

**CITY COUNCIL**  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Council Meeting  
FEBRUARY 9, 2026

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to Texas Flag:**

Mayor Galaviz called the meeting to order at 06:30 PM, the City Attorney gave the Invocation, and all led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

Councilmembers present: Alejandro Galaviz, Teresa Hoffman, Tony Bovinich, Sheryl Kiser, Michelle Hamm and Drew Wilson.

Staff present: City Attorney, Melissa Westen, Chief Hargrove, Becky Wilkins, Oscar Ortiz, Acting Police Chief Chris Smith, Garrett Suprlock, Ron Hearn, and several Police Officers.

**2. Announcements from Mayor:**

Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate/silent only. No conversation or comment from the audience is permitted unless specifically called upon by the Mayor. Please remain respectfully quiet.

**3. Citizen Public Comment Period:**

Anyone wishing to speak on an item not listed on the agenda may do so during this section. Please turn in a speaker card to the City Secretary. Each speaker has five minutes. By law, the Council cannot deliberate or take action on non-agenda items. The Council may listen, ask brief clarifying questions, provide factual responses, or explain existing policy.

1. Jake Petty - 9409 CR 109, Alvarado - Running for County Commission Pct. 4.
2. Will Keeton — 309 E Patton Ave., Alvarado - Running for District Attorney
3. Crystal Chavez — 600 S Parkway Dr., Alvarado - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
4. Sgt. Cole, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
5. Sgt. Rodriguez, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
6. Officer Gallegos, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
7. Officer Wilks, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
8. Officer Nuri Martinez, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
9. Officer Barron, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.
10. Officer Rendon, VPD - Spoke in favor of Officer Chris Smith being the Interim Police Chief.

**4. Consent Agenda:**

All matters listed under consent agenda have been previously discussed, require little or no deliberation, or are routine by the council. If discussion is desired, then an item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. Otherwise, approval of the consent agenda authorizes the City Administrator to implement each item in accordance with staff's recommendation.

4.1. Approval of meeting minutes from the regular called meeting on January 12, 2026.

4.2. Quarterly Investment Report

4.3. Citywide staff reports.

4.4. Approval of a Resolution amending Resolution No. 01-2026-01 ordering the general election and providing that the polling location shall not be open on April 21, 2026, for the purpose of celebrating San Jacinto Day.

4.5. Approval of a Resolution amending Resolution No. 02-2026-01 ordering a special election for the purpose of the proposition of the reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Venus at a rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets and providing that the polling location shall not be open on April 21, 2026, for the purpose of celebrating San Jacinto Day.

4.6. Approval of an Ordinance for release of approximately 703.272 acres of land from the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

4.7. Approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 "Public Safety", Article III. "Emergency Services", Section 18-39 by repealing Chapter 18 "Public Safety", Article III. "Emergency Services", Section 18-39, "Fire Marshal" and replacing it with an entirely new Chapter 18 "Public Safety", Article III. "Emergency Services", Section 18-39, "Fire Marshal".

I make a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Michelle Hamm

Seconded by: Teresa Hoffman

**For: Michelle Hamm, Teresa Hoffman, Tony Bovinich and Sheryl Kiser.**

**Against: Drew Wilson**

**Motion carried 4-1-0.**

**5. Presentation and Proclamations:**

None.

**6. Public Hearings and Action Items:**

None.

**7. Discussion and Consideration Items:**

The City Council reserves the right to meet in Executive Session closed to the public at any time in the course of this meeting to discuss matters listed on the agenda, pursuant to authorization by the Texas Open Meetings Act, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, Chapter 551.071 (Private consultation with attorney for the city)

7.1. Discuss and consider an appointment to the Venus Community Service Development Corporation Place 5. (Councilmember Wilson)

No action taken.

7.2. Discuss and consider approving the decision of the Venus Community Service Development Corporation to hire Oscar Ortiz as the Director of the Venus Community Service Development Corporation.

I make a motion to approve.

Moved by: Drew Wilson

Seconded by: Sheryl Kiser

**For: Unanimous. Motion carried Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.**

7.3. Discuss and consider Engineering Services for Palladium Wastewater System Upgrade. (Williams)

I make a motion to approve engineering services for Palladium Wastewater System upgrade.

Moved by: Michelle Hamm

Seconded by: Teresa Hoffman

**For: Michelle Hamm, Teresa Hoffman and Sheryl Kiser.**

**Against: Tony Bovinich and Drew Wilson.**

**Motion Carried 3-2-0.**

**8. Executive Session:**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.001, ET SEQ. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED MEETING) TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING: Section 551.074(a)(1)- Personnel Matters.

8.1. Discussion regarding the employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, resignation, or dismissal of a city officer or employee, unless such officer or employee requests a public hearing to wit: City Administrator and Police Chief.

Adjourned into Closed Session at 7:04pm.  
Reconvened into Open Session at 8:07pm.

8.2. Any action to be taken as a result of Executive Session.

I make a motion to appoint James Hawthorne as Interim City Administrator  
with a start date of February 23, 2026.

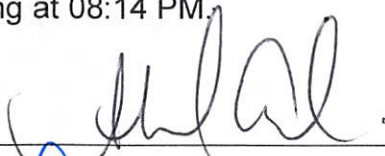
Moved by: Tony Bovinich


Seconded by: Drew Wilson

**For: Unanimous. Motion carried Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.**

**9. Adjournment:**

Mayor Galaviz adjourned the meeting at 08:14 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary