

CITY OF TATUM
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025
5:30 PM

Mayor
Michael Henry

City Council
Tate Smith
JR Smith
Robin Palmer
Wendell Moore
Greggory Cole

City Secretary
Jackie Muckleroy

Council Member Gregg Cole – Not Present

Meeting called to order: Mayor Michael Henry called the meeting to order.
Prayer: Observed by all in attendance.
Pledge of Allegiance: Observed by all in attendance.
Citizen Comments:

Ms. Kelly Woods asked if there was an ordinance on garage sale signs to prevent people from leaving them up. Chief Smith said that his officers will remove them if they see the dates have passed. Mayor Henry added that he would look into it.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Council discussed changing the date and time of City Council meetings. Members discussed several options, and it was decided that this discussion would be postponed until the July Council meeting to allow the new council member to vote on the day and time.

Motion made by JR Smith and seconded by Tate Smith to approve last month's meeting minutes and checks. All in favor. None opposed.

Information Only:

- Police Dept: Chief James Smith provided monthly updates.
- Public Works: Mr. Mike Morton provided monthly updates.
- Volunteer Fire Dept: Chief Rayford Gibson provided monthly updates.
- Economic Dev Corp: Mr. Nakia Smith provided monthly updates.
- City Administration: City Secretary - Jackie Muckleroy provided monthly financial updates. Provided general election dates and times for early voting and election day.
- Mayor Mr. Mike Henry
Mayor Henry provided updates on the accident in front of the Primary school that resulted in a chemical spill. There were 200 gallons of diesel spilled and HAZMAT was called out. He expressed appreciation to the Tatum Volunteer Fire Department, TX Park & Wildlife, Rusk County and Tatum ISD on their assistance with the chemical cleanup from the accident. Chief Smith and Mayor have reached out to TXDOT on the status on their plan to address resurfacing the road on Hwy 149. TXDOT is doing a root cause analysis on the road and this has been the reason for the delay. Mayor planned to follow up with TXDOT.

Discussed street light outages on Hwy 43 and Hwy 149. Officers have been reporting information to Chief Smith to be forwarded to AEP/SWEPCO for repair. Citizens can to the city website and report outages. AEP/SWEPCO would like citizens reporting street lights to give the closest address to the streetlight to help determine the correct pole location.

Community Work Day – May 16, 2025 8:00am. Citizens were to join City Council members and City employees on that day to fill pot holes. Road repairs with Co. Commissioner. He noted that most of the road issues were mainly due to drainage issues that will need to be addressed. Suggestions made that grading would need to be done to correct drainage.

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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Donna Dominguez presented her concerns to council members regarding a water line issue. water meter in front of her home belongs to a home on Hill St. The water line to that home runs through her property and has caused her significant issues and cost to repair. The retaining wall that she installed fell down due to water leaks from that water line running across her property. She has paid to have leaks repaired but wants the city to relocate the water line as it was not on any surveys. When she spoke to Mike Morton, Water Supervisor, she stated that he told her to get an attorney. Ms. Dominguez stated that she spoke with the homeowner on Hill St. that this water line service. She stated that the homeowner, Ms. Leighanne Lloyd told her that she had tried to get the city to relocate the line years ago, to no avail. She is requesting that the line be removed from her property. Councilmen Moore suggested that we do what we can to assist getting the line relocated for her. Michael Morton, Water Works Supervisor, said that it was approximately 500 feet from her home. We would have to run a 2-inch line in before we move the meter. This process will take two or three days to complete. Councilmen Moore stated we should not go across her driveway to run the line. Mayor informed Ms. Dominguez that it would not be an immediate fix, but that the city would work to get this done as soon as possible. Councilman Tate Smith made a motion to relocate the meter for Ms. Dominguez. This motion was seconded by Councilman JR Smith. All in Favor. None opposed.

2. Councilman JR Smith motioned to discuss Clay Lassen's' exceptionally high-water usage, due to a water leak caused by a neighboring wall that fell on his meter. Mr. Lassen requested assistance with the bill. Per Mayor Henry, he referenced what arrangements the city made with another citizen with a similar issue that happened in November 2023. Customer received a 20% less and minus the sewage fees. Councilman Moore motioned to accept reducing Mr. Lassen's bill. This motion was seconded by Councilman JR Smith. All in favor. None opposed.

