



# City of Fredericksburg

City Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 ~ 9:00 AM  
New City Hall at East Campus  
2818 E. U.S. Hwy. 290  
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

## City Council:

Jeryl Hoover, Mayor  
Emily Kirchner, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Tony Klein, Councilmember  
Todd Eidson, Councilmember  
Bobby Watson, Councilmember

## City Staff:

Clinton Bailey, City Manager  
Garret Bonn, Asst. City Manager  
Leticia Vacek, City Secretary  
Mick McKamie, City Attorney  
Cliff Cross, Director, Development Services  
Kris Kneese, Public Works/Utilities Director  
Krista Wareham, Finance Director  
Brian Vorauer, Police Chief  
Lynn Bizzell, Chief Fire/EMS  
Andrea Schmidt, Parks/Recreation Director  
Sean Doerre, Public Information Officer  
Aaron Anderegg, IT Director  
Tyler Hooper, Asst. Director of Finance  
Brandon Gold, Assistant IT Director  
Cody Oris, IT Specialist  
Alyssa Rivera, PD Outreach Specialist

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoover called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present.

### 2. INVOCATION

Ernesto Illingworth, Pastor at the Seventh Day Adventist Church delivered the invocation.

### 3. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hoover led the Pledges.

#### **4. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Eidson shared he attended Fun After Five, met with the three vice presidents of the CVB, and attended the open ceremonies for the Book Festival Friday night and met many wonderful authors. He also attended a meeting with Habitat for Humanity representatives to discuss possibilities for affordable housing. Lastly, January 19<sup>th</sup> he attended the Chamber meeting.

Councilmember Klein reported that the burn ban has been extended. He also noted the County has issued a stop order to the Harper Battery Facility. He added the County will meet again to discuss it further.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner reported that she attended Fun After Five and the Book Festival. She noted that many of the attendees of the Fun After Five event are requesting HOT Funding and are very involved and doing great things for the community.

Councilmember Watson shared he attended the Fun After Five event as well. He also met with the three vice presidents of the CVB. He plans to attend the Airport Board Meeting later today and announced that the Texas Forest Service will be breaking ground on their new building at the airport today.

Mayor Hoover asked staff if this would be the last meeting in the current room at the new city hall. Garret Bonn, Asst. City Manager replied they are hoping to be in the new Chamber location by February 3, 2026.

#### **5. CONSENT**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MAY BE ACTED UPON IN A SINGLE MOTION. NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OR ACTION ON ANY OF THESE ITEMS WILL BE HELD UNLESS PULLED AT THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.**

- A. Consider approval of City Council Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting held January 6, 2026. (Leticia Vacek, City Secretary)
- B. Consider the approval of three parades held in 2026 within the City (Jennifer Krupa, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Special Events Coordinator)
  - i. Fourth of July Parade on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street
  - ii. Gillespie County Fair Parade on Friday, August 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street, and
  - iii. Light the Night Christmas Parade on Friday, December 4, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. on Main Street, with an inclement weather date of Friday, December 11, 2026
- C. Consider the approval of a street closure request for W. Austin Street, from N. Crockett to N. Adams from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the 7th Annual City Hall Open House & Touch-A-Truck event scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026 (Jennifer Krupa, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Special Events Coordinator).

- D. Consider the approval of a street closure request for the Fredericksburg Jaycees Crawfish Festival scheduled for Memorial Day weekend beginning Friday, May 22, 2026, until Sunday, May 24, 2026, for the following closure dates, times and streets:
- N. Adams Street - close the parking lane and one southbound lane adjacent to Marktplatz beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026, and reopening at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2026; and
  - W. Austin Street - close the entire street from N. Crockett to N. Adams Street, beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026, and reopening at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2026 (Jennifer Krupa, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Special Events Coordinator).
- E. Consider the approval of a street closure request for W. Austin Street, from N. Crockett to N. Adams from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. for Fredericksburg's Wildflower 5K/10K Run & Walk scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2026, (Jennifer Krupa, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Special Events Coordinator).
- F. Consider the approval of a street closure request for W. Austin Street, from N. Adams Street to N. Crockett Street from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Marktplatz (Jennifer Krupa, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Special Events Coordinator).

Councilmember Klein moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## 6. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Consideration and adoption of Ordinance 2026-01 repealing Ordinance 5-018 (adopted on April 24, 1990) related to Horse Drawn Carriages. (Leticia Vacek, City Secretary)

Leticia Vacek presented the ordinance repealing the existing ordinance providing for horse drawn carriages. Should the Council desire to continue same, insurance limits, application, etc. would require updating. She was asked of the applicants for horse drawn carriages. Mrs. Vacek cited that because Main Street is not owned and maintained by the City; the applicants are guided to TxDOT for Main Street use approval and they never return. She added that utilization of our back streets would cause congestion.

Councilmember Klein moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-01 repealing Ordinance 5-018 (adopted on April 24, 1990) related to Horse Drawn Carriages. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

- B. Consideration and adoption of Ordinance 2026-02 amending Article II. Peddlers, Solicitors, and Canvassers updating regulations required. (Brian Vorauer, Chief of Police)

Police Chief Vorauer presented the revised peddlers and solicitors' ordinance stating there are changes which include permit updates, insurance requirements, among others. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner asked that the ID card provided to the solicitors not read "City of Fredericksburg" as they are misleading.

Councilmember Watson moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-02 amending Article II. Peddlers, Solicitors, and Canvassers updating required regulations. Councilmember Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Consideration and adoption of Ordinance 2026-03 Establishing Fees for Use of The Community Room at City Hall (Garret Bonn, Assistant City Manager)

Garret Bonn presented multiple slides which included the new room floor plan and a rental fee comparison chart. He recommended approval of up to 80 attendees in a banquet-style setting available during normal business days and hours at \$100.00 for Gillespie County residents/non-profits and \$200.00 for non-residents/for profit groups up to four hours.

Annette Bennett asked if the rental fee ordinance affects political campaigning. The answer was no; it does not.

Councilmember Watson moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-03 Establishing Fees for Use of The Community Room at City Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. Consideration and adoption of Ordinance 2026-04 amending the Animal Control Ordinance and Fee Schedule. (Braxton Roemer, Special Services Lieutenant)

Chief Vorauer shared the primary reason for amendment to the ordinance is due to the increase in veterinary costs. Councilmember Eidson made note of Section 4-16 Livestock in the ordinance which refers to the horse drawn carriages. Mrs. Vacek stated that it would be struck due to the passage of Ordinance 2026-01.

Councilmember Klein moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-04 amending the Animal Control Ordinance and Fee Schedule. Councilmember Eidson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- E. Consider the approval of Resolution 2026-01 for the purchase of Tasers through the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Grant Program (Alyssa Rivera, Community Outreach Liaison).

Alyssa Rivera, shared that the Police Department is requesting approval to submit for grant funding from the Office of the Governor. She noted 100% of grant funds would be used to purchase 15 new tasers to improve officer safety.

Councilmember Klein moved to approve Resolution 2026-01 for the purchase of Tasers through the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Grant Program. Councilmember Watson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- F. Consider the approval of Resolution 2026-02 Formally Opposing the Proposed Marshall Springs Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System Project in Gillespie County. (Mick McKamie, City Attorney)

Mick McKamie, City Attorney explained he drafted the Resolution stating formal opposition to the proposed Marshall Springs Battery Storage site. Some of the issues relate to the impact of emergency services and groundwater storage, severe damage to community as well as toxic chemicals.

Councilmember Klein moved to approve Resolution 2026-02 Formally Opposing the Proposed Marshall Springs Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System Project in Gillespie County. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner seconded the motion requesting that everyone read the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hoover recognized George Studor who asked that the city initiate a risk assessment and asked what are all the risks that the facilities produce. He suggested going further to see what impact the facilities have on individuals and neighborhoods and how to mitigate the overall risks.

Mayor Hoover asked George Studor to reference the PowerPoint that Chief Bizzell made a presentation to the Council a few meetings ago regarding the impact that these facilities have on emergency services and the surrounding communities.

## **7. OTHER ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES**

- A. Consideration and Possible Action Relating to a Request by Gillespie County 4-H for the Purple Martin Conservation Project (Emerson Kirchner - Gillespie County 4-H Youth Member)

Emerson Kirchner shared a presentation on the Purple Martin on which he noted the Purple Martin is the largest member of the Swallow family. He went on to describe their diet, history, and nesting habits. He shared the Gillespie County 4-H Purple Martin Project's main purpose is to create a safe and successful nesting habitat. He requested the Council approve the proposed project to provide nesting for the Purple Martin's at the new city hall. The Gillespie County 4-H members would be responsible for the maintenance of the project.

Garret Bonn asked about the typical nesting season. It was stated the nesting season begins in January or February and lasts until June or July each year.

