City of Grand Saline
City Council
318 Saline Street, Grand Saline, Tx 75140
October 21, 2025
6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

1. **Call To Order and Announce a Quorum Is/Is Not Present**
   - ✔ Tommy Davis
   - ✔ Scott Gorby
   - ✔ Amanda Greer, Mayor Pro Tempore
   - ✔ Brian Milliorn
   - ✔ Kathy Smith, Mayor
   - ✔ Scott Snodgrass

   Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members were in attendance. A quorum was present.

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flag**

   Scott Snodgrass led the invocation. Mayor led the pledge of allegiances.

3. **Approve the minutes of previous meetings:**
   a. Special Called Meeting and Budget Workshop of September 22, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
   b. Special Called Meeting of September 22, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

   Motion to approve all minutes of September 22, 2025 made by Scott Gorby.
   Second by Tommy Davis
   Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approve Monthly Financial Reports for the month of September 2025.**

   Discussion regarding cost of items, bids, journal entries and new format of reporting.

   Motion to approve September 2025 financials made by Brian Milliorn.
   Second by Scott Snodgrass
   Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Departmental Reports**

A. EDC/Main Street	D. Fire Marshal	G. Library
B. Salt Palace	E. Municipal Court	H. Police Dept./Code Enforcement
C. Fire Dept/EMS	F. Public Works	I. Parks & Recreation

   - Department leaders provided brief reports of activities occurring since the last council meeting report.

- Fire Department has reached their annual average of calls already. Fire Department is on track to reach 800 calls this year.
- Fire Marshall assisting potential business moving to town and assisting with a dangerous building.
- Court is business and intaking new tickets from Code Enforcement.
- Public works addressed the High Street construction. The sewer and culvert work is complete. Paving to begin early November.
- The library is well utilized and a good community resource.
- Code Enforcement is actively enforcing city enforcement efforts.
- Applications are being taken for the Parks & Recreation Board.

6. City Administrator's Report

- Administrator addressed the city software being difficult.
- The bid opening grant for sewer upgrades was postponed to November 2, to get more bids.
- Grant Works is assisting with a revitalization grant for downtown.

7. Public Participation:

Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.007, members of the public may speak on an agenda item during the Public Participation section of the meeting or at the time the agenda item is called for discussion by the mayor. Speakers shall be given three (3) minutes to speak. A speaker needing a translator and/or interpreter may be given six (6) minutes to speak. Criticism of city employees or staff shall be allowed, but only after all administrative remedies have been exhausted regarding any such complaint giving rise to the criticism. Those wishing to address the Council regarding an item not on the agenda must be a citizen, property owner or business owner of Grand Saline. Comments on such non-agenda items shall be limited to three minutes. The Council will not comment on or take any action on items not on the agenda; however, the Council may choose to place the item on a future agenda.

- Nanci Ralph, 181 VZ CR 1900, Fruitvale, Texas 661-305-2561 addressed the council regarding the Salt Museum moving forward and requesting assistance from Morton Salt.
- Krista Neal, 204 Main Street, Grand Saline, Texas 903-203-4557 addressed the council regarding the potential demolition of 200 Main Street and posed questions regarding its potential impact to her property and the business of Southern Roots, as well as its employees. Fire Marshall will provide some answers to questions at the time the matter is on the agenda.
- David Cox, 411 N. Norman, Grand Saline, Texas 214-6017-6849 addressed council regarding hearsay of residency of Scott Gorby.

8. <u>The Following Will Be Discussed, Approved/Accepted/Rejected, Or Tabled for Further Study:</u>

a. Discussion and consider action to **award the bid** for the City of Grand Saline Sewer Improvements – Replacement of Collection System Lines & WWTP Improvements to J2 Construction Services LLC, the low-bidder.

Jeffrey Smtih, Project Manager spoke to support the award and shared their efforts to screen companies.

Motion to award the bid for the City of Grand Saline Sewer Improvements – Replacement of Collection System Lines & WWTP Improvements to J2 Construction Services LLC, the low-bidder, J2 Construction, made by Amanda Greer.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

b. Richard Garza of the **North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region D)** to address council regarding future water needs and potential opportunities.

Garza provided detailed information regarding water supply in Van Zandt County. Deficits expected in the future. Encourages the building of a water well sooner rather than later (estimated cost $1.3M). Shared opportunity to work with Sabine River Authority with the need for a pipeline to access surface water. Will provide names to assist with grants.

7:06 p.m.

c. Discussion and consider action to pay **Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. invoice** in the amount of $8,160.00 for services rendered September 2025 and to authorize future payments for services rendered up to the total fee of $408,000.

Motion to pay **Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. invoice** in the amount of $8,160.00 for services rendered September 2025 and to authorize future payments for services rendered up to the total fee of $408,000, made by Tommy Davis.
Second by Brian Milliorn
Motion carried unanimously.

d. Discussion and consider action to revise an Ordinance number to inaccurately properly sequencing: Ordinance 2025-114 adopted September 16, 2025, amending Ordinance 2017-107 (pet registration) should be numbered **Ordinance 2025-116**.

Motion to revise Ordinance Number to 2025-116 made by Brian Milliorn.
Second by Scott Gorby
Motion carried unanimously.

e. Consider and take action to approve **Ordinance 2025-117** accepting the 2021 International Building Code as approved August 22, 2025.

Motion to approve Ordinance Number to 2025-117 made by Scott Snodgrass.
Second by Brian Milliorn
Motion carried unanimously.

f. Consider and take action to approve **Ordinance 2025-118** accepting the 2025-2026 Budget as adopted September 22, 2025.

Motion to approve Ordinance Number to 2025-118 made by Brian Milliorn
Second by Scott Gorby
Motion carried unanimously.

g. Consider and take action to approve **Ordinance 2025-119** accepting the 2025-2026 Tax Rate as adopted September 22, 2025.

Motion to approve Ordinance Number to 2025-119 made by Scott Snodgrass.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

h. Consider and take action to approve **Ordinance 2025-120** allowing the Fire Marshall to issue Certificates of Occupancy as adopted August 22, 2025.

Motion to approve Ordinance Number to 2025-120 made by Amanda Greer.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

i. Discussion and consider action to adopt **Ordinance 2025-121** to finalize the process for property purchased by AMR and Company LLC, in January, 2024 and previously approved by council.

Motion to approve Ordinance Number to 2025-121 made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Brian Milliorn
Motion carried unanimously.

j. Discussion and consider action to adopt **Resolution 2025-17** for procurement policies and procedures for the GLO Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CBDG-MIT) Resilient Communities Program (RCP).

Motion to approve Resolution Number to 2025-17 made by Amanda Greer.
Second by Scott Gorby
Motion carried unanimously.

k. Discussion and consider action to adopt **Resolution 2025-18** for the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Administrator.

Motion to approve Resolution Number to 2025-18 made by Brian Milliorn.
Second by Brian Milliorn
Motion carried unanimously.

l. Discussion and consider action to adopt a 3% Cost of Living Salary Adjustment (**COLA**) for all city employees.

Motion to approve COLA raises made by Tommy Davis.
Second by Scott Gorby
Motion carried unanimously.

m. Discussion and consider action to adopt the City of Grand Saline Economic Development Corporation (**EDC**) **2025-2026 Budget**.

Motion to approve 2025-2026 EDC budget made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Brian Milliorn
Motion carried unanimously.

n. Discussion and consider action to provide payment of Invoice from **Tyndell Electric** in the amount to $12,560.19 for repairs made to the building located at 103 N. Main Street.

No action taken. Bill was paid by the EDC.

o. Discussion and consider action to adopt the **2026 Holidays** Observed by the City of Grand Saline.

Motion to approve 2026 Holiday Schedule made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

p. Discussion and consider action to approve the authority of the city administrator to temporarily **close city** hall for special circumstances/events.

Motion to approve authority of city administrator to close city hall made by Tommy Davis.
Second by Scott Gorby
Motion carried unanimously.

q. Discussion and consider action to adopt **Resolution 2025-19** appointing city administrator, Sonya Bishop, and city secretary, Julie Fisher, as authorized TexPool representatives.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-19 made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

r. Councilman **Scott Gorby** to address council regarding the actions of Mayor Kathy Smith pertaining to his legal residency within the city limits, legal standing, and related professional concerns.

Councilman addressed council with history of questions by mayor to him regarding the location of his home. Gorby's property lies part in the city limits and part in the county. Legal opinions, Texas Municipal League advise, and verbal testimony of former city secretary were heard in favor of Gorby's participation on the city council. Citizens questioned the cost the city incurred in consulting the city attorney. Mayor verbalized that rules were conflicting and she addresses all concerns of citizens. Councilmembers expressed the need to move on as no action was requested.

8:01 p.m.

s. **Executive Session** –
   a. **Executive Session** – Under Gov. Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to acknowledge receipt of, deliberate about, and determine actions to be taken regarding a grievance filed by Judge Beverley Pearson against Mayor Kathy Smith in response to concerns brought to council.

Council returned from executive session (a) at 8:43 p.m.

Motion to acknowledge receipt of grievance filed by Judge Beverley Pearson against Mayor Kathy Smith and to take no further action made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

Council returns to executive session to discuss real property at 8:47 p.m.

b. **Executive Session** - Under Gov. Code 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property) deliberate, evaluate, and take possible action on EDC real estate acquisition(s) and/or potential forfeiture of rental property.
c. **Executive Session** - Under Gov. Code 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property) deliberate, evaluate, and take possible action regarding 204 North Main Street, Grand Saline, Texas 75140.

Council returned from executive session (b) and (c) at 8:43 p.m.

Motion for the EDC to move forward with attaining an appraisal for the 'Blue Chamber Building' located at 203 Pacific Street, Grand Saline Texas made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Amanda Greer
Motion carried unanimously.

Clarification made by City Administrator that the appraisal will be at the cost of the EDC.
EDC acknowledged.

10. Council Comments/Future Agenda Items:

a. Discussion and consider if the council desires to adopt a Resolution to place its vote for the Appraisal District's Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term. The city has 77 votes available. The following Appraisal Board Members are eligible and willing to serve another term:
   (1) C.W. Wilson, Jr. (Wills Point),
   (2) Kyle Thompson (Grand Saline), and
   (3) Clay Nicklas (Canton).
   Ballot with complete list of nominations to be received by October 30, 2025.

Council request to add to November meeting the following:

- Buildings located at 101 Main and 103 Main Street.
- Projected timeline for EDC real estate matters and exploration of any legal restrictions.

Previously noted when discussing administrator's report:

- Grade-all payment

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. made by Scott Gorby.
Second by Tommy Davis
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

Kathy Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Fisher, City Secretary