3. Mr. Nakia Smith with TEDCO, spoke on behalf of a prospective business owner, who requested anonymity, spoke on obtaining approval from the City of Tatum for a new business requesting TABC approval for permits. He informed the council that approving this request, would bring more sales tax revenue to the business. He noted that currently citizens are purchasing alcohol elsewhere and tax dollars are being directed outside of the city. He noted that the city is constantly looking for areas to bring in revenue and this approval would meet this need. Councilman JR Smith made a motion to approve TABC approval and this motion was seconded by Councilman Wendell Moore. All in favor. None opposed.

4. Councilman Moore motioned to discuss diversifying city funds and JR Smith seconded the motion. Councilman JR Smith stated that he would like to move some city funds into CDs with a higher interest rates which would be beneficial to the city. Jackie Muckleroy, City Secretary and Finance Manager, stated that she contacted Edward Jones on their current CD rates and provided the current interest rate offered at 4.32% and we would not be locked in. Tate Smith asked Auditor David Godwin if we should wait until budget time before making the decision. Auditor David Godwin stated we can move our funds around at any time as long as we are in compliance with the PFIA. He stated that CDs are earned interest income and that as an auditor, he would not beat us up if we earn more income on the budget side. He stated that whether we are putting it into CDs or Money Market accounts would involve compliance with the Public Fund Investment Act (PFIA). As long as the city is in compliance with the PFIA then we will be okay. Mayor Henry asked if there were any stipulations on whether funds are placed in MMAs or CDs. Mr. Godwin stated that we would have to identify an investment officer for this position and they would need to complete the required training. Mr. Godwin also stated that when moving funds into money markets or MMAs that it is different from what TEDCO does and is not as involved because city funds are not Investments. Councilman Tate Smith motioned for item to be moved to next meeting after we assign financial officer. Wendell Moore seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

5. Councilman JR Smith motioned to discuss reinstalling trackers on city vehicles and this motion was seconded by Wendell Moore. Mayor Henry spoke on this matter and asked Chief Smith how many

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trackers are current on all vehicles. City Secretary, Jackie Muckleroy stated that we are currently paying \$2800 annually for 14 trackers that are not in use. Mayor Henry suggested that we have them all reinstated and discontinue ones that are not in use. Councilman Tate Smith made a motion that all trackers be placed on all city vehicles. This motion was seconded by Councilman JR Smith. Ms. Muckleroy stated that councilman has logins for access to Go Track and to contact her if they need help accessing the site. All in favor. None opposed.

6. Councilman Tate Smith made a motion to discuss City finances with Auditor, David Godwin. This motion was seconded by Councilman JR Smith. Mr. Godwin thanked all for being present. He thanked the City Secretary, Nakia Smith and Dana Buddecke for their assistance in working thru this last audit. He provided good feedback on the work that has been done and the improvement from last years audit. He said that the council should be proud of the work that has been done to bring the city in compliance. He thanked the council for taking the initiative to look into investing city funds, which means that you are putting in the work. He reviewed the sales tax rate calculation adjustment and the correction to that calculation. He stated that he was impressed with the council packet format that Ms. Muckleroy has recently changed and stated that he would be using this as an example for other cities that he represents. The new packet format is user-friendly and makes it easier to navigate. Mr. Godwin provided council members with the Independent Auditor's report for FY ending June 30, 2024. He directed their attention to pages 61-67 and reviewed the findings and recommendations going forward. Overall, the city's performance was greatly improved from the last audit. The city has marked improvement in compliance. Mr. Godwin, noted that there was marked improvement on compliance with city website. Mr. Godwin directed attention to various pages in the financial audit report and reviewed with council members. Nakia Smith, with TEDCO, spoke on the sales tax miscalculation. It was discovered that since 2014, the city had been calculating sales tax funds incorrectly. It resulted in TEDCO being shorted by approximately \$14K. This matter was overlooked by all involved parties. This matter was for discussion only, therefore, Mayor Henry stated we would take this matter up again during budget time. He thanked Mr. Godwin for helping to keep the city in compliance.

7. Councilman Wendell Moore made a motion to discuss Water Works Supervisor Performance and Expectations. This motion was seconded by Councilman JR Smith.

Meeting went into executive session at 7:21pm.
Meeting resumed at 7:32pm.

Mayor Henry noted that no action will be taken and requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wendell Moore motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Councilman Tate Smith. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.



Mayor Michael Henry

5/12/2025

Date