

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 110 NORTH 8TH STREET,
GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528**

AN OPEN MEETING WAS HELD CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT **5:30 P.M.** THIS **8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.**
2. **QUORUM CHECK/COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Gary Chumley, Mayor Pro Tem Greg Casey, Councilmembers Jon Salter, Kalinda Westbrook, Aaron Smith, and Travis VanBibber.

COUNCIL ABSENT: Councilmember(s)

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Brad Hunt, City Secretary Holly Owens, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Mike Halsema, Chief Jeff Clark, Chad Newman, Lori McLaughlin, Seth Phillips, Nicole Clark, Anna True, Zeb Veazey, Heather Bushong, Officer Danny Suniga and Shea Harp.

OTHERS: Janice Clark, John Westbrook, Leo Corona, Allyson Hinkle, Jason Shields, and Meredith Rainer.

3. **INVOCATION:** Greg Casey and **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Gary Chumley.

CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENTS FORUM: INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE GATESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MAY DO SO DURING THIS SEGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO COMMENT ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM, PLEASE INDICATE THE ITEM(S) ON THE SIGN-IN SHEET BEFORE THE MEETING. EACH SPEAKER IS ALLOTTED A MAXIMUM OF 3 MINUTES FOR THEIR REMARKS, AND SPEAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER. THIS REQUIRES THAT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE AND SPEAKERS ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL MUST NOT ENGAGE IN BEHAVIOR THAT WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE OF THE ORDERLY PROCEEDING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, THE CITY OF GATESVILLE CITY COUNCIL CANNOT DELIBERATE OR ACT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE MEETING AGENDA.

John Westbrook came forward to address Council regarding dogs that are at large in his neighborhood and praised Animal Control for their efforts and professionalism.

4. Police Department Commendation (Chief Clark)

Chief Clark presented City Staff from different departments with a commendation for their hard work and dedication assisting with a property cleanup for an elderly citizen. City Staff: Captain Keith Muellre, Shea Harp, Anna True, Nicole Clark, Heather Bushong, and Officer Danny Zunaka.

OTHER BUSINESS:

5. **Ordinance 2026-17:** Discussion and possible action regarding repealing and replacing Section 18-1 (Fee Schedule) of Chapter 18 (Fees), of the City of Gatesville Code of Ordinances. *3rd Reading* (Mike Halsema)

ORDINANCE 2026-17: Motion by Jon Salter, seconded by Aaron Smith to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-17** to repeal and replace Section 181. "Fee Schedule" of Chapter 18. "Fees" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gatesville, third and final reading. All five voting "Aye", motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

6. **Ordinance 2026-15:** Discussion and possible action regarding an ordinance adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2027. *3rd Reading* (Brad Hunt & Mike Halsema)

ORDINANCE 2026-15: Motion by Kalinda Westbrook, seconded by Travis VanBibber to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-15** adopting the fiscal year 2027 budget. All five voting “Aye”, motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Gary Chumley	Abstain
Travis VanBibber	Aye
Aaron Smith	Aye
Ward 2, Place 4	Vacant
Greg Casey	Aye
Kalinda Westbrook	Aye
Jon Salter	Aye

7. **Public Hearing:**

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – 5:44 PM

THE PROPERTY TAX RATE WILL BE INCREASED BY THE ADOPTION OF A TAX RATE OF \$0.56000, WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY A 0.75 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE AND ORDINANCE 2026-16 WILL ADOPT AND LEVY A TAX RATE OF \$0.5600 PER \$100 OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 5:45 PM

8. **Ordinance 2026-16:** Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Ordinance 2026-16 levying a tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27. *3rd reading* (Mike Halsema)

THE PROPERTY TAX RATE WILL BE INCREASED BY THE ADOPTION OF A TAX RATE OF \$0.56000, WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY A 0.75 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE AND ORDINANCE 2026-16 WILL ADOPT AND LEVY A TAX RATE OF \$0.5600 PER \$100 OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

ORDINANCE 2026-16: Motion by Greg Casey, seconded by Jon Salter that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5600, which is effectively a 0.75 percent increase in the tax rate and that we **APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-16** adopting and levying a tax rate of \$0.5600 per \$100 of taxable value for fiscal year 2026-2027. All five voting “Aye”, motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Gary Chumley	Abstain
Travis VanBibber	Aye
Aaron Smith	Aye
Ward 2, Place 4	Vacant
Greg Casey	Aye
Kalinda Westbrook	Aye
Jon Salter	Aye

9. **Resolution 2026-107** Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2026-107 which ratifies the property tax increase reflected in the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. (Mike Halsema)

RESOLUTION 2026-107: Motion by Travis VanBibber, seconded by Kalinda Westbrook to **APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-107** which ratifies the property tax increase reflected in the City’s adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget, which is a budget that raises more property tax revenue than was generated the previous year. All five voting “Aye”, motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Gary Chumley	Abstain
Travis VanBibber	Aye
Aaron Smith	Aye
Ward 2, Place 4	Vacant
Greg Casey	Aye
Kalinda Westbrook	Aye
Jon Salter	Aye

10. Resolution 2026-108 Discussion and possible action regarding approving the ranking of submissions for RFQ-2026-00002, for engineering services related to Water Production system Electrical upgrades, and authorizing City staff negotiations for a contract, beginning with the highest ranked firm. (Mike Halsema)

RESOLUTION 2026-108: Motion by Aaron Smith, seconded by Travis VanBibber to **ACCEPT** and **APPROVE** the ranking of submissions for RFQ-2026-0002 as presented and to authorize City Staff to begin the contract negotiations with the highest rank firm KPA, following which, if the negotiations do not result in a contract, the City Staff is authorized to formally end those negotiations and begin negotiations with the next highest ranked firm(s) until a contract is reached. All five voting “Aye”, motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

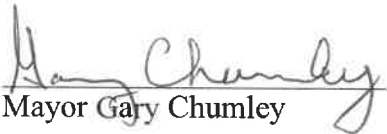
11. Ