

# CITY OF GIDDINGS

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, NOVEMBER 10, 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: Interim City Manager/Finance Director Heather Garner, Director of Public Services Kenny Ray, Code Compliance Official Eric Cupit, City Secretary Andrea Ray, 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 Yuri Carralero with First Methodist Church gave the invocation and Mayor Joel Lopez welcomed all in attendance.

### 4) ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

### 5) PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: None

### 6) CITIZENS COMMENTS: Each citizen was allowed to speak for 3 minutes each. None

### 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, October 27, 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, October 27, 2025.

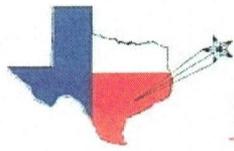
Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

### 8) PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. Consider public testimony regarding proposed amendments the Giddings Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 Zoning, Sections 14.02.122 and 14.02.112 to update the minimum lot size, lot width, and minimum side yard required for lots in the R-1 Single-Family Residential District, and amending Sections 14.02.122 and 14.02.113 to update the minimum side yard required for lots in the R-2 Multifamily Residential District.



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Mayor Joel Lopez opened the public hearing at: 7:04 p.m.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This is the time we can hear public testimony about these proposed changes. We are updating the minimum lot size in R-1 to be 6,000 square feet with a minimum lot width of 60 feet and a minimum side yard of 10 feet. This will correct the discrepancies between the zoning and subdivision ordinances. The planning & zoning commission also held a public hearing prior to this meeting and recommended the above.

Mayor Joel Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. with no one wishing to speak.

b. Consider an ordinance regarding proposed amendments the Giddings Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 Zoning, Sections 14.02.122 and 14.02.112 to update the minimum lot size, lot width, and minimum side yard required for lots in the R-1 Single-Family Residential District, and amending Sections 14.02.122 and 14.02.113 to update the minimum side yard required for lots in the R-2 Multifamily Residential District.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is to consider adoption of the ordinance that would implement the amendments we just held the public hearing on.

R-1 – Minimum lot size: 6,000 square feet. Minimum lot width: 60 feet. Minimum side yard: 10 feet.

R-2 – Minimum side yard: 10 feet.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to adopt Ordinance No. 912 regarding proposed amendments the Giddings Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 Zoning, Sections 14.02.122 and 14.02.112 to update the minimum lot size, lot width, and minimum side yard required for lots in the R-1 Single-Family Residential District, and amending Sections 14.02.122 and 14.02.113 to update the minimum side yard required for lots in the R-2 Multifamily Residential District.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

c. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Consider public testimony regarding proposed amendments the Giddings Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10B Development Standards, Subchapter 7 Street System Standards, Section 702.3 to update the minimum points of street access required for residential developments.

Mayor Joel Lopez opened the public hearing at: 7:08 p.m.



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Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is a public hearing to receive input on proposed amendments to the Giddings Code of Ordinances regarding access points for residential developments.

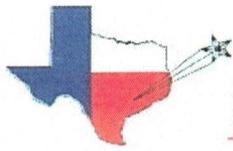
- At the Planning & Zoning workshop last month, we discussed guidance for the number of access points based on development size:
  - Less than 11 lots: 1 access point
  - 11 to 100 lots: 2 access points
  - Larger developments: number of access points determined as reasonable, balancing safety and practicality
- Eric has also reviewed the currently adopted fire code, which requires developments with more than 30 dwelling units to have two separate fire apparatus access roads. In practice, two access points are usually considered reasonable for developments up to 150 lots.
- The proposed ordinance provides guidance for access points for developments up to 800 lots, ensuring clear standards for safety while maintaining flexibility for larger subdivisions.

