



GARLAND

MINUTES

The Legislative & Public Affairs Committee of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 4:00 PM on June 16, 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: B.J. Williams, Chair
Jeff Bass, Council Member
Chris Ott, Council Member

Staff Present: Ariel Traub, Managing Director of Legislative & Public Affairs
Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director
Brian England, City Attorney
Mitch Bates, Deputy City Manager

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of the May 5, 2025, meeting minutes.

The minutes from the May 5, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Persons who desire to address the Committee on any item on the agenda are allowed three minutes to speak.

No public comments were received.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. 89th Legislative Session Wrap-up

Ariel Traub, Managing Director of Legislative & Public Affairs, and Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director, will provide a presentation on the 89th legislative session thus far, as well as discuss the status of our initiatives and the political/legislative climate.

Presenter: Ariel Traub, Managing Director, Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director

Ariel Traub, Managing Director of Legislative & Public Affairs, and Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director, provided a summary of the 89th legislative session and offered context on relevant legislative outcomes impacting Garland. The status of City initiatives was discussed along with the current legislative/political climate.

Overview of Legislative Engagement

- The legislative session has officially ended. The City of Garland actively engaged in over 100 bills:
 - Submitted 40+ letters of support or opposition.
 - Registered positions on over 50 bills.
 - Proposed amendment language and point of order drafts.
 - Coordinated closely with departments, partner cities, and legislative offices.

- Communication tools included:

- Weekly "Tales from the Ledge" newsletter.
- Bill tracking summaries and impact memos.

Key Bills Discussed:

- **House Bill 19:** Taxpayer-funded lobbying ban – *died*.
- **Senate Bill 412 / House Bill 267:** Removes affirmative defense for library/youth staff – *signed by the Governor*.
- **Senate Bill 6:** Major electric bill – *sent to the Governor*.
- **Senate Bill 15:** Lot density bill – amendment stripped in conference; some provisions improved.
- **Senate Bill 673:** Regulation of ADUs – *died*.
- **Senate Bill 840:** Allows redevelopment to multifamily/mixed use – *sent to the Governor*.
- **Two preemption bills:** *died*.
- **Senate Bill 1024:** Municipal finance restrictions – *died*.
- **House Bill 23:** Third-party inspections – *died*.
- **House Bill 24:** Zoning changes – *sent to the Governor*.
- **House Bill 3187 / Senate Bill 718 / Senate Bill 393:** Electric and DART finance-related bills – *died*.
- **House Bill 1227:** Franchise fees – tracked closely.
- **House Bill 21:** Housing finance corporations – *passed*, but not retroactive.

City-Initiated Legislative Efforts:

- **Alcoholic Beverage Zones:**
 - SB 2633 and HB 3085 filed with support from Sen. Johnson and Rep. Bowers.
 - SB 2633 progressed but died in House.
 - Repackaged into another House bill through negotiations; compromise reached allowing bars (but not package stores).
 - Awaiting Governor's signature.
- **Qualified Hotel Project Bill:**
 - Passed committees, merged into omnibus bill.
 - Died in conference due to opposition over language limiting project scope.

b. DART Discussion

Ariel Traub, Managing Director of Legislative & Public Affairs, and Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director, will lead the Committee discussion on Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART).

Presenter: Ariel Traub, Managing Director, Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director

Ariel Traub, Managing Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, and Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director, led the discussion on Garland's involvement with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Collaboration and concerns related to transit services and city priorities were addressed by the committee.

Multiple bills proposed:

- HB 3087, SB 1557, SB 3075: General Mobility Program – *did not pass*.
- SB 2118: DART board restructure – *not heard*.
- HB 3187: Progressed but failed to pass in time.

- In response, DART developed its own General Mobility Program:
 - Redistributes 5% of annual sales tax revenue to 7 eligible cities for 2 years.
 - Concern raised over unequal benefit among cities.
- Despite legislative failure, DART is moving forward with historic budget cuts:
 - Community hearing set for **June 26**, 6:30–7:30 PM.
 - Proposed cuts include:
 - Elimination of Lake Ray Hubbard Express route.
 - Service frequency reductions across all modes.
 - Paratransit changes.
 - Fare increases.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By:

/s/ Council Member B.J. Williams, Chair

/s/ Carma Potter, Secretary