



Joel Lopez, Mayor  
Alan Casey, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Linda Pruitt  
Jacob Janda  
Mark D. Muniz  
Kevin Rinn  
Heather Garner, Interim City Manager

## GIDDINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 118 E. RICHMOND ST. GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942**

### 1) CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joel Lopez at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

Members present: Mayor Joel Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey, City Council Members: Linda Pruitt, Jacob Janda, Mark Muniz, Kevin Rinn.

Staff Present: City Manager Interim/ Finance Director Heather Garner, Director of Public Services Kenny Ray, City Secretary Andrea Ray, Human Resources Angie Stanfield, City Police Chief Bill Weems, Municipal Court Clerk Rachel Grube, Director of Library Jessie Akins.

### 2) PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN AND TEXAS FLAG: Were said.

### 3) INVOCATION AND WELCOME: Pastor Pat Herlitz from First Assembly of God Church gave the invocation and Mayor Joel Lopez, welcomed all in attendance.

### 4) ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Joel Lopez read a thank you from a citizen for the presentation from Judge Robert Lee on junk vehicles.

### 5) PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: NONE

### 6) CITIZENS COMMENTS: (limited to 3 minutes each, 30 minutes maximum)

Tim Langham spoke to the Mayor and City Council about travel trailers parked on the streets.

### 7) CONSENT AGENDA: The following items are considered to be self-explanatory by this City Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of this item unless a City Council Member so requests.

- a. Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes held on Monday, July 14, 2025.

A motion was made by City Council Member Linda Pruitt and seconded by City Council Member Jacob Janda to approve the City Council Regular Minutes held on Monday, July 14, 2025.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.



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8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Receive a report from the Beautification Committee Board Chair Dawn Marshall on projects, grants and future goals.

City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council and stated Dawn Marshall with the beautification committee will update council and answer any questions. After the last meeting I was voted Chair for the Beautification Committee and would like to present an update on the direction the Beautification Committee is moving. The Committee has decided to leave the junk vehicles alone and let Code Enforcement do the job. We have started a Business of the Quarter for the City Business around town who can be nominated by the citizens and then voted on by the Beautification Committee. We are working on the welcome signs as you come into Giddings with GEDC. We have contacted the Lee County Little League to have the press boxes painted with the emblem of the Military name in which the ball fields are named after. We are working on small grants like the HEB Tree grant in order to receive a bigger amount grant from TxDOT. We will plant where they are needed. With a bigger grant we are looking forward to have the painted murals restored and repainted. The picture in the City Council Packet shows a picture of the trash cans we like to purchase for the Downtown Plaza and some for the City Parks.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

- b. Receive bank depository applications and take possible action to award a contract for bank depository services for a two-year term to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

City Manager Interim/ Finance Director Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. We received two applications for bank depository services. One from First National Bank, and one from Classic Bank. Each bank submitted two options.

Classic Bank submitted a **fixed rate of 3.25%** and a variable rate of the 91-day T-bill rate with a **floor of 1% and ceiling of 4.5%**.

First National Bank submitted a **fixed rate of 4.18%** and a variable rate of the 2-year treasury plus 30 basis points with a **floor of 4% and no ceiling**.

The contract awarded today will be for two years, with the option for up to 3 one-year extensions.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Mark Muniz to approve a contract for bank depository services from First National Bank for a two-year term to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.



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- c. Discuss and take possible action to authorize the Mayor to execute a 3-year contract on behalf of the City of Giddings with Lee County EMS.

City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council.

There will be a contract similar to the previous one. As discussed during the proposed budget discussion at the last meeting, I believe the increase is something we can absorb within our new budget. Heather stated the new contract will be brought back to Mayor and City Council.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

- d. Discuss and take possible action to adopt Resolution No. 578-2025 for an expenditure from Giddings Economic Development to the City of Giddings Parks Department.

City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council.

The GEDC approved an expenditure of \$37,775.80 to the City of Giddings parks department for improvements to the restrooms at the Veteran's and Simmang Parks. This will include the match to the LCRA CDPP grant, as well as an additional \$9,075.80 in upgrades to both sets of bathrooms.

A motion was made by City Council Member Linda Pruitt and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to adopt Resolution No. 578-2025 for an expenditure from Giddings Economic Development to the City of Giddings Parks Department.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.

- e. Discuss and take possible action to adopt Resolution No. 579-2025 authorizing the Mayor to execute an interlocal agreement with Lee County to share costs of the Giddings Volunteer Fire Department mechanic position.

City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. With the retirement of long-time city and county employee Leroy Wachsmann, the county is proposing to have the new GVFD mechanic become a city employee only. The county will reimburse the city for their portion of the salary for the position. This simplifies the employment process while maintaining the current agreement

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Mark Muniz adopt Resolution No. 579-2025 authorizing the Mayor to execute an interlocal agreement with Lee County to share costs of the Giddings Volunteer Fire Department mechanic position.



