

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 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 7:01 p.m. with the following present:

Members present: Mayor Joel Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey, City Council Members: Linda Pruitt, Jacob Janda, Kevin Rinn 7 minutes late. Not Present: Mark Muniz.

The Giddings City Council Meeting was moved to Tuesday, January 27, 2026 and cancelled Monday, January 26, 2026 due to inclement weather.

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

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

3) INVOCATION AND WELCOME: Pastor Yuri Carralero from the 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 minutes from the Tuesday, January 27, 2026 Regular City Council meeting.

A motion was made by City Council Member Linda Pruitt and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey to approve the City Council Regular Minutes held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026

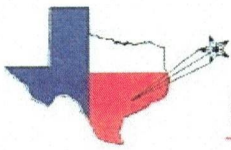
Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

8) NEW BUSSINESS

a. Consider approval of Special Public Event Application for the Lee County Fair Parade to be held on Saturday, May 9th, 2026.



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City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. The Lee County Fair Parade would like to use the same route around Veteran's Park as last year.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to approve Special Public Event Application for the Lee County Fair Parade to be held on Saturday, May 9th, 2026.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

b. Consider approval of Special Public Event Application for the First Baptist Church Life Group "Shields & Scriptures" to be held Thursday, March 26th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Veteran's Park Pavillion.

City Manager Interim Heather Garner presented this agenda item to Mayor and City Council. The First Baptist Church life group would like to host a community prayer for first responders at the veteran's park pavilion Thursday, March 26th at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to approve Special Public Event Application for the First Baptist Church Life Group "Shields & Scriptures" to be held Thursday, March 26th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Veteran's Park Pavillion.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

c. Consider approval of Special Public Event Application for the Lee County Arts Center Crawfish Cookoff to be held Saturday, April 11th, 2026 from 11am till 9pm at the Giddings Downtown Plaza parking lot.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. This annual crawfish cookoff is a great fundraiser for the Lee County Arts Center, coming up on Saturday April 11th at the downtown plaza.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to approve Special Public Event Application for the Lee County Arts Center Crawfish Cookoff to be held Saturday, April 11th, 2026 from 11am till 9pm at the Giddings Downtown Plaza parking lot.

Motion carried by the following vote:

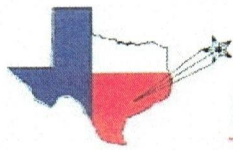
Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Rinn.

Nays: None

d. Consider discussion and possible action regarding the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission for amendments to the Charter and any other amendments proposed by City Council.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. I would like to recommend council add amendment no. 11, amending Article IX, Section 7 Lease-Purchase of Equipment in order to make the Charter consistent with Section 252.021 of the Local Government

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes



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Code and SB 1173 (which took effect 9/1/25) by increasing the amounts necessary for competitive purchases from \$50,000 to \$100,000. All the other proposed amendments are listed in ordinance 917 of your packets and have not changed from the Charter Review Committees recommendations.

At this time Mayor Joel Lopez asked for City Council to consider to amend the charter of the residence of the City Manager. Mayor Joel Lopez stated the charter has 90 days to move into the City limits, the Charter Review Committee changed it to 180 days; the beneficial idea would be to give a milage outside the city limits. No City Council Member made a motion to amend a place residency for the City Manager.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Jacob Janda to approve amendment no. 11, amending Article IX, Section 7 Lease-Purchase of Equipment in order to make the Charter consistent with Section 252.021 of the Local Government Code and SB 1173

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

e. Consider Ordinance No. 916 authorizing the calling of a General Election for May 2nd, 2026.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. This is the ordinance necessary to call the general election for Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 for the purpose of electing a mayor and two council members whose terms expire May 2026.

A motion was made by City Council Member Linda Pruitt and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to adopt Ordinance No. 915 authorizing the calling of a General Election for May 2nd, 2026.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

f. Consider Ordinance No. 917 authorizing the calling of a Special Election for May 2nd, 2026.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. This is the ordinance necessary to call a special election also to be held on May 2nd, 2026 for the purpose of amending the charter.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to adopt Ordinance No. 917 authorizing the calling of a Special Election for May 2nd, 2026.

Motion carried by the following vote:

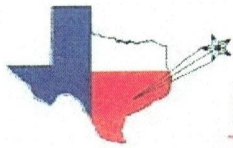
Ayes: City Council Members: Casey, Pruitt, Janda, Rinn.

Nays: None

g. Consider Resolution No. 612-2026 authorizing the mayor to execute a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Lee County for the May 2nd, 2026 General and Special Elections.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Resolution 612 is to have a joint election with the county, and an agreement for election services. The estimated cost of the election is \$15,300, to be split if GISD has an election.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes



CITY OF GIDDINGS

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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. 612-2026 authorizing the mayor to execute a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Lee County for the May 2nd, 2026 General and Special Elections.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

h. Consider Resolution No. 613-2026 authorizing the mayor to execute a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Giddings ISD for the May 2nd, 2026 General and Special Elections.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Resolution 613 is to have a joint election with GISD. At this time, neither the city nor GISD have anybody signed up to run.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to adopt Resolution No. 613-2026 authorizing the mayor to execute a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Giddings ISD for the May 2nd, 2026 General and Special Elections.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

i. Consider accepting the resignation and retirement of Municipal Court Clerk Raquel Grube, effective January 31st, 2026.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Mrs. Grube has served the City of Giddings since 1992 and has been a tremendous asset throughout her time with the city. I am truly thankful for her experience, professionalism, and steady leadership. Municipal Court has run smoothly because I have always been able to trust that Rachel had everything under control.

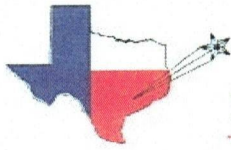
Over my years here, Rachel has shared some of her experiences with me from her early days balancing dispatch duties and municipal court while raising a family. As a working mom myself, there have been times when I've leaned on her during especially challenging seasons. Her perspective and encouragement have reminded me that it is possible to do hard, demanding work. Rachel will be greatly missed, but she leaves the Court in very capable hands, having thoughtfully prepared the next generation of leadership with the same care she brought to her own role.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn accepting the resignation and retirement of Municipal Court Clerk Raquel Grube, effective January 31st, 2026.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None



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j. Consider Resolution No. 614-2026 appointing Kristy Lara as Municipal Court Clerk.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Kristy Lara has served the city since 2013 and has done so with consistent professionalism, dedication, and grace under Rachel's guidance. Based on her experience, institutional knowledge, and proven performance, I have full confidence that she is the best choice to be appointed as our Municipal Court Clerk. I have seen firsthand her patience, competence, and steady demeanor when working with citizens and defendants, often during some of their most challenging moments. Kristy has also played a key role in mentoring and developing Jackie into an excellent clerk. Together, they form a strong team and are well positioned to lead our Municipal Court forward with continuity and professionalism.

A motion was made City Council Member Kevin Rinn and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey to adopt Resolution No. 614-2026 appointing Kristy Lara as Municipal Court Clerk.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

k. Administer oath of office and anti-bribery oath of appointed office for Municipal Court Clerk Kristy Lara.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. At this time, Rachel is available to administer the oath of office and anti-bribery oath of appointed office for Kristy. Municipal Court Clerk Rachel Grube administer the oath and anti-bribery oath to Municipal Court Clerk Kristy Lara.

NO ACTION TAKEN BY CITY COUNCIL

l. Consider a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to conditionally approve the Cibolo Trails preliminary plat.

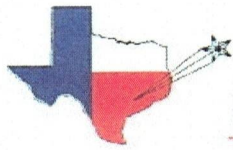
Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Planning and Zoning met on December 23rd and has recommended council conditionally approve the Cibolo Trails preliminary plat with a 40' street width on Pine Street and approval of a variance of 31' street widths and 50' ROWs throughout. Just as a reminder, any action here is with regard to the recommendation from P&Z on the original plat submitted. We have since received an updated plat to reflect the 40' street width that will be presented to P&Z on February 5th before it is brought back to council. (Hopefully at the February 9th meeting) I have included the updated plat in your Dropbox for your information.

A motion was made City Council Member Kevin Rinn and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to approve the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to conditionally approve the Cibolo Trails preliminary plat.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None



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m. Consider a 30-day extension request for the Cibolo Trails preliminary plat.

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

Since Section 152.008 of our code of ordinances states the council has 30 days after the planning and zoning commission has taken action to accept or reject the commission's decision, and the planning and zoning commission met on December 23rd, we have received a 30-day extension request for the preliminary plat to avoid approval of the plat by inaction.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by Kevin Rinn to approve a 30-day extension request for the Cibolo Trails preliminary plat.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

n. Consider Resolution No. 615-2026 adopting an updated Investment Policy & Strategy for the City of Giddings, Texas.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. The investment policy and strategy for the City of Giddings provides guidelines for the investment of city funds and must be reviewed and adopted annually to maintain compliance with the Public Funds Investment Act. We have made no changes from last year's policy. For reference, our primary objectives are safety, liquidity, and yield.

A motion was made by City Council Member Lindas Pruitt and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey to adopt Resolution No. 615-2026 adopting an updated Investment Policy & Strategy for the City of Giddings, Texas.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

o. Consider 2025-2026 Appoints and Reappoints for City of Giddings Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Consider 2025-2026 Appoints and Reappoints for City of Giddings Boards, Commissions, and Committees. We currently have one opening on the Planning and Zoning Commission and have received an application included in your packet from Jason Snelgrove, the Lee County Emergency Management Coordinator, for a position on the commission. We also received an application from John Simmang for a position on the commission today.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Jacob Janda to appoint Jason Snelgrove to the Giddings Planning & Zoning Commission.



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A motion was made by City Council Member Jacob Janda and seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt to appoint Cory Harris to the Giddings Economic Development Board.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

p. Consideration and possible action to approve the City's list of required application materials for plat applications pursuant to Texas Local Government Code § 212.0081.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. After additional discussion with the City Attorney, we confirmed plat applications are required to comply with the City's adopted ordinances and subdivision regulations. When an application does not comply, the current process allows the applicant to request variances for consideration. We can add a completeness review as part of the plat application materials; however, this does not affect the statutory vesting date of an application. The vesting date remains the date the application is filed, regardless of compliance or completeness. Tyler has suggested we provide clarification regarding when an application is considered filed, and even provisions related to application expiration through future amendments to the zoning and subdivision ordinances. Any action on this item is for application materials, where we can add a completeness review, and we can bring any amendments to existing ordinances at a later time.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Kevin Rinn to approve the City's list of required application materials for plat applications pursuant to Texas Local Government Code § 212.0081.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

q. Consider public testimony regarding, and Ordinance No. 918 amending Chapter 10B Development Standards, Subchapter 7 Street System Standards, Section 711.3 of the Giddings Code of Ordinances regarding private street access requirements.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. Council previously updated street access requirements in section 702.3 of the development standards. This ordinance would make section 711.3 consistent with those changes.

A motion was made by City Council Member Linda Pruitt and seconded by City Council Member Jacob Janda to adopt Ordinance No. 918 amending Chapter 10B Development Standards, Subchapter 7 Street System Standards, Section 711.3 of the Giddings Code of Ordinances regarding private street access requirements.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes



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r. Consider Resolution No. 616-2026 authorizing the submittal of an application to the Texas Public Safety Office for the FY 2027 Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. This resolution is to apply for another Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant for the PD. One change needed to the resolution in your packet is to include Barbara Ashcraft as the financial official since the PSO does not allow one person to serve two roles on a grant.

A motion was made by City Council Member Kevin Rinn and seconded by City Council Member Jacob Janda to adopt 616-2026 authorizing the submittal of an application to the Texas Public Safety Office for the FY 2027 Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

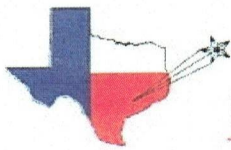
Nays: None

s. Consider discussion and possible action regarding the City's current code enforcement, permitting, and inspection processes, and consideration of potential alternatives, including third-party or outsourced inspection services.

Interim City Manager Heather Garner presented this to Mayor and City Council. The city has seen a significant increase in permitting activity and development in recent years. (About a 60% increase in annual permits alone over the last 10 years.) These responsibilities are currently handled by a two-person department that manages a wide range of duties, including permitting, inspections, planning-related items, code enforcement and compliance. In addition to the increased workload, we no longer have Spencer in office to rely for additional support. While the use of a third-party inspection service could provide short-term relief, it could also create scheduling challenges for local contractors and reduce the City's direct control over inspection timelines and consistency.

Based on current workload, and anticipated future development, we believe it would be reasonable to consider adding a third position to the department. Something we could accomplish in the next budget cycle.

NO ACTION TAKEN



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9) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. TxDot is hosting an in-person public meeting on Thursday, February 19th from 4:30 to 6:30 to discuss a proposed project to widen US Highway 77 from FM2440 to SH21 and to construct a new 10-foot-wide shared use path on the west side of 77 from West Independence St to Giddings High School.
- b. Environmental was just cleared for the Well 12 generator with the GLO Mit-Mod grant. We should see movement on procurement soon.
- c. Overall, things went well with our infrastructure during this winter storm. A couple minor outages that were quickly remedied.
- d. Construction will be scheduled soon to connect the raw water line from the new well to the ground water storage tank. Since water consumption still has not gone down, we will need to implement water restrictions during construction. The goal is to have the storage tank down for as short of time as possible, likely about 2 weeks. We will be discussing further with our engineers before a determination is made, but will likely go with Stage 3 restrictions, for a goal of 10% reduction in use, by designating watering days, limited to specific hours, by means of hand-held hoses, drip irrigation, or permanently installed sprinkler systems. (No hose end sprinklers.)

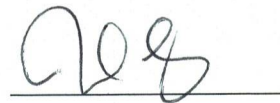
10) ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Joel Lopez adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Monday, January 27, 2026.

ATTEST:


Andrea Ray, City Secretary




Joel Lopez, Mayor