Mayor Joel Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:11 p.m. with no one wishing to speak.

d. Consider an ordinance regarding proposed amendments the Giddings Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10B Development Standards, Subchapter 7 Street System Standards, Section 702.3 to update the minimum points of street access required for residential developments.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is to consider adoption of the ordinance amending required access points for residential developments. The proposed ordinance states:

Number of Lots	Connections to Public Rd	Stub Streets
< 11	1	1
11-100	2	1
101-300	3	2
301-400	4	3
401-500	5	4
501-800	6	5
801+	+1 per 200 lots	+1 per 200 lots



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A motion was made by City Council Member Kevin Rinn and City Council Member Jacob Janda to amend and adopt Ordinance No. 913 Less than 31 lots: one (1) connection to a public road and one (1) stub street; (2) For 31 lots up to 100 lots: two (2) connections to a public road and one (1) stub street; ordinance regarding proposed amendments the Giddings Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10B Development Standards, Subchapter 7 Street System Standards, Section 702.3 to update the minimum points of street access required for residential developments.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

e. Consider to approve the Special Event “Public” application from St. Margaret Catholic Church for a procession celebrating the Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe from E. Richmond to S. Grimes, then E. Bellville St. to the church grounds that will be held on December 12, 2025.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is to consider approval of the Special Event application from St. Margaret Catholic Church for a procession celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, 2025 at 5pm. The item was heard at the previous meeting, but a decision was postponed to allow further discussion regarding the proposed route. In prior years, the route used Grimes & Leon Streets, and has been a very well-attended and meaningful event for the church, so the procession does block traffic.

The new proposed route crosses several busier intersections, especially at 5pm on a Friday. Since our last meeting, it has been discussed that the new route also has additional religious significance, so the church has agreed to provide traffic control for the event.

Noting that the streets will not be closed and traffic control will be provided, Chief Weems and Director of Public Services Kenny Ray have recommended approval of the event.

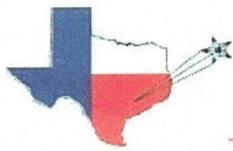
Dennis Nunes spoke as a representative for the St. Margaret Catholic Church for the Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe Special Event. This walk will start from the Lee County Tax Office and go back to the church Dennis stated the intersections would have members to help with crossing of the intersections. The walk should take about 45 minutes to complete.

A motion was made by City Council Member Mark Muniz and City Council Member Kevin Rinn to approve the Special Event “Public” application from St. Margaret Catholic Church for a procession celebrating the Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe from E. Richmond to S. Grimes, then E. Bellville St to the church grounds that will be held on December 12, 2025.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None



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f. Consider an ordinance designating the intersections of Industry Street at Polk Street and Richmond Street at Leon Street as four-way stops pursuant to Section 12.03.004 of the Giddings Code of Ordinances

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is to consider designating Industry and Polk and Richmond and Leon as four-way stops. Both intersections have seen more traffic and some visibility issues, especially during busy times of day. After reviewing the locations, staff and law enforcement felt that converting them to four-way stops would improve safety and traffic flow. This ordinance would make those changes official and allow us to put up the signage.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Mark Muniz to adopt Ordinance No. 914 designating the intersections of Industry Street at Polk Street and Richmond Street at Leon Street as four-way stops pursuant to Section 12.03.004 of the Giddings Code of Ordinances

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

g. Consider a resolution voting for appointments to the Lee Central Appraisal District Board of Directors in accordance with Section 6.03 of the Texas Tax Code.

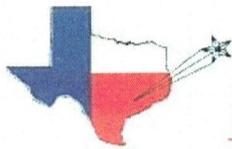
Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is to consider our votes for the Lee County Appraisal District Board of Directors. There are five positions open and five nominees — David Legere, Jason Locke, Spencer Schneider, Martin Schubert, and John Schuman. The City of Giddings has 429 of the 5,000 total votes, and Council can either cast them all for one nominee or split them among the five. We typically split them, especially since the number of nominees matches the number of open positions.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to adopt Resolution No. 595-2025 and to split the votes among the 5 board members and voting for appointments to the Lee Central Appraisal District Board of Directors in accordance with Section 6.03 of the Texas Tax Code.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None



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h. Consider a resolution designating Interim City Manager Heather Garner as the authorized official for Virtual Reality Training Simulator Program Grant# 5341101.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This item is to approve a revised resolution for the Virtual Reality Training Simulator Grant. We previously passed this when changing the authorized signer from Spencer to me, but when it was submitted, the Governor's Office let us know one of their required "whereas" statements was missing. It's the one stating that we'll return funds if they're ever lost or misused. Nothing else about the grant has changed — this just brings our resolution into compliance with their format.

