

**MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 13, 2025**



The City Council convened in regular session in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Midland, Texas, at 9:00 a.m., August 13, 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, Deputy City Manager Morris Williams Jr., Deputy City Manager Jose Ortiz, City Governance Officer/City Secretary Marcia Bentley-German, Interim City Attorney Nicholas Toulet-Crump

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2025-115 – RESOLUTION RECORDING A VOTE ON A PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER AN AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND TO ESTABLISH A DATE TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE; ESTABLISHING DATES WHEN THERE WILL BE A RECORD VOTE ON THE TAX RATE; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO POST ALL APPROPRIATE NOTICES **(DISTRICT: NONE) (FINANCE) (PROVIDE SOUND GOVERNANCE & FISCAL MANAGEMENT)**

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez gave a brief overview of the budget meeting and what to expect with regard to the budget process.

Mayor Pro Tem Poole spoke about the annual percentage increase outpacing inflation and not being sustainable. City Manager Tommy Gonzalez reported he has consulted with staff and is doing something about it.

Chief Financial Officer Christy Weakland provided a detailed presentation of the City of Midland budget.

Planning & Development Officer Elizabeth Triggs provided a presentation on Goal One (Strong Economy with More Quality Jobs). Mrs. Triggs reviewed vision block connections, strategic alignment and covered Airports & Development Services.

Managing Director of Public Safety Chuck Blumenauer and Police Chief Greg Snow reviewed Goal Two (Set the Standard for a Safe and Secure City). They reported on the High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA), Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) Center, Animal Shelter, Health Department and Code Enforcement.

Planning & Development Officer Elizabeth Triggs reported on Goal Three (Quality of Life and Place for Recruitment and Retention). Mrs. Triggs reported on the Parks and Recreation general fund, golf course, sports complex and parks oil and gas.

Chief of Staff Taylor Novak & Chief Information Officer Gorgees Eskander reported on Goal Four (Transparent & Consistent Communication). They reviewed the Vision Block Connections, Strategic/Organizational Alignment, Information Technology Services and FY 2026 Priorities, public-facing dashboards, use of AI to support long-term urban planning, creating a digital twin of Midland, upgrade of the fire dispatch alerting system and updating IT policies.

Ms. Novack, reported on Strategic Communications, social media growth and reach, Alert Midland (geofencing), improved ratings on external platforms, more proactive and deliberate messaging, video production, public service announcements and proactive communication.

Deputy City Manager Morris Williams Jr., Chief Financial Officer Christy Weakland and Assistant Human Relations and Development Manager, Nicole Weaverling reported on Goal Five; Provide Sound Governance and Fiscal Management, Zero Findings on audit, Human Relations and Development, creation of the in-house CDL program, City-wide awards, recognitions, recruiting and retaining a skilled and diverse workforce.

Utilities Director Carl Craigo and Engineering Services Director Gabriel McClelland reported on Goal Six; (Strengthen and Sustain our Infrastructure). Mr. Craigo reported on the need to provide reliable and sustainable utilities, secured long-term water supply flexibility and cost savings. Mr. Craigo reported on the leak detection program for system longevity, the expansion of the pressure monitoring network, delivering services timely and efficiently and environmental compliance. Mr. Craigo also reported that water main breaks are decreasing and repairs are down from 206 to 150.

Engineering Services Director Gabriel McClelland reported that Solid Waste litter and large item collection increased; collecting 360 tons of litter.

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez reported the current tax rate is .348662 and they are recommending .347999 for the tax rate ceiling.

The entire presentation may be heard at www.midlandtexas.gov.

John Norman moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-115; seconded by Jack Ladd.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYE: Burkholder, Stretcher Burkes, Poole, Blong, Stubbs, Ladd, Norman

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

All the business at hand having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED September 9, 2025.

Lori Blong, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marcia Bentley-German
City Governance Officer/City Secretary