

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
WORKSHOP - APRIL 23, 2026**

4/23/2026 - 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 (9:37 am), Council Member Bob Brown, Council Member Alex Porretto, and Council Member Beau Rawlins.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.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)

Council Member Porretto expressed concerns regarding comments made during a department head meeting about City Council, staff interactions, and agenda items. The Mayor stated the discussion was outside the scope of the agenda item and suggested bringing the matter back on a future agenda. The City Manager responded regarding staff morale and election-related tensions.

Items 8B, 11A, 11E, 11H, 11J, 11K, 11L, 11M, 11O, 11T, 11U, 11V, 11AA, 11BB, and 11DD were clarified by Staff.

4.B Discussion of the conveyance of the Rosenberg School Property to the City (B. Brown/C. Brown - 15 min)

Council discussed the conveyance of the former Rosenberg School property to the City as public park land. Staff reported that all conveyance conditions had been met, demolition was complete, and final sidewalk and curb improvements remained underway. Council discussed legal protections to ensure the property remains a public park in the future and noted the historical significance of the site as park land dating back to 1836. Council also recognized the efforts of staff and former officials involved in the project.

City Council took at 10 minute break at 10:32 am.

4.C Update and Discussion of Private Beach Ownership in Galveston (C. Brown/D. Buckley/K. Clark - 20 min)

City Staff Kyle Clark updated Council on private beach ownership issues south of the Seawall. The General Land Office (GLO) is expected to conduct a coastal boundary survey to clarify property lines and determine where private ownership exists, particularly in areas affected by historic beach nourishment done before 2000. Recent enforcement action was taken regarding private property signage, with GLO requiring removal and beginning discussions with the property owner. The City noted that it continues to ensure public beach access but is awaiting GLO's survey results and guidance before further action on ownership determinations.

4.D Update and Discussion of the Pelican Island Bridge (C Brown/D Buckley - 15 min)

Mayor Brown and Deputy City Manager Dan Buckley updated Council on the Pelican Island Bridge and related Port and TXDOT actions. TXDOT is continuing final design work but has paused further investment and advised against local right-of-way spending while the project direction is reassessed. The Port has moved forward with a federal 203 study focused on closing or modifying the navigation channel, which could support either a lower bridge or alternative land/levee concepts, though funding for the study is still being assembled. Staff noted this study is separate from the current bridge project but may influence future options. Council discussed maintaining the existing bridge longer by reducing openings to extend its life, potential impacts to maritime traffic, and the need to update funding partners. The item was described as being at a crossroads, with multiple alternatives still under evaluation and no final decision on project direction.

Council Member Porretto left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

4.E Discussion of the RFP for Stewart Beach (B Brown/C Brown - 15 min)

City Staff Michele Hay and Amber Guerrero provided an update on the Stewart Beach RFP process, noting it is now officially open for proposals as of today's advertisement. The schedule includes a question period ending May 21, responses by May 28, and a final submission deadline of June 18, allowing about eight weeks for proposals. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is still being scheduled. Council discussed wanting early visibility into bidder interest and response levels once the pre-bid occurs, but overall the item was presented as a procedural update with the RFP moving forward as planned.

4.F Discussion of a Monument Maintenance Ordinance (B Brown/C Brown/Robb - 20 min)

City Manager Brian Maxwell presented a proposed approach for a Monument Maintenance Ordinance focused on improving coordination, ownership clarity, and long-term upkeep of city monuments. The plan would have the Arts Development Commission help contract a professional firm to inventory and GIS-map all monuments, verify ownership and responsibility, assess current conditions, and recommend maintenance schedules and potential relocations for safety or visibility. Funding of about \$100,000 is being considered, with possible support from the Houston Endowment and other partners. The work would also develop a long-term maintenance plan and could be completed over roughly a year, with a draft RFP and further Council review expected in a future workshop.

- 4.G Discussion of exploring easing the burden on downtown residents, and residents as a whole, with downtown parking (Robb/Rawlins/Porretto - 15 min)

Deferred.

- 4.H Discussion of increasing the minimum lot size in the urban neighborhood zone (Robb/Rawlins/Porretto - 15 min)

Mayor Pro Tem Robb discussed with Council increasing the minimum lot size in the Urban Neighborhood zone from 2,500 to 3,000 square feet due to concerns about dense, box-style infill development and neighborhood impacts. Staff noted the Planning Commission has begun reviewing the issue and will bring recommendations back. Council agreed to let the Planning Commission continue its review, with broader consideration of design standards, setbacks, and related regulations before any decision.

- 4.I Discussion of the Bernardo de Galvez Mural (B. Sanderson - 10 min)

Staff members Antoinette Lynch and Barbara Sanderson presented a proposal from Málaga, Spain to provide an artist to create a Bernardo de Gálvez mural for America 250 at Menard Park, with most costs covered by Málaga except for a City-provided lift (estimated at about \$2,000 via the Arts Development Commission). The proposed wall is the east side of the McGuire Dent, selected for visibility and compatibility with a future Bernardo de Gálvez sculpture that will return for Council consideration. Council discussed ownership, maintenance, and coordination details, and staff noted that design renderings will be provided by Málaga with timing dependent on mural size and an aim to complete the project before July 4th, along with potential future artist exchange opportunities.

- 4.J Discussion of parking enforcement (H. Morris/G. Lopez - 10 min))

City Marshal Heather Morris reported that staff is developing a booting and towing program to improve parking citation enforcement and presented a draft ordinance for Council review ahead of further discussion in May. Council expressed concerns about potential impacts on residents in parking-limited areas and requested additional analysis of costs, fines, and enforcement effects. The upcoming May amnesty program was noted as an opportunity for individuals to address outstanding citations. Questions regarding payment plans were raised and referred to Municipal Court for clarification, with further discussion expected at the next meeting.

- 4.K Receive and discuss an update and proposed construction timeline for the Jones Park Project (Rawlins/Porretto - 15 min)

City Staff Barbara Sanderson and Vision Galveston CEO Christine Bryant updated Council on the Jones Park construction timeline. The design is complete and the project is moving into bidding and procurement. It will be built in phases, with Phase 1A focusing on underground drainage and flood mitigation, Phase 1B adding basic amenities, and Phase 2 completing larger playground features. About \$1 million is still needed to fully fund Phase 1, and the City plans to bid the project while fundraising continues through partners and grants.

- 4.L Discussion of parking related issues at Gonzalo's Restaurant (Robb/Rawlins/Porretto - 10 min)

Deferred.

4.M Discussion of a heroes parade for the Artemis II Astronauts
(Robb/Rawlins/Porretto - 15 min)

Council discussed a proposed heroes parade for Artemis II astronauts, including Galveston astronaut Christina Koch. Council Member Robb suggested the event would honor the crew, include a proclamation, and potentially be held before the end of the school year with no cost to the City. Staff reported they have contacted NASA and are awaiting a response, with additional ideas including possible participation in the Fourth of July parade and a key to the city. Council also noted community interest and related STEM outreach efforts, as well as a new mural honoring Koch in downtown Galveston.

5 EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.A 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:

Opioid Litigation, Case no. 1;17-md-2804 United States District Court Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

City Council convened into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 12:05 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

6 ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



Janelle Williams, City Secretary

Date Approved: May 28, 2026