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Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.

- f. Discuss and take possible action to for the City of Giddings Project Clean-Up for limbs and brush to be picked up at curbside twice a year (April & October) and set a fee for services.

City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. At the request of Councilmember Janda, Kenny Ray has gathered information from neighboring cities and their processes for curbside pickup of limbs and brush twice a year. Director of Public Services Kenny Ray presented on the different opportunity's the City has to offer with limbs and brush removal.

Director of Public Services Kenny Ray also presented what the surrounding cites have to offer for the amounts and the size of the pick-ups for limbs and brush pick-up.

A motion was made City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to City of Giddings Project Clean-Up for limbs and brush to be picked up at curbside twice a year (April & October) for the fee of \$25.00 for a truck load and more than 30 minutes an additional \$25.00 will be added.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.

- g. Receive and discuss the Lee County Tax Assessor's statutory certifications, submissions, and calculations as required by Chapter 26 of the Tax Code.

Certified Appraisal Roll  
Certification of 2024 Excess Debt Collections  
Certifications of 2025 Anticipated Debt Collection  
2025 Tax Rate Worksheet

City Manager Interim/ Finance Director Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. The certified appraised property values were received and came in slightly higher than the preliminary estimates. Based on these updated values, the following tax rates have been calculated:

**No-New-Revenue Rate:** \$0.5761 per \$100 of valuation. This rate would generate the same amount of revenue as the previous year, accounting for increased property values.

**Voter Approval Rate:** \$0.5861 per \$100 of valuation. This rate would raise approximately 3.5% more revenue than last year.



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**De Minimis Rate:** \$0.6571 per \$100 of valuation. This is the maximum rate that can be adopted without triggering an automatic election, and it would generate an additional \$500,000 in revenue compared to the prior year.

For reference, the proposed budget was based on a rate of \$0.6750 per \$100 of valuation, using a projected taxable value of \$557,664,855. This would have resulted in approximately \$3,764,238 in property tax revenue.

With the certified values now available, using the de minimis rate would generate approximately \$3,805,057—an increase of \$40,819 over the budgeted amount. However, it is not anticipated that the full de minimis rate will be necessary. Staff expects the adopted rate will fall somewhere between the voter approval rate and the de minimis rate.

### **NO ACTION TAKEN**

- h. Discuss and take possible action to adopt the Hotel Occupancy Tax Distribution Policy included in the Hotel Occupancy Tax application.

City Manager Interim/ Finance Director Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. While it is not required by statute that hotel occupancy tax be given only to non-profits, the city for an EIN if you would like to further prove the entities are not only a nonprofit, but are also exempt from federal taxes according to the IRS. City Council Member Kevin Rinn stated the Hotel Occupancy Tax Distribution Policy on the application profit entities should be able to apply as well as non-profits.

A motion was made City Council Member Kevin Rinn and seconded by City Council Member Jacob Janda to adopt the Hotel Occupancy Tax Distribution Policy included in the Hotel Occupancy Tax application to add for profits to apply for the Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.

### **9) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The city pool closed for the season this past Sunday. Total attendance for the summer was **1,974**. Thank you to our staff for a successful season and to the community for their support.
2. The city currently has **three employment opportunities** posted, in addition to **one patrol officer** and **one dispatcher** opening.



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3. There will be a Hotel Occupancy Tax Board meeting on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. A parks board meeting on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. A Board of Adjustments meeting on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. And a Planning and Zoning meeting on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
4. We met with **Strand Associates** today to continue work on the upcoming bond projects. The next step will be a final project map and an **engineer’s opinion of probable construction cost**, which will be presented to council once complete.
5. We’ve now been officially awarded the **MIT MOD grant**, which includes:
  - a. **Polk Street drainage improvements**
  - b. A new **emergency alert siren**
  - c. A **generator for Well 12**
  - d. **Curb and gutter work** on various streets
  - e. We’re working with Strand on the grant agreement and expect a **kickoff workshop** soon.
6. Trenching and electrical work is currently underway at the **downtown plaza** project. For the other parking lot, we are still waiting on Union Pacific Railroad to approve the boring solution for the drainage. They have promised a “speedy” review, and we will continue following up.
7. Work is underway on the **Veterans Park bathroom upgrades**, funded in part by an **LCRA CDDP grant** and support from the **Giddings Economic Development Corporation**.

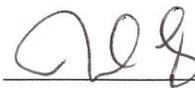
## 10) ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Joel Lopez adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Monday, July 28, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
Andrea Ray, City Secretary



  
Joel Lopez, Mayor