



# GARLAND

## MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Garland convened in a special budget session at 8:30 AM on June 21, 2025, in the Work Session Room at the William E. Dollar Municipal Building, 200 North Fifth Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Dylan Hedrick  
Mayor Pro Tem Margaret Lucht  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Ott  
Councilmember Kris Beard  
Councilmember Ed Moore  
Councilmember BJ Williams  
Councilmember Carissa Dutton  
Councilmember Joe Thomas Jr.

Absent: Councilmember Jeff Bass

Staff Present: Jud Rex, City Manager  
Mitch Bates, Deputy City Manager  
Andy Hesser, Assistant City Manager  
Crystal Owens, Assistant City Manager  
Phil Urrutia, Assistant City Manager  
Brian England, City Attorney  
Matthew Watson, Chief Financial Officer  
Allyson Bell Steadman, Budget and Financial Strategy Director  
Becky King, Managing Director  
Ayako Schuster, Economic Development Director  
Jeffrey Bryan, Police Chief  
Mark Lee, Fire Chief  
Tony Irvin, Streets Director  
Michael Buchler, Capital Project Management Director  
Tiffany Veno, Chief Communications Officer  
Jennifer Stubbs, City Secretary

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Members of the audience wishing to address issues not on the meeting agenda may have three minutes to speak. However, according to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Council is prohibited from discussing any item not on the posted agenda.

There was no one who wished to speak under the citizen comments item.

## **ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

Members of the audience may provide public comment in favor, in opposition or about any of the items for individual consideration. Anyone wishing to speak must fill out a speaker card (located at the entrance to the Council Chambers) and give it to the City Secretary in advance of the respective agenda item. Speakers are grouped by agenda item and will be called in the order of the agenda. All comments and testimony are to be presented from the podium. The Mayor may impose a time limit and may provide for rebuttal.

### **1. Opening Remarks**

**Presenter: Dylan Hedrick, Mayor, Judson Rex, City Manager**

Mr. Rex provided information regarding Garland's challenge and provided an overview of Garland's Pathway to Success (GPS). Mayor Hedrick provided opening comments.

### **2. Strategic Focus Areas**

#### **a. Review and Discuss Results of Council Survey to Prioritize Strategic Focus Areas**

**Presenter: Judson Rex, City Manager**

Mr. Rex provided an overview and takeaways of the findings from the survey and answered questions of the Council.

### **3. Long-term Financial Outlook and FY2026 Budget Outlook**

**Presenter: Allyson Bell Steadman, Director of Budget & Research, Matthew Watson, Chief Financial Officer, Judson Rex, City Manager**

Mr. Watson and Ms. Bell Steadman provided a presentation over the long-term financial outlook and the upcoming budget outlook. Ms. Bell Steadman stated that City Management is in the process of finalizing the proposed FY 2026 budget, scheduled for presentation to City Council in August. The update provides a preliminary snapshot of general fund revenues and expenditures. They answered questions of the Council. The Council recessed at 9:54 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

### **4. Pressures on the General Fund & November 2026 Tax Rate Election (Garland +5 operating budget model review)**

- a. Public Safety Considerations (Fire/EMS & Police)**
- b. Operational Impact of New Facilities/Services from the 2019 Bond Program**
- c. Employee Health Fund**

**Presenter: Judson Rex, City Manager, Mark Lee, Fire Chief, Jeff Bryan, Police Chief, Allyson**

**Bell Steadman, Director of Budget & Research, Matthew Watson, Managing Director-Financial Services**

Ms. Bell Steadman provided a report on the preliminary 2026 tax base estimate projections. Mr. Rex provided an overview of the General Fund breakdown for the FY26 Preliminary Budget. Chief Bryan presented a long-term vision to increase staff capacity and discussed the structural reform to include adding Captains to each shift. Discussion followed. Chief Lee proposed a shift schedule reform. There was a consensus among the Council to form a stakeholder group to study shift schedules, EMS service delivery model, staffing needs, and fiscal strategies.

Mr. Rex noted that the operational impact of the 2019 Bond Program was projected to be approximately \$3.7 million over the next four years to staff the new facilities. He wanted to ensure the city was prepared to account for this in future budget planning. He emphasized his commitment to offering a financially sustainable health benefits package for both active employees and retirees, while also aiming to limit the growth of the City's contributions in alignment with overall revenue growth. Mr. Rex stated that the group health fund has doubled over the past ten years and the goal was to ensure that the City's contributions for employee and retiree coverage align with revenue growth. While some coverage adjustments may occur in the upcoming fiscal year, the broader focus would be on long-term changes that will place the program on a financially sustainable path. He answered questions of the Council.

- 5. Grow Garland 2025 Bond Program Implementation**
  - a. Proposition A: Streets, Corridors & Gateways**
  - b. Proposition B: Economic Development**
  - c. Proposition C: Cultural Arts**
  - d. Proposition D: Parks & Recreation – Harbor Point**

**Presenter: Crystal Owens, Assistant City Manager, Tony Irvin, Streets Director, Becky King, Managing Director-Office of Neighborhood Vitality, Andy Hesser, Assistant City Manager, Ayako Schuster, Economic Development Director, Michael Buchler, Capital Project Management Director, Tiffany Veno, Chief Communications Officer**

The Council recessed for a lunch break at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m. Following the break, staff delivered presentations on the implementation of the 2025 Bond Program and responded to questions from Councilmembers. Mr. Irvin, Ms. Owens, and Ms. King presented an overview of the \$230 million Proposition A, focusing on Streets, Corridors, and Gateways. Mr. Hesser and Ms. Schuster then provided an update on the \$75 million Proposition B for Economic Development. The Council recessed again at 1:50 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Buchler and Ms. Veno followed with a presentation on the \$25 million Proposition C, which supports the renovation of the Granville Arts Center. The discussion concluded with Mr. Hesser and Ms. Schuster presenting the implementation plan for Proposition D, a \$30 million initiative.

**6. Council Discussion and Direction**

Mayor Hedrick and Mr. Rex provided closing comments.

**ADJOURN**

All Regular Meetings of the Garland City Council are broadcast live on CGTV, Time Warner Cable Channel 16 and Frontier FIOS TV 44. Meetings are rebroadcast at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesdays - Sundays. Live streaming and on-demand videos of the meetings are also available online at GarlandTX.tv. Copies of the meetings can be purchased through the City Secretary's Office (audio CD's are \$1 each and DVD's are \$3 each).

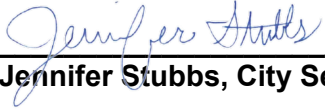
Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

**Submitted By:**



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**Dylan Hedrick, Mayor**



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**Jennifer Stubbs, City Secretary**

