

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
WORKSHOP - DECEMBER 11, 2025**

12/11/2025 - City Council Minutes

1 DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Brown declared a quorum and called the workshop to order at 9:00 a.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 DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.A Clarification Of Consent And Regular City Council Agenda Items - This Is An Opportunity For City Council To Ask Questions Of Staff On Consent And Regular Agenda Items (1 Hour)

Items 8A, 8B, 8D, 11A, 10A, 11B, 11G, 11H, 11I, 11J, 11M, 11N, 11R, and 11S were clarified by Staff.

3.B Provide update on Municipal Court prosecutions (Legal - 5 min)

Interim City Attorney Donna Fairweather provided an update on Municipal Court prosecutions, stating that the court is functioning well, with cases reviewed individually and data showing favorable conviction and dismissal rates. She noted ongoing efforts to improve processes and training to further enhance performance. Council Members discussed the importance of timely communication, customer service, and adherence to proper protocol and chain of command. The Police Chief and Legal Department expressed appreciation for collaboration and confirmed plans to continue training officers to improve testimony and outcomes.

3.C Discussion of a One Time Contribution from the Pension Reform Fund to the City of Galveston Employees' Retirement Plan (C Ludanyi/C Brown - 20 min)

Council discussed a proposed one-time \$1 million contribution from the Pension Reform Fund to the City of Galveston Employees' (Civilian) Retirement Plan. Finance Director Csilla Ludanyi advised that the Civilian Pension Board unanimously requested the funds, which are available in the Pension Reform Fund and would help stabilize the plan and offset increased unfunded liability while maintaining its current amortization period. Management clarified the City is neutral on the request, noted the need for a future joint funding policy, and discussed the remaining balance and potential wind-down of the Pension Reform Fund. The item was scheduled for action later in the agenda.

3.D Update and discussion of the Stewart Beach Master Plan and RFP (M. Hay/A. Guerrero – 15 min)

Council received an update on the Stewart Beach Master Plan and draft RFP. City Staff, Amber Guerrero and Michele Hay, reported that release of the RFP will be delayed until after the holidays (January) to allow time to incorporate missing information, graphics, and links and to ensure a high-quality document. As a result, the overall timeline will shift, with Council review anticipated in January, the submittal deadline pushed back, and respondents given approximately four to five weeks to prepare proposals. Staff explained that the RFP will be broadly distributed through the City’s website and LEVA’s networks to maximize developer interest. Council provided feedback on content, including clarification of site restrictions, correction of background information, incentives being listed but not committed, parking and access requirements, and the importance of supporting nearby businesses. Staff confirmed comments would be incorporated and invited additional written feedback.

3.E Update and Discussion of Beach Patrol at Stewart Beach (A. Guerrero - 15 min)

Amber Guerrero reported progress on plans to keep lifeguards on the beach in an elevated facility. Working with the Park Board, a revised concept was developed for a significantly smaller structure—approximately 6,000–6,450 square feet—designed to meet Beach Patrol operational and administrative needs. The facility would be elevated, with conditioned space above and storage below, and located as far north as possible near the former go cart area by the RV park. Council noted the reduced scale compared to earlier concepts, describing the project as more affordable, manageable, and maintainable. Next steps include finalizing the conceptual layout, preparing construction documents, and returning to Council for approval. Potential funding sources discussed included Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds and possible state funding. Council emphasized the importance of resilient design standards, long-term maintenance, and Council review at key milestones, particularly after schematic design and initial pricing.

3.F Discussion of a Cost of Living Adjustment for Civilian Employees and related Budget Amendments for the 2025-2026 Budget. (C. Brown - 20 min)

Council discussed a proposed COLA for civilian employees, not included in the current budget. CFO Chila Le Dani reported preliminary revenue trends slightly above projections and outlined the financial impact of a 2% citywide COLA—\$899,580 total, \$384,220 to the General Fund. Retroactive increases are prohibited; any adjustment would be effective prospectively. Council requested additional analysis, including options excluding department heads and appointees or providing larger increases for lower-salaried employees. The item will return for action at the January meeting with updated data.

3.G Discussion of the Use of Reserve Funds Associated with the Arts and Historic Preservation Board (A. Lynch/C. Brown/ Porretto - 20 min)

Council discussed the reserve fund of approximately \$3.1 million associated with the Arts and Historic Preservation Board, noting there is currently no formal policy governing its use. Staff Members Antoinette Lynch and Barbara Sanderson provided background on

the fund and potential uses, including arts development, public art maintenance, and cultural heritage projects such as the African American Historic Heritage District. Council members emphasized the need for a contingency reserve for unanticipated projects and for leveraging the funds with other grants. An inventory of public art and clarity on ownership and maintenance responsibilities were highlighted as priorities. The Arts Development Commission (ADC) will review and provide recommendations on fund allocation at its upcoming meeting, with a focus on strategic planning, maintenance, and public engagement. Council agreed that establishing guidelines through policy rather than ordinance is preferred, and further detailed budget planning is needed.

3.H Discussion of Parking Ordinances and Related Changes As They Apply to Increments of Time (Robb/C Brown - 20 min)

Items 3H–3J – Parking Discussion

The City Council discussed parking-related matters, including changes to time increments, enhanced collection of fines, and a proposed spring-cleaning parking ticket amnesty program (April 1–30). Council expressed interest in stricter enforcement of parking ordinances while providing an opportunity for residents to pay outstanding fines without penalties or interest. Municipal Court staff explained that collection fees from the current contract with Linebarger cannot be waived, but a partial amnesty program may be negotiated to maximize collections and change parking behavior.

Discussion also addressed adjusting parking time increments downtown to allow half-hour extensions after a one-hour minimum, aiming to make parking more convenient and potentially increase compliance and revenue. City Marshal Heather Morris confirmed that parking revenues fund downtown maintenance and cleanliness programs and emphasized that changes should not reduce funds for these services. Pay-by-phone transaction fees and potential adjustments to shift costs to users were reviewed, and staff will prepare ordinance amendments and negotiate with Linebarger, with results to be reported in January.

The Council acknowledged the balance needed between employee/resident parking and turnover for downtown commerce, noting potential pilot programs and seasonal adjustments. Further study and information will inform final decisions.

3.I Discussion of enhanced collections of Parking Fines (Rawlins/C. Brown - 15 min)

3.J Discussion of a Spring Cleaning Parking Ticket Amnesty Program, starting April 1st through April 30th (Porretto/Robb - 15 min)

4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A Section 551. 071 - Consultation with Attorney Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.071- Consultation with attorney, an executive session will be conducted to discuss and receive legal advice concerning pending litigation and/or a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body

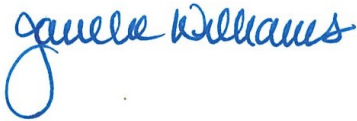
under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter, related to the following:

4.A.1 The South Shore Pump Station

City Council convened into Executive Session at 11:52 a.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 12:02 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

5 ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.



Janelle Williams, City Secretary
Date Approved: January 22, 2026