

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on October 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Cargill, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. The Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carlos Cloyd, of Blanco Methodist Church. The Council members present: Mayor Cargill, Mayor Pro-Tem Moore and Council Members Mack-McClung, Thraillkill, Behrends, and Moses.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator; Callie Ann Alex, City Secretary; Haylee Hartman, Court Clerk/Deputy City Secretary; Jose Martinez, Finance Director; and Chief Thornhill

Mayor Cargill made the following announcement:

- Arrival of City Secretary, Callie Ann Alex, as a new member of City Hall Staff. Mayor Cargill presented Callie Ann with a gift bag and new badge.
- Informed public on the Constitution Amendment Election and Blanco ISD Voter Approved Tax Rate Election, along with early voting notice. Copies of sample ballots were distributed and she displayed a sample ballot and encouraged all citizens to vote.
- In support of Veteran's Day, the American Legion is hosting its 7th annual gun raffle fundraiser.
- Shared the Save the Date for this year's Wreaths Across America as December 13th, 2025.

Public Comments:

- Waymond Lightfoot spoke about his opposition to the bypass, as it would decrease the economic value of his property and make Blanco less accessible. He stated that in order to alleviate traffic on Interstate 35, a bypass should start in Marble Falls due to its higher traffic volume and numerous stoplights.
- Colin Corbett emphasized the issue of indecision over the bypass routes, stating it has been ongoing for years. He noted that one of the two proposed routes goes directly through his property, which operates as an Airbnb to serve as his pension. The indecision of the bypass routes has prevented him from investing in or selling his property and requested that the city council meet with affected residents to make a decision.
- Wayne Gosnell spoke on behalf of the Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky, giving accolades to the City of Blanco for their efforts to keep the skies dark. He gave special mention to Selina Segovia for facilitating a new utility light partnership, for the City's acquisition of a Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Administrator, and the positive changes in the community.
- Kenneth Welsh is concerned on the management of the revenue side of HOT Funds, and suggested options that involve public input. Additional options suggested were hiring a part-time employee or contractor to monitor incoming revenue, ensure establishments are paying, and review expense applications.

- Jay Palmer discussed the bypass, including maps and visuals. His main emphasis was to show that there would be no development along the proposed bypass, as it was designed for speed and safety without on/off ramps. He used maps of other locations as examples.
- Libbey Aly announced the upcoming Spirits of Blanco Festival, formerly Marigold Festival, would be hosted from October 31 to November 2. The change to the Spirits of Blanco was in celebration of the distilleries, wineries, and breweries local to Blanco, TX. This year, in addition to the trick-or-treating and downtown activities, there would also be a rodeo at Yett park.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. **Hill Country Night Sky Month-** Mayor Cargill read a proclamation The proclamation highlighted the aesthetic, scientific, and economic benefits of preserving dark skies. It encouraged citizens to enjoy the night sky, participate in related events, and practices to help preserve the region's dark skies.
2. **Breast Cancer Awareness Month-** Mayor Cargill provided pink ribbons to all those in attendance and read the Breast Cancer Awareness Proclamation. The proclamation sought to raise awareness, education, and research for breast cancer, which is the second most commonly diagnosed and leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States.

Staff Presentations:

1. City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator – Updated that the sewer project is nearing completion and is expected to go out for bid in November with a February completion date. The Blanco comprehensive plan update will begin public engagement in November, and UDC rewrite is slated for early next year. Efforts are also underway to make the water plant fully operational by the end of the year or early next year by blending water with Canyon Lake as a backup.
2. City Hall, Jose Martinez, Finance Director-September Financial Report- The city is closing out the 2024-2025 fiscal year with most funds showing good revenue collection and expenses below budget. The general fund revenues were nearly 100%, and sales tax, right-of-way fees, and fixed beverage revenues were strong. Police department expenditures were at 84%, attributed to staffing issues, though overtime was higher than anticipated. The biggest expense was for computer and systems updates and maintenance, and the budget allowance for computer and systems has already been increased for fiscal year 2026.
3. Police Department; Chief Thornhill-September Monthly Report – Looking at entering into an interagency program with Johnson City (Explorer Program). Calls have decreased; however, arrests have increased; this is due to closing out previously ongoing investigations. Emphasized that having official vehicles back in commission is a top priority.
4. Inframark, Danny Maldonado- September Monthly Report- Informed ongoing leak repair throughout the water system, with 22 leaks repaired in September, significantly reduced unaccounted-for water loss from 20% to 6% since August. Issues at Cielo Springs, including leaks inside the facility, are being addressed, requiring a temporary shutdown to replace a cracked pump housing-Notice will have to be given to residents.

Consent Agenda: *The following items may be acted upon in one motion.* No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by the Mayor or a Council Member, in which those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Approval of Minutes from the September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting and Public Hearings.
2. Approval of Minutes from the September 16, 2025, Special Meeting.
3. Approval of Revisions to the City of Blanco Organizational Chart.

A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to approve consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore with the correction requested by Council member Moses to change “abstained” to “recused” on Consent Agenda Item 1, New Business Item 2; all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Various Options concerning Administration, Management, Distribution and Accountability for Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue. **Council Member Rodney Thrailkill made a motion to form a committee within City council and possibly interested stakeholders to review requests and make recommendations to council who will award HOT Funds distributions on a case-by-case basis. Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Moore, Jr seconded. Friendly amendment by Bobby Mack-McClung to include a member of the Chamber of Commerce. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on a request from the Chamber of Commerce for HOT Funds for Christmas Lights. **Warren Escovy introduced a request for \$31,000 in hot funds for Christmas lights, emphasizing the need for the project to qualify as a historical feature and an art display. Brandon Carlson, who has been spearheading the Christmas lights display, led the discussion on the recurring expense for installation and take-down, estimated at around \$15,000 annually, in addition to light costs. There was concern over the aesthetic of flashing lights and discussion took place on what classified as an art display within the town square. Council Member Mack-McClung makes the motion to reinstate the light display similar to last year's. Council Member Behrends seconds on the condition that it does not exceed \$25,500. Council Member Thrailkill in favor. Council Member Moses abstained. Mayor Pro Tem Moore abstained. Passes 3-0.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Waiver of Water Disconnect Notices for the Months of November and December 2025. **Council Member Moses made motion to approve the waiver of water disconnect notices for the months of November and December 2025. Council Member Thrailkill seconded the motion. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously.**
4. Discussion only on the 1988 Sales tax issue and a potential Mat 2026 ballot referendum to re-purpose the .5% allocation to roads and economic development. **Discussed the 1988 sales tax issue, which involves a half-penny sales tax used to subsidize an ad valorem tax. Explanation that rescinding this subsidy would free up funds that could be reallocated for other purposes like roads and economic development. In November or December, there will be a chance to put this on the May agenda allowing citizens to vote. No action taken.**

5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action in Response to TXDOT's Highway 281 Relief Route Study and related Results and Recommendations
Blanco City Attorney, Tim Tuggey, provided Council with the letter he proposes is sent to TXDOT concerning the Highway 281 Relief Route Study. Council Members requested revision to the language utilized in the letter; specifically wanting to emphasize that they were opposed to the 2 routes proposed but didn't want to close the door on the Relief Route Study, and they wanted to ensure the correct verbiage was used when discussing the traffic through downtown Blanco, TX on the existing HWY 281. Council Member Thrailkill made a motion to move forward with a letter to TXDOT drafted from the City and City Attorney based on the suggestions of the totality of council, and only by approval of the totality of council before it is sent out. Mayor Pro Tem Moore , Jr. seconded. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously.
6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on a request from Redbud Cafe (Brieger Enterprises LLC) that the City of Blanco abandon the sewer line behind 410 4th Street to 402 4th Street to allow them to rebuild the sewer line and make it private.
Sewer line doesn't service any other businesses and would have a city-accessible clean-out which would be located at the property line. Council Members addressed concerns about city maintenance responsibilities, clarifying that the property owners would be responsible for any backflow into the city system, with this responsibility outlined in a contract. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, Jr. that the City abandons the sewer line as requested subject to a contract agreement. Council Member Mack-McClung seconded the motion. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously.
7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Intergovernmental Support Agreement Partnership Program with Inframark.
Warren gave an introductory explanation on what an IGSA partnership is and what it would mean for the City. Bryan Logan, The IGSA Liaison from Inframark, spoke in greater detail on the relationship between Inframark, JBSA, and the City of Blanco and gave reassurance that any work on JBSA would not detract from staffing at Blanco, nor would it add any liability to the City. Larry Clark, Inframark, also spoke favorably about the program and emphasized the need to move promptly. Council Member Ryan Moses made a motion for City Administration to move forward with the next step in the process of forming an Intergovernmental Support Agreement Partnership with Inframark. Council Member Behrends, Jr. seconded the motion. Council Member Thrailkill opposed. Motion passed 4 to 1.
8. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on request from Robin Dallenbach & Robert McCall for de-annexation of the following properties:
 - a. 1953 SUS HWY 281 Blanco, TX 78606 ABS A0002 SURVEY 24 H EGGLESTON, ACRES 1.42 parcel ID 14855
 - b. ABS A0314 SURVEY 1 INDIANOLA RR CO, ACRES 8.24 parcel ID 12773
 - c. ABS A0786 SURVEY 100 J.M. WATSON, ACRES 2.55 parcel ID 14825
 - d. 2029 SUS HWY 281 BLANCO, TX 78606 ABS A0634 SURVEY 90 W.C. WINTERS, ACRES 1.04 Parcel 105473

City Administration provided the maps and descriptions of the properties, as well as a suggested action from the City. Two representatives of the property, Robin Dallenbach and Mark Polojac, spoke in favor of de-annexation. Mayor Cargill moved the item into executive session with possible action to follow.

OLD BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of VARIANCE to reconsider relief from installation of sidewalk along Hackberry Street, 603 Elm Street (Harrison Heirs, Block 2, ABS: SB0009) (Property Owner: Larson, John and Kathryn).

A motion was made by Council Member Mack McClung to follow the TPAC suggestion that will grant the sidewalk variance for Hackberry Street if the property owners dedicate eight feet of their property to the city, which would include an automatic variance on setbacks.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore, Jr. seconded. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously.

Closed regular meeting 9:51pm and convened into executive session.

Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code: in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074.

1. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award and Notice to Proceed.
2. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding Pending Legal Matters.

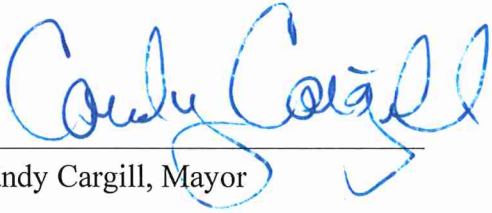
Closed executive session at 11:10 pm and convened into regular meeting.:

Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Moore Jr. made a motion to authorize Chapman Law Firm and Tim Tuggey Law Firm to file suit against DCS & Jones Engineers, seconded by Council Member Moses. **All in Favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moore to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Thrailkill, all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 pm.


Candy Cargill, Mayor

ATTEST:


Callie Ann Alex
City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 18th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.