A motion was made by City Council Member Kevin Rinn and seconded by City Council Member Jacon Janda to adopt Resolution No. 596-2025 designating Interim City Manager Heather Garner as the authorized official for Virtual Reality Training Simulator Program Grant# 5341101.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

i. Consider an audit of the FY 2025 Giddings Police Department Asset Forfeiture Report pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. This is the annual asset forfeiture report required under Chapter 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Chief Weems will present it for Council's review. No action is needed; it's just for recordkeeping and transparency.

Chief Bill Weems gave a report for the Chapter 59 Asset forfeiture Report.

1. Beginning Balance: \$30,740.97 2. Proceeds Received \$6,925.75 3. Total Expenditures \$8,642.99 on equipment for dispatchers 4. Ending Balance of \$36,859.48.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

j. Consider an update from the Library Director Jessi Akins regarding an update on the Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. Next, we'll hear an update from Library Director Jessi Akins on the Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival. This item is for information only—no action is needed.

Library Director Jessi Akins gave update on the Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival. With the Festival attendance there was 846 people. The total of authors was 22 the total of books they sold was 607.

The number of schools that participated were 6. We had an author reception Thursday Sept. 25 this event was only open to the authors. The Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival had very good feedback from authors and stating they loved the festival and they appreciated the hospitality and thought the festival was well organized. **NO ACTION TAKEN**



**9) RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Joel Lopez closed the Regular Session at 7:35 p.m. to convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Section 551.074 – Texas Government Code, Personnel Matters, to wit: evaluation of City Police Chief William Weems.

- a. Pursuant to Section 551.074, Texas Government Code, Personnel Matters, to wit: evaluation of City Police Chief William Weems.

**10) RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION:**

Mayor Joel Lopez adjourned the Executive Session at 9:39 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Session, stating that no final actions, decisions, or votes were had during the Executive Session.

- a. Discussion and take possible action on the City Police Chief evaluation.

**11) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. We'll be closing the Highway 290 cemetery entrances from Tuesday, November 25th through Monday, December 1st. This is just to keep Thanksgiving traffic from cutting through the cemetery. The entrances along South Dallas will stay open, and funeral homes will be notified.
- b. Project Updates:
  - i. **RED Grant:** We're still working with TDA on the change order. Once that's approved, we'll wrap up the pavilion and move on to the additional parking area.
  - ii. **GLO MIT-MOD Project:** That one's moving right along. We've finished the startup documentation phase and are now in planning and survey.
  - iii. **Street and Utility Bond Project:** Everything's moving smoothly there, too. We've got a good handle on which projects will be included, and the engineers are working on survey and design.
  - iv. **Raw Water Line:** The 12-inch raw water line should be connected to the ground storage tank soon. We've been keeping a close eye on water production, and with the cooler weather, usage is trending down. Once we're at a more comfortable level, we'll start construction. That should take about two weeks or less.
  - v. Kenny and I met with Diana Schulze and Shane Swimm from TxDOT today. It was a really good meeting. I got to officially meet Diana and go over our current projects and the municipal maintenance agreement we have in place.
    1. **South Sidewalk Project:** The survey work is wrapping up, and our design phase is right on track.
    2. **TxDOT's Highway 77 Railroad Bridge Replacement:** That project is currently in the railroad's hands, but Diana mentioned today that construction is still on track to begin in December.



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c. Meetings:

- i. Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm – Department Head Meeting
- ii. Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am – Beautification Committee
- iii. Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Parks Board Meeting
- iv. Next Council Meeting – Unless something urgent comes up, we will likely cancel the next regular council meeting scheduled for Monday November 24<sup>th</sup> (the week of Thanksgiving.)

12) ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Joel Lopez adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
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 Andrea Ray, City Secretary

  
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 Joel Lopez, Mayor

