes of the August 28, 2025 Workshop and Regular Meeting. (J. Williams)

12. ACTION ITEMS

12.A Discuss and consider the City of Galveston's selection for a Texas Municipal League (TML) Regional Director from Region 14. (Brown)

Mayor Brown made a motion to nominate Sally Branson to TML Regional Director from Region 14, with Mayor Pro Tem Robb seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

12.B Consider for action, if necessary, a motion giving direction to staff related to

any economic development proposals related to Project Bounty in the City of Galveston. (M. Hay)

Mayor Brown made a motion directing Staff to continue negotiations on the Project Bounty Development, based on the recommendations from today's workshop discussion, and to bring forward a formal agreement reviewed by Legal for Council's consideration. Council Member Brown seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

12.C Consider for action a motion to participate in a settlement agreement regarding opioid litigation with the Texas Attorney General's Office. (Legal)

Mayor Brown made a motion directing the City Manager or his designee and City Legal to participate in a settlement agreement regarding opioid litigation with the Texas Attorney General's Office. Council Member Lewis seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

12.D Discussion and consideration of Council Appointee compensation.
(Porretto/Rawlins)

Withdrawn.

12.E A Resolution Of The City Of Galveston Authorizing The City To Apply To The First Street Initiative Program Offered By The Texas Historical Commission, Whose Goals Are For Revitalization Of Historic Districts; To Authorize The City Manager To Execute All Required Documents; And To Provide, As Necessary, The City's Point Of Contact For The Program; Providing For Findings Of Fact And Providing For An Effective Date. (B. Brown/C. Brown)

Council Member Brown made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-039, with Council Member Rawlins seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

12.F Discuss and consider appointments to the following City boards, commissions, and committees:

1. Arts & Historic Preservation Advisory Board
2. Airport Advisory Committee
3. Building Board of Adjustments and Appeals
4. Cultural Arts Commission
5. Finance, Fiscal Affairs and Investment Committee (District 3)
6. Galveston Wharves Board
7. Landmark Commission
8. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Mayoral Appointment and District 6)
9. Pension - Employee Retirement Fund for Non-Civil Service Employees (Mayoral Appointment)
10. Police Pension Fund
11. Planning Commission
12. Sister Cities Program Committee
13. Tree Committee (Districts 1, 2, 3, and 6)
14. Zoning Board of Adjustments

Planning Commission: Mayor Brown made a motion appointing Mary Jan Lantz to Position 7 and Herb Walpole to Position 5, with Council Member Porretto seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Wharves Board: Mayor Brown made a motion appointing Erik Stramblad to Position 2 and Willy Gonzalez to Position 1, with Mayor Pro Tem Robb seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Arts & Historic Preservation Advisory Board/Cultural Arts Commission: Mayor Brown made a motion to defer action until Council gets further details on how the structure of those particular committees should be moved forward. Council Member Finklea seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Reappointments: Mayor Brown made a motion to approve the following reappointments, with Council Member Brown seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

- **Building Board of Adjustments and Appeals** - Michael Gaertner, James Wisner, Raymond Mann, Shelby Gonzales, and Ernie Weldon.
- **Landmark Commission** - Jane Fitz, Leonce Hank Thierry, and Alyson Smith.
- **Employee Retirement Fund for Non-Civil Service Employees** - Roland Bassett, Jr.
- **Sister Cities Program Committee** - Donna Williams and Sidney Tregre.
- **Tree Committee** - Matt Hannon, Alice O'Donnell, and Priscilla Files.
- **Zoning Board of Adjustments** - Carol Hollaway and Lidiya Bikova.

Finance, Fiscal Affairs and Investment Committee: Council Member Brown made a motion to appoint Steven Guse, with Mayor Brown seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mayor Brown made a motion to appoint Rebecca Jaworski, with Council Member Brown seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Robb left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

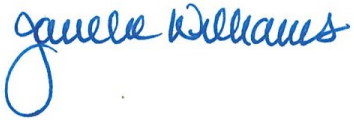
Zoning Board of Adjustments: Council Member Rawlins made a motion to appoint Nick Lankford, with Council Member Finklea seconding the motion. Unanimously approved by those present.

13. RECEIVE AND FILE (Non-Action Items)

13.A Letter from Senator John Cornyn - September 11th

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janelle Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Janelle Williams, City Secretary
Date Approved: October 23, 2025