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ELLIS CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

January 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. City Attorney Olavee Raub was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT

Glen Keller, Alan Heroneme, and David Clingan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 15, 2025, and Bills Ordinance #2228. Council Member Dave McDaniel seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS

(HEARINGS)

SPECIAL ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Licenses/Permits

Mayor LaBarge requested Council review and discuss the results of the Electronic Scooter/E-Bike survey. Following discussion, Council were tasked to bring suggestions to revise the proposed ordinance at the next meeting.

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

Council reviewed the findings of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society building inspection and title search with Public Works Director Steve Homburg.

General Government: Acquisition

In consideration of the acquisition of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society building, Council agreed to postpone a decision pending completion of the land survey.

Sanitation: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg informed Council he received the final billing for repairs to the Sanitation Truck. Council Member David McDaniel moved to ratify the invoice from Ascendance for repairs to the Sanitation Truck in the amount of \$2,908.96, with funds to come from the Sanitation Utility fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Council Member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 635, waiving Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for financial statement reporting for 2026. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Policy

Annually, Council designates the official newspapers and official banks for the City to use. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to designate the Ellis Review, City Website, and Hays Daily News as official newspapers; Equity Bank and Golden Belt Bank as official banks within the City limits; and Emprise Bank and Commerce Bank as the official banks outside the City limits. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Financial

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council a motion would be required to transfer \$25,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Streets Fund to the Special Machinery Fund for 2025 to finalize funding for the previously approved acquisition of new accounting software, necessitated by the current system's end-of-life status. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the 2025 transfer from Capital Improvement – Streets to Special Machinery in the amount of \$25,000.00. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Sewer: Acquisition

Public Works Director Steve Homburg requested Council consider the purchase of a sewer dump trailer, as the current truck is no longer operable due to its age and level of use. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the purchase of a Dump Trailer from Double Z's Trailers in the amount of \$6,100.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Utility fund. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented his department update.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the December monthly incident report and provided his department update.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented her department update and Health Savings Report for November.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge requested City Clerk Ashley Scheibler gather potential dates for Council Orientation. Council will select a training date at the next Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved, and Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

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ELLIS CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

January 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were City Attorney Olavee Raub, Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Devin Henderson was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor LaBarge requested adding Consideration of Repairs to the Public Works Pickup under New Business, and City Attorney Olavee Raub requested adding Consideration of a Condemnation Ordinance for the Water Exploration Project to New Business.

PUBLIC PRESENT

David Clangan, Glen Keller, John Leiker, Michael Berges, and Tyler Glissman.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 5, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2229. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS

(HEARINGS)

SPECIAL ORDER

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review and noted the department will host its annual pancake feed on Wednesday, January 21, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Licenses/Permits

Mayor LaBarge requested Council review and discuss the ordinance proposed by City Attorney Olavee Raub regarding electronic scooter and e-bike use. Following discussion, Council directed City Attorney Olavee Raub to make the suggested revisions and present an updated ordinance at the next Council meeting.

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

Council reviewed the findings of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society building land survey with Public Works Director Steve Homburg.

General Government: Acquisition

Council Member John Walz moved for the City of Ellis to approve the acquisition of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society Building. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Streets: Contract

Mayor LaBarge introduced Tyler Glissman of Wilson and Company, Inc., to discuss consideration of their assistance in reviewing the site plans for the Auto Service Center to help ensure the integrity of the City's West 2nd Street Improvement Project. Council Member John Walz moved to approve Task Order EL26-001 for engineering and/or site plan review services from Wilson and Company in the amount of \$2,500.00, with funds to be paid from the Water Depreciation Reserve Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Industrial Development: Financial

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Resolution 636, stating the City's intent to issue taxable industrial revenue bonds in the approximate amount of \$3,125,260.00 for the Gurkirpa Real Estate Investment Group to finance the acquisition, construction, and equipping of an Auto Service Center. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Tourism: Contracts

The Tourism Committee has submitted their proposal for 2026 advertising contracts. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the 2026 advertising contracts with Nex-Tech (\$1,850.00), Eagle Radio of Hays (\$4,620.00), Travel Brochure Distribution (\$600.00), and Lamar (\$12,350.00) in the total amount of \$19,420.00 with funds to come from the Tourism fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Insurance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented an EMC insurance inspection report for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants. Council directed Mr. Homburg to obtain repair deadlines and present that information at the next Council meeting.

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg informed Council of damage to the Sewer Plant Generator Building as reported by EMC Insurance. Council tabled the matter until the next Council meeting and directed Mr. Homburg to provide additional repair bids at that time.

Museum: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Don's Electric & Rewind for the replacement fuse box and fabricated cover at the Railroad Museum in the amount of \$2,500.00, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement – Special Projects fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member David McDaniel abstaining.

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to ratify the invoice from WaterWise for the purchase of two polymer barrels, in the amount of \$2,582.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Utility fund. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Public Works: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Five Star Auto Repair for repairs to the Foreman Pickup in the amount of \$5,276.26, with funds to come from General, Special Highway, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, and Campground funds. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Policy

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Ordinance No. 1503, authorizing the acquisition of private property by eminent domain for use by the City of Ellis for the purpose of establishing a water line to convey water from a new municipal well. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented the Comprehensive Water Report and his department update, noting he was appointed to the Smoky Hill – Saline Regional Advisory Committee for a four-year term. Council consented to compensate Mr. Homburg for his time while serving on the committee.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the January mid-monthly incident report and provided his department update.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented her department update, 2025 Catastrophic Sick Leave Balance, Safety Committee Annual Report for 2025, and Committee Minutes, noting Council

Orientation is scheduled for February 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member David McDaniel moved, and Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk