

City Manager
Darrell Pullin

City Secretary
D'Ann Lane

Financial Director
Shirley Holm

City Attorney
Epi Ysassi

City of George West



406 Nueces Street • George West, Texas 78022
Phone 361-449-1556 • Fax 361-449-3030

Mayor
Andrew J. Garza

Mayor Pro-Tem
Jearl Rannefeld

Council
Nathan Stroleny
David Ainsworth
John Walker

REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 1/22/2026

- I. Call Meeting to Order-**Mayor Andrew Garza called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Roll Call-**Roll call by City Secretary D'Ann Lane. Councilman David Ainsworth was absent.**
- III. Invocation-**Mayor Andrew Garza gave the invocation.**
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States-**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was led by D'Ann Lane.**
- V. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas-**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag was led by D'Ann Lane.**
- VI. Public Comments
NONE

- VII. Announcements and Correspondence
 - a) Applications for City Council Places 1 and 3 are available for pickup commencing January 14, 2026, and the deadline to file for a place on the ballot will be February 13, 2026.
 - b) The Live Oak County Fair Parade will be in Three Rivers this year on February 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
 - c) Live Oak County Fair Kick Off Concert February 28, 2026, featuring Chuck Briseno.
 - d) The Live Oak County Fair will be March 4, 2026-March 7, 2026.
 - e) Big Lou Day is happening today from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Cactus Park.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Consideration and Action** to change the time of the February City Council Regular Session Meeting to 5:00 p.m.
2. **Consideration and Action** to approve the following minutes:
 - a) **Regular Session City Council Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025.**
3. **Consideration and Action** to Issue Order of Election for the City Election to be held on May 2, 2026.

Consideración y Acción para emitir Orden de Elección y Aviso de Elección para la Elección de la ciudad que tendrá lugar 02 de Mayo de 2026.

4. **Consideration and Action** to hold a joint election with the George West Independent School District May 2, 2026.
5. **Consideration and Action** to approve the 2025 Racial Profiling Report.
6. **Consideration and Action** to approve Accounts Payable for December 2025.

Move as read by John Walker. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Mayor Andrew Garza asked if anything needed to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Nothing was pulled. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to suspend the rules. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by John Walker. Mayor Garza called for a vote. The rules were suspended with 2/3 vote. The council moved to agenda item #10.

RESOLUTIONS:

7. **Consideration and Action** to adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 authorizing the submission of a Texas Home Investment Partnerships Program Application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Move as read by Nathan Stroleny. Seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. This is the grant we apply for to build houses for qualifying citizens within the city limits. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

8. **Discussion** on Live Oak County Courthouse Parking Lot.

Live Oak County Commissioner's Lucio Morin and Mitchel Williams presented to the council what they intend to do with the back parking lot at the courthouse. Currently the parking lot at the courthouse is not even with other parking lots on that street. If this is granted the county does not see an issue in replacing infrastructure that would be under the new parking lot to help prevent damages to the new parking lot in the case of water leaks...etc. This project is not happening any time soon but just wanted to let the council know what they are planning to do.

The council went to agenda item #18.

9. **Discussion** on City of George West Personnel Manual.

The council agreed that this will have to be done at a workshop.

10. Discussion on Ol' Marbach School and the City of George West Contract for water supply.

Mayor Andrew Garza informed the other council members that we had a meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the Live Oak County Courthouse with members from Ol' Marbach and Live Oak County. In that meeting the City informed James Liska, Live Oak County Judge, that we had sent over a contract to Ol' Marbach but never received a response, the city would just like to know where they stand. Here today on behalf of Ol' Marbach is Judge Donnie Watkins, Scott Carroll, and David Magouirk as of now Ol' Marbach would like to purchase the facility for \$10.00 from the City of George West. The County would have the Right of First Refusal if the purchase was made as per the current contract. If Ol' Marbach were to purchase the facility it would absolve the city of all necessary maintenance on the facility. Ol' Marbach would have to answer to TCEQ, and the city would no longer be held liable for any violations. Currently, the city sells water to Ol' Marbach at a commercial rate, and Ol' Marbach would like to negotiate a rate that would be locked in for a certain amount of time. The Council is going to evaluate the current finances associated with Ol' Marbach and will discuss all options for the city.

The council moved to agenda item #8.

11. Discussion on the City of George West Drought Contingency Plan.

According to our Drought Contingency Plan we should be doing what the City of Corpus is doing.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to recess. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. All in favor. The council recessed at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to reconvene. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. All in favor. The council reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

The council decided to revisit this agenda item at a later date.

12. Discussion on the purchase of a specialized camera for inspecting sewer lines.

Darrell Pullin informed the council that a camera we could send down into the sewer lines would be beneficial to the city. It would allow the Public Works Department to see what is causing clogs...etc. And let them know what supplies/tools will be needed to fix the issues. Currently we have a lot of issues at TEXBest, one of our employees was hit when they were checking on a clog in the line due to build-up pressure. A camera with a line locator attached would let the employees know exactly where the line is and could help prevent further injuries.

- 13. Consideration and Action** to approve the remodeling of The George West Chamber of Commerce utilizing HOT FUNDS.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Mayor Garza was talking to Homer De La Cruz who was doing the work on the Chamber and was informed that most of the wood is completely rotted away. Mayor Garza spoke to Chamber Board Members at the Chamber Mixer, and they are asking if the City would allocate additional HOT FUNDS to finish remodeling the Chamber. Board Member Richard Galloway suggested the wood be replaced with hardie board and that it should last forever. The labor should cost around \$7,900.00, and the Hardie Board should be around \$18,000.00. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend agenda item #13 (by striking The George West Chamber of Commerce and inserting the Buck West House Visitor Center and at the end of HOT FUNDS add in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.) Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. All in favor amendment carried.

Amended agenda item #13 Consideration and Action to approve the remodeling of The Buck West House Visitor Center utilizing HOT FUNDS in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 14. Consideration and Action** to approve the raises reviewed by Shirley Holm, Financial Director for Jimi Guajardo and Zackariah Steele.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by John Walker. Jimi Guajardo has all his certifications needed for the Gas Department. Zackariah Steele just completed his 90-Day Probationary Period. Both employees are doing a great job at the yard. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

The council moved to financials. (See report below in briefings.)

- 15. Consideration and Action** to approve the purchase of (8) APX8500 ALL BAND MP MOBILE RADIOS and accessories from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$106,481.60, utilizing LONESTAR GRANT No. 4578504.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Open for discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 16. Consideration and Action** to approve the purchase of the COPsync License from KOLOGIK commencing 01/20/2026 and ending 01/19/2027 in the amount of \$13,200.00 for the George West Police Department.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Open for discussion. This is done every year. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 17. Consideration and Action** to direct Nathaniel Valverde, Chief of Police, to create a new Patrol Officer Position for the City of George West.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Open for discussion. As of right now there is only (1) Patrol Officer on duty at all times. When that one has to come in to do a report there is nobody on the street. Chief Nathaniel Valverde would like to have at least (2) Patrol Officers on duty at all times. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 18. Consideration and Action** to approve Shirley Holm, Financial Director to attend the STX Days in Washington, D.C. for District 15, February 9– 10, 2026 to engage in legislative meetings, policy panels, and networking opportunities regarding Texas interest in Washington, D.C. to include the Community Funding Program's for FY 2027.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Open for discussion. Shirley Holm, Financial Director, informed the council that this conference would be 1-2 days of speakers and meeting regarding opportunities to meet with Congresswoman, Monica De La Cruz, and various top executives of Federal Government Agencies regarding our needs, legislature updates, and funding opportunities. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

The council went back to agenda item #14.

- 19. Consideration and Action** to approve Nathaniel Valverde, Chief of Police, to attend the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) 67th Annual Conference from March 30-April 2, 2026, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Open for discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 20. Consideration and Action** to convene into EXECUTIVE SESSION. In accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code (Personnel Matters), the City Council may go into executive session to discuss the following:

- a) Discussion on Council Appointed Positions.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Mayor Garza called for a vote. The council entered into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

21. RECONVENE

ZOOM ID: 824 5187 7962

ZOOM PW: 801634

Mayor Andrew Garza entertained a motion to reconvene. Move as read by Nathan Stroleny. Seconded by John Walker. All in favor. The Council reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

BRIEFINGS:

22. City Manager and Financial Director's Report:

- a) Revenue and Expense Report for December 2025.
- b) City and Project Updates

For the City Manager's Report Darrell Pullin reported that we had a Railroad Commission Audit from the 12th-14th and we had minor violations. Dobie Dichos sent a thank you letter to the city for helping with HOT FUNDS. The city is getting prepared for the upcoming cold weather we will be having this weekend. We have 2 generators on standby if needed for well #3 and the wastewater plant. The school has stated that if needed citizens can use the primary cafeteria as a warming center. City Manager Darrell Pullin has training from January 28, 2026-January 30, 2026.

Shirley Holm, Financial Director gave the financial reports for December 2025. The General Fund is 13% above budget plan for Revenue, and the Expenditures are exactly according to budgeted plan with no variance. The Utility Fund is according to budget plan with no variances, and the Expenditures are 8% below budget plan. These are acceptable. The General Fund and Utility Funds combined are at a positive amount of \$ 510,955. The bank balances are \$2,123,861. Interest earned on investments is \$ 2,925 for year to date. Sales tax is currently averaging \$ 85,967, which is slightly above. The Downtown Revitalization Block Grant CDM25-0567 applied for in March 2025 was awarded for \$1,000,000 on 12/26/2025. Timelines will be reported at the February 2026 City Council Meeting. City Council asked for some current alcohol tax reports from the State Comptroller's Office for transparency purposes.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to reinstate the rules. Move as read by Nathan Stroleny. Seconded by John Walker. All in favor. Motion carried and the rules were reinstated.

The council moved up to agenda item #7.

23. Questions or Briefings at the City Council's Request:

- a) Code Enforcement
- b) Municipal Court Report
- c) Public Works
- d) Police Chief Report
- e) Animal Control
- f) Live Oak County Volunteer Medical Response Team 1

24. Adjournment.

ATTEST: _____
D'Ann Lane, City Secretary

SIGNED: _____
Andrew Garza, Mayor