



The City Council convened in **Special** Session in the Bush Convention Center, Midland, Texas, at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Council Members present: John Burkholder, Amy Stretcher Burkes, Robin Poole, Lori Blong, Brian Stubbs, Jack Ladd, John Norman

Council Members absent: None

Staff members present: City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager Jose Ortiz, City Governance Officer/City Secretary Marcia Bentley-German, Deputy City Secretary Jan Hamilton, Engineering Services Director Gabe McClelland, Planning & Development Officer Elizabeth Triggs, Chief of Staff Taylor Novak, Interim Police Chief Greg Snow, Interim Fire Chief Michael Tully

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

SPECIAL SESSION

1. Hold a community forum for the public discussion regarding City projects and priorities related to the following: streets, roads, and water infrastructure; water supply and resources; parks and recreation; community services; public health and safety; land use and development; economic development; airports; technology; solid waste management; real property acquisition and disposition; and oil and gas development and regulation. The Midland City Council will take no vote or action on this matter.

Mayor Blong provided opening remarks and asked if the Council Members would like to make remarks. Each Council Member introduced themselves and thanked everyone for attending the Town Hall meeting. Council Member Poole provided heartfelt words about each Council Member, civility and public discourse.

Robin Campbell, 110 Ridglea, spoke on investigative journalism and the need for it in Midland.

Paula Morris, 3300 Mariana Avenue, questioned selective code enforcement, tax payer funds and issues with fines. City Manager Tommy Gonzalez addressed Ms. Morris's question regarding code enforcement.

Scott Stearns, 4101 Crestgate Avenue, questioned voting machines changing votes.

Interim City Attorney Nicholas Toulet-Crump informed Mr. Stearns that the city contracts with the county for elections and has nothing to do with voting machines.

Joy Paulson of Keep Midland Beautiful thanked the City of Midland for their support.

Nino Rodriguez, 1101 South Johnston, asked about Costco, tax dollars and the financial condition of Midland.

Council Member Burkholder spoke on representative government.

Mayor Pro Tem Poole spoke on open meetings for all the taxing entities.

Council Member Ladd gave praise to Eliel Rosa about having the evening town hall meetings.

Nevil Payton, 2624 Delano, thanked Council for the Town Hall.

Stanley Smith, 4903 Granite Lane, reported the City needs to reevaluate the quality of life in Midland. Mr. Smith also spoke on city ordinances and codes.

Eliel Rosa, 3603 Humble Avenue, thanked Council for the Town Hall and reported these are the voices the Council doesn't hear at the 10:00 a.m. meetings.

Judd Campbell, 110 Ridglea Drive, spoke on a trust issue and no accountability in the city. Mr. Campbell asked that the taxing entities hold each other accountable.

Andrew Sterns, 5614 Rio Grande, asked about the Mayor running on being fiscally responsible and the city being in debt, lower taxes. Mr. Sterns also inquired about what's being done about the City Staff that trespassed and took signs with no accountability.

Council Member Norman reported if citizens feel a crime has been committed, they are welcome to file charges.

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, addressed Mr. Sterns questions and spoke on right of ways.

Donna Kelly, 5702 San Saba Avenue, thanked Council and spoke from the heart about leaving a legacy for the children of Midland. Ms. Kelly spoke on transparency and honesty. Mayor Blong reported that the Council does hear her.

Laurie Clarke, 5728 Grassland Blvd, reported she is the homeowner that had signs removed from her yard and inquired about who gave the directive to remove the signs. Ms. Clarke spoke about the State of Midland and how she felt that Midland College was endorsed.

Al Telck, 4321 Mercedes, spoke on several items from police making arrests, animal shelter to Council Members not returning emails.

William Dodson, 6011 San Bernard Drive, thanked Council for having this town hall and spoke on the Midland College Bond.

Matt Freeze, 1512 Douglas Avenue, reported he feels like the Midland Chamber is abusing the funds provided to them by the Hotel/Motel fund. Mr. Freeze also spoke on elections and conflicts of interest. Mayor Blong addressed some of Mr. Freeze's concerns.

Terry Garrett, 1605 McDonald Street, spoke on roads and potholes not being fixed, corruption and would like to know what happened with the campaign signs. Mr. Garrett reported the Mayor should find out and notify the public.

Carie McNeil, 4216 Greenbriar, reported she is appreciative of living in one of the few municipalities that puts aside funds in the water bill. Ms. McNeil reviewed real estate numbers and feels like the tax payers are an ATM for wish lists.

Amy Bradley, 1613 East Maple, thanked Council for the work they do. On behalf of Animal Services, Ms. Bradley appealed to others to assist. Ms. Bradley also encourages everyone to go through Midland 101 to learn more about how the city operates.

Margie Smith, 4511 Irwin Court, spoke about the healthcare industry and would like to know how the City will handle a measles outbreak.

Council Member Burkholder also endorsed Midland 101 and serving on Boards and Commissions.

All the business at hand having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED May 27, 2025.

Lori Blong, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marcia Bentley-German
City Governance Officer/City Secretary