



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, AUGUST 11, 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 7:04 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: Interim City Manager/Finance Director Heather Garner, Director of Public Services Kenny Ray, City Secretary Andrea Ray, Human Resources Angie Stanfield, City Police Chief Bill Weems, Assistant Chief Shane Ray, Sergeant Cavazos, Municipal Court Clerk Rachel Grube, Director of Library Jessie Akins, City Attorney Tyler Stevens.

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

### 3) INVOCATION AND WELCOME: Pastor Yuri Carralero from First Methodist Church gave the invocation and Mayor Joel Lopez welcomed all in attendance.

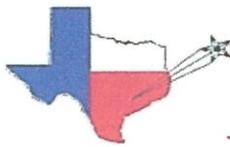
### 4) ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Joel Lopez presented a challenge coin from the Texas General Land Office for the GLO-CDR Grant.

### 5) PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: NONE

### 6) CITIZENS COMMENTS: Citizens to speak on the presence of ICE in Giddings, Texas. Each citizen was allowed to speak for 3 minutes each.

1. Ricardo Padron Jr. - Trust and transparency from City Council on ICE.
2. Karem Luna - Transparency from City Council on ICE.
3. Daniel Christiansen - Economic impact.
4. Edith Mireles - Transparency, accountability, and policies from City Council on ICE.
5. Jeri Matthys - History of the impact and concerns of ICE in our community.
6. Darla Hilmo - Transparency and clarification from ICE while enforcing laws.
7. Ellen Hilmo - Understanding of fear and complying with laws.
8. Dexter Wilson – Concerns with police department complaint processes.

### 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.



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- a. Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes held on Monday, July 28, 2025.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to approve the City Council Regular Minutes held on Monday, July 28, 2025.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

## 8) PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. Conduct a public hearing on the FY 2025-2026 City Budget.

Mayor Joel Lopez opened the public hearing at: 7:33 p.m.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This hearing provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed budget and a chance to explain changes made since the last presentation. The *de minimis* property tax rate is included in this draft, though we anticipate recommending a lower rate. At the current *de minimis* rate of **\$0.6571**, the City would generate approximately **\$3,767,006** in property tax revenue, an increase of **\$477,109** compared to last year. For context: Using last year's rate (**\$0.6215**), the tax bill for a \$300,000 home would be **\$1,864.50**. Using the current *de minimis* rate (**\$0.6571**), the bill would be **\$1,971.30**—, difference of **\$106.80**. This budget also incorporates the **recommended utility rates** from the recent rate study, which will be discussed with NewGen at the next meeting.

Mayor Joel Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m. with no one else wishing speak.

## 9) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discuss water, wastewater, and electric rate study performed by NewGen Strategies & Solutions.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. Our presenter from NewGen had an illness today and is unable to attend. We will need to postpone this for the next meeting. City Council Member Kevin Rinn asked to postpone line item (a) under NEWBUSINESS till the next City Council Meeting on Monday, August 25, 2025.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

- b. Discuss and take possible action regarding the adoption of the 2025-2026 Giddings Economic Development Corporation Budget.

Interim City Manager and Finance Director Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. The proposed FY 2025-26 budget from the Giddings Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) has been provided. The Council's role is to review and approve the budget to fulfill oversight responsibilities and ensure alignment with the City's economic development goals.



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A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to approve the 2025-2026 Giddings Economic Development Corporation Budget.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

- c. Discuss and take possible action to adopt Resolution No. 581-2025, authorizing Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Disbursements for Calendar Year 2024.

Interim City Manager and Finance Director Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. The Hotel Occupancy Tax Board met last Thursday for nearly three hours to review funding requests from applicants and deliberate on the allocation of available funds. Total HOT funds available are approximately \$226,000, down from about \$250,000 in prior years. Meanwhile, funding requests exceeded \$400,000, making allocation decisions especially challenging. After careful consideration, the Board has developed a recommended disbursement plan, which has been provided to Council for review. Council will discuss the recommendation and take possible action to adopt Resolution No. 581-2025, which formally authorizes Hotel Occupancy Tax disbursements.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Mark Muniz to adopt Resolution No. 581-2025, authorizing Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Disbursements for Calendar Year 2024.

Motion carried by the following vote:

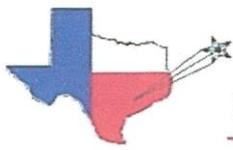
Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Muniz, Rinn.

Nays: None.

- d. Discuss and take possible action to adopt Resolution No. 582-2025 setting the maximum property tax rate for tax year 2025 establishing the date for the public hearing and setting the dates for tax rate adoption.

Interim City Manager and Finance Director Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This resolution sets the *maximum* property tax rate for tax year 2025, which we are currently basing on the *de minimis* rate. This rate will be used for the required public notice.

It's important to note that while the Council can adopt a tax rate **lower** than the published maximum, it **cannot adopt a rate higher** than what is published in the notice. The resolution also establishes the dates for the public hearing and final tax rate adoption, ensuring compliance with state law and transparency for taxpayers.



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A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to adopt Resolution No. 582-2025 setting the maximum property tax rate for tax year 2025, establishing the date for the public hearing, and setting the dates for tax rate adoption.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None.

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

- a. Pastor Michael Gonzales with the Calvary Pentecostal Church gave a letter to present to council. His requests include help to beautify the Rolling Oaks Subdivision with speed control, the damaged entry way, street and curb repair, and cleaning up the wooded area.
- b. Fall Clean Up – September 13<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm.
- c. Open enrollment to begin Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Rates should, at minimum, stay the same.
- d. Employment Updates:
  - i. Three positions have been interviewed for, and candidates selected. They should start within the next week. (Cemetery, Street, and Water)
  - ii. Open positions now include a patrol officer, a dispatcher, and a utility billing clerk.
- e. Upcoming Meetings:
  - i. Parks Board Meeting – Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
  - ii. Board of Adjustments – Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at noon.
  - iii. Beautification Committee – Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am
  - iv. Planning and Zoning – Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- f. Project Updates:
  - i. Downtown Plaza/RED Grant: Contractors have completed curb and gutter. They are in process of completing sidewalks, ramps, and light pole bases. Coming up soon will be asphalt, seal coat, and striping. There have been a few weather delays, but are still on track to be substantially complete before our first event out there.
  - ii. EDA Grant/Railroad Bore: Rail Pros has received our final plans, and have their questions answered. They will be submitting it all to UPRR very soon.
  - iii. GLO MIT MOD: We had a very informative kickoff meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Things will get moving with all the projects on this grant soon. 12/31/2027 is the term date.
  - iv. TxDot South Sidewalk: Strands survey crew has been in the area. We are moving along with the design phase.
  - v. Raw Water Line: Elliott has staked out the path for the 12-inch water line, and should begin construction soon.



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- vi. LCRA CDPP: Veteran's Park restrooms have a few finishing touches left before they are open to the public, but are approximately 75% complete.
- vii. Golf Course Irrigation: Larson Golf Services has been out to the golf course for a demonstration, and plan to come back once more. New pricing is still planned to go into effect on October 1.

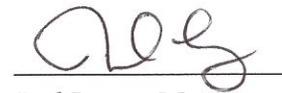
## 10) ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Joel Lopez adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
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Andrea Ray, City Secretary



  
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Joel Lopez, Mayor