

Duncanville City Council Meeting Minutes
Budget Workshop
Tuesday, August 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Duncanville City Council was called to order on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Briefing Room at City Hall with a quorum to wit:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem DeMonica Gooden
Councilmember Joe Veracruz
Councilmember Don McBurnett
Councilmember Jeremy Koontz
Councilmember Karen Cherry-Brown
Mayor Greg Contreras
Councilmember Kyle Pennebaker

COUNCIL ARRIVING AT:

COUNCIL ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

“Pursuant to Section 551.007 of the Texas Gov’t Code, any member of the public has the opportunity to address the City Council concerning any matter of public business or any posted agenda item; however, the Act prohibits the City Council from deliberating any issues not on the public agenda and such non-agenda issues may be referred to City staff for research and any future action; all persons addressing are subject to council adopted rules and limitations permitted by law”

At this time, two-minute comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. To address the Council, please submit a fully-completed request card to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Input portion of the Council meeting. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council cannot discuss issues raised or make any decisions at this time. Issues may be referred to City Staff for research and possible future action.

Mayor Contreras read the item into the record. The following spoke during the Citizens Input Period:

Patricia Ebert
115 S. Greenstone
Park Signage

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

A. *Consider an Ordinance ordering a bond election to be held on the 4th day of November 2025, in the City of Duncanville, Texas, making provisions for the conduct of the election and resolving other matters incident and related to such election.*

Presented by Interim City Manager Richard Abernethy.

Councilmember Koontz asked if there is any additional money for Parks projects and stated he would be in favor of the recommendation. He thinks the public would see the immediate benefits from a Parks project in this bond proposal. Mayor Contreras stated that adding something at this time would be a challenge as we are up against a time crunch to call the election. Mr. Koontz said he is looking for a cost breakdown for the Police station and training facility. He wonders if the amount requested is enough. Patrick Harvey speaking as chair of the Bond Committee, commented that the Bond Committee worked closely with City Manager Finch and looked at the police facility in Seagoville to gather information on the facility plans and the cost. He

stated he believes the information presented to the Bond Committee was good information to use in estimating the cost of the facility. Councilmember McBurnett agreed with Councilmember Koontz and thinks the build would be good for the next 30 years, but he has some concerns about shortfalls when the project begins. The mayor asked for input from Police Chief Stogner and Matt Bryant from Public Works. Chief Stogner stated there should be a facility needs assessment for the Police facility to make sure we are accurate in our assessment of the cost of a police and training facility. The mayor stated he thinks we built to a perceived need instead of the specifications of the actual cost of a facility that meets all the needs of the police department. Matt Bryant added that a needs assessment was done on the service center in 2017 and recently in 2024. He feels the needs were considered when the costs were assessed. Project Manager Angel Deal added that construction alone will probably be about twelve million. She thinks it is in our best interest to do a needs assessment on the police department outside of the Matrix report. Councilmember Pennebaker added he feels good about the construction costs and asked if we can have a 3-4 million dollar cushion to add to that number in order to achieve some of the goals of the department. The council would like to do a needs assessment from a company with expertise in police facilities. Mr. Bryant would be okay with delaying the bond election until May if we can do a better needs assessment. Mr. Harvey stated he thinks it is very good to delay and would not want to move forward without a needs analysis. To ask the citizens to support this, we need to have done our due diligence to make the best use of the funds. Councilmember Veracruz added he agrees with Chief Stogner about the need for an assessment and the possibility of delaying the bond election to May of 2025.

Councilmember Jeremy Koontz made a motion to approve the item as stated, Councilmember Don McBurnett seconded the motion. The vote was cast 0 for, 7 against (Mayor Pro Tem DeMonica Gooden, Councilmember Joe Veracruz, Councilmember Don McBurnett, Councilmember Jeremy Koontz, Councilmember Karen Cherry-Brown, Mayor Greg Contreras, and Councilmember Kyle Pennebaker).

FAILED

4. REPORTS

- A. *Present, discuss, and deliberate all revenues, expenditures, and projects for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Proposed Annual Budget. The City Council may direct staff to make additions, deletions, or corrections to the proposed budget and projects per current and future goals.***

Presented by Budget Administrator Jennifer Otey and department Directors. Councilmember Koontz asked about contributions to the Conservation Fund. Mayor Pro Tem Gooden requested funds for a yearly Back-To-School event at the Library. She would be willing to give up some funds allocated for training to go toward the event.

Mayor Contreras recessed the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Councilmember Pennebaker exited the meeting at 7:02 pm.
The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 pm.

- B. *Announcement of and establishing a budget and tax rate.***
Ms. Otey reviewed the tax rate scenarios and proposed a tax rate of 0.600166.

5. ROLL CALL VOTE

- A. *"The City Council shall vote to consider a maximum ad valorem tax rate for the fiscal year 2025-2026. This vote is NOT to adopt a property tax rate; that vote will be scheduled for a later date. The vote to consider a maximum ad valorem rate is a statutory requirement, per Texas Code 26.06, and is not a vote to consider adoption of a tax rate."***

Councilmember Don McBurnett made a motion to approve a maximum tax rate of 0.600166 to be considered for fiscal year 2025-2026; and to establish a

public hearing date for September 16, 2025 on the tax rate for fiscal year 2025-2026; this vote and rate is not to adopt a property tax rate but is a maximum rate which is required by the Texas Tax Code to be considered; the actual ta rate will be established after a public hearing and vote of the City Council; staff is instructed to schedule and publish the required notices under the Texas Tax Code, Councilmember Jeremy Koontz seconded the motion. The vote was cast 6 for, 0 against, with Councilmember Kyle Pennebaker absent.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY SECRETARY