Councilmember Watson moved to approve Location 1 near the vineyard as per the diagram included in the packet. Councilmember Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consider approving the allocations of the 2026 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funding. (Krista Wareham, Finance Director)

Krista Wareham reported the city received 29 requests for HOT funds. She also noted the budget was raised from \$500,000 to \$750,000. She added that \$219,000 of these funds have already been approved. The Council discussed the HOT funds policy including disqualification of late applicants. They also discussed the guidelines regarding disqualification of applicants who do not operate as a non-profit. Mayor Hoover discussed the legal reviews and applications that were submitted with incomplete information.

Karen Mayo, CVB, shared the Placer Data in its entirety can only be accessed by authorized users per the contract. CVB can work with each requestor individually to provide specific information requested.

Randy Briley spoke regarding the Placer Data from the previous year. He shared this data was used as a guideline to identify the number of attendees at an event to help determine the funding needs. He added the Placer Data was for the Council's use in reviewing the applications.

Mayor Hoover asked Krista when the funding would occur. Mrs. Wareham responded late February. The Council questioned whether amendments need to be made to the policy and a brief discussion ensued.

After due consideration, Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner moved to table the HOT Funding approvals until February 3, 2026. Councilmember Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration and Possible Action Relating to a Request from the Convention & Visitor Bureau (CVB) for a Long-Term Funding Agreement (David Shields, CVB Board President)

David Shields shared their proposed multi-year funding agreement and secondly, the desire to pay down current reserves to six months. It was stated that past history shows the Council has always funded the CVB. Discussion was held regarding the new CEO and the need for a multi-year funding agreement. The CVB shared their understanding of the industry and what the candidates are expecting. They expressed concern with disruption of funding and what that would look like.

Mayor Hoover asked what the CVB's Budget is. Jenny shared it is \$4.3 million and they are asking to be bumped back up to the annual 5/7ths percentage. She shared a slide showing the reserves paydown plan. Mick McKamie, City Attorney stated that the City cannot commit to a dollar amount. In the agreement, the dollar amount can be left blank because this will change from year to year. He also noted there are a few cities using a similar agreement. He was confident that this agreement would be legal under Chapter 351. Primary consideration is money will be used to fund projects eligible for HOT purposes and must pass audit requirements. He added that the agreement could always be amended with Council approval.

Mayor Hoover recognized Randy Briley. Mr. Briley shared that he is in support of the CVB and believes they do good work. He noted the reserves plan is being addressed.

Councilmember Eidson moved to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Funding Agreement between the City of Fredericksburg, Texas and the Fredericksburg Convention Visitors Bureau as noted by the City Attorney with 5/7th percentage funding. Councilmember Watson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hoover called for a five-minute recess.

## **8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Department Updates - Police Chief Vorauer, Fire Chief Bizzell, Municipal Court Judge Becker, City Secretary Vacek

Chief Vorauer gave a Police Department update on the 2025 incidents (27,242), cases, and PIR's (1,229) as well as calls for service, accidents, and review of arrests for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Chief Bizzell provided a Fire Department/EMS 2025 fiscal report. In closing they presented a five-minute video of events over the past year.

Judge Becker presented the Municipal Court Annual Report, the 2025 accomplishments, youth diversion program, teen court, and case management growth.

Leticia Vacek, City Secretary, presented the department annual report of Elections, Public Information Requests, Codification, Boards and Commissions, Citizen University, etc. for 2025.

## **9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

- A. City Manager Bailey reviewed the Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Meetings with the Council.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council will recess its open meeting and reconvene in Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections listed for each item.

- A. Legal Matters Update — Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Attorney-Client Privilege).
- B. Consider and discuss Real Estate in the vicinity of US 290E and Heritage Hills Drive pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072. (Real Estate)
- C. Consider and discuss the annual evaluation of the Municipal Judge pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel)
- D. Consider and discuss the annual evaluation of the City Manager pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel)

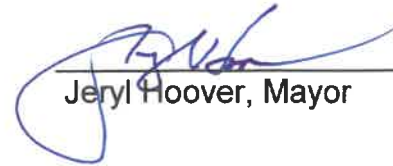
Mayor Hoover announced the Council would recess into Executive Session at 12:07 pm to discuss Items 10A, 10B, 10C, and 10D.

Mayor Hoover reconvened from Executive Session at 1:48 pm and stated that Council action was required.

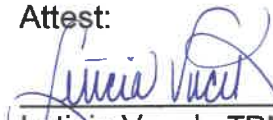
Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner moved to direct staff to act under the personnel items 10C and 10D as discussed in Executive Session. Councilmember Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**11. ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Hoover adjourned the meeting at 1:48 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeryl Hoover, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leticia Vacek, TRMC, CMC, MMC  
City Secretary/RMO