

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL WINTER WORKSHOP
STAFF TRAINING ROOM – 1st FLOOR
447 North Main Street
Boerne, TX 78006
FEBRUARY 10, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Minutes of the Special Called City Council Meeting, Winter Workshop of February 10, 2026.

Present: **6 -** Mayor Frank Ritchie, Mayor Pro Tem Ty Wolosin, Council Member Joe Bateman, Council Member Kyle Mickelsen, Council Member Bret A. Bunker, and Council Member Joseph Macaluso

Staff Present: Ben Thatcher, Mike Brinkmann, Sarah Buckelew, Jeff Carroll, Lori Carroll, Manny Casarez, Nathan Crane, Susan Finch, Nick Montagno, Terry Nolan, Steve Perez, Mike Raute, Natalie Shults, Chris Shadrock, Larry Woods, and Danny Zincke.

Recognized/Registered Guests: Milan Michalec and Heather Bateman

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 PM

Mayor Ritchie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Ritchie provided the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and to the Texas Flag.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were received.

3. WELCOME AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Mayor Ritchie called on City Manager Thatcher. City Manager Thatcher emphasized the importance of discussing strategic policy priorities and key initiatives, noting that the workshop provides Council with the opportunity to offer direction that will guide staff operations and planning throughout the fiscal year. He stated that the workshop marks the official start of the City's annual budget development process, with Director Buckelew presenting an overview of the proposed budget calendar and outlining major strategic milestones for the upcoming year. Director Carroll will also provide brief updates regarding ongoing traffic and pedestrian safety planning efforts.

4. DISCUSSION: LEVERAGING SS4A GRANT FUNDING TO ADVANCE PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY PLANS

Director Jeff Carroll provided an update on the City's participation in the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) federal grant program. The City is entering its fifth year in the program and is currently in the planning and implementation phase under an awarded planning grant. A key component of the grant is the development of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The process began in April 2023. The City applied for the planning grant in March 2024 and was officially awarded funding in December 2024. As part of the effort to improve overall safety-particularly in the downtown area-all crash reports from 2020 through 2024 were analyzed. During that period, 2,342 crashes were reported, including 36 fatal and serious injury crashes, and 24 pedestrian/bike related total crashes. The data analysis identified several trends and contributing factors:

49% of crashes occurred at intersections.

80% occurred on TxDOT roadways.

1% involved bicyclists or pedestrians.

"High-Injury" network, a geospatial identification of higher-risk areas, a way to prioritize projects and future improvements, 73% of crashes occurred on just 15% of this roadway network. There were 1,721 crashes within the last five years which were located on the High-Injury Network.

Director Carroll outlined the extensive community engagement conducted as

part of the planning process, including Safety Task Force meetings, community pop-up events, a public survey, and Intersection Safety Assessments. The City has also launched an online Boerne Safety Dashboard to provide public access to crash data and mapping tools. Pedestrian-related crashes within the downtown area were mapped to identify concentration areas and guide mitigation strategies. He discussed strategies related to parking management, downtown operations, and safety improvements, as well as targeted recommendations for intersection projects, corridor projects, and systemic safety improvements. Proposed countermeasures address intersection safety, roadway and lane departure incidents, and pedestrian/bicyclist safety enhancements.

Next steps include presenting a draft Safety Action Plan to Council on March 10, followed by consideration of a resolution in May. Upon adoption, the plan will be published online. Discussion ensued regarding making projects shovel ready helps get grants, possibility of changing school start times to alleviate traffic, parking on Main Street, and providing additional ways for pedestrians to safely cross Main Street.

5. DISCUSSION: BUDGETING PROCESS PREVIEW – ANNUAL CALENDAR, STRATEGIC MILESTONES, AND UPCOMING COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Director Buckelew discussed the deliberate and methodical approach staff utilizes in development of the City's annual budget. She reviewed the City's strategic management system and overall budget cycle, including framework components, statutory requirements, guiding principles, and the structured, disciplined process used to ensure fiscal responsibility and policy alignment. She also provided an overview of zero-based budgeting and how that methodology is being incorporated to evaluate departmental expenditures from the ground up, rather than relying solely on incremental increases. Key policy and financial considerations for the upcoming fiscal year may include: Potential implementation of an equipment replacement fund to formalize lifecycle planning and capital asset management; Possible debt issuances tied to Capital Improvement Projects; the opportunity to increase the City's contribution rate to the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) from 7% to 8%; and operational and maintenance impacts associated with opening a new park facility. Director Buckelew reviewed the proposed budget calendar and invited Council feedback regarding last year's budget process-specifically what

worked well and where improvements could be made. She also asked whether there are any particular policy priorities or considerations Council would like incorporated into this year's budget planning. Discussion followed regarding the effectiveness and value of the individual Council budget meetings scheduled for June and July, including how those discussions can best support transparency, collaboration, and strategic alignment prior to formal budget adoption.

6. DISCUSSION: COUNCIL STRATEGIC REFLECTION ON CITY PERFORMANCE, EMERGING ISSUES, AND FUTURE FOCUS AREAS

City Manager Thatcher led the City Council in a facilitated strategic reflection exercise designed to solicit input regarding the City's strengths, threats, challenges, and opportunities. The exercise was intended to inform future policy direction and organizational priorities. He stated that a comprehensive summary of the discussion, including key themes and findings, will be compiled and presented to the City Council at a future meeting.

7. DISCUSSION: STRATEGY MAP REVIEW AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT CHECK

City Manager Thatcher displayed a copy of the City's Strategy Map and encouraged Council Members to review it carefully. He asked that they take time to reflect on how effectively the Strategy Map is guiding the City's priorities and operations, and to provide feedback regarding its overall functionality, clarity, and alignment with Council goals. He also invited suggestions for revisions or improvements that could strengthen its usefulness as a strategic planning tool.

8. CLOSING & NEXT STEPS

City Manager Thatcher stated that the strategic matrix developed during the exercise will be formally transcribed and distributed to Council Members. He noted that the compiled matrix will serve as a reference document to help inform priorities and guide decision-making throughout the upcoming budget development process.

9. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL – No discussion or action may take place.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Approved:

Mayor

Attest:

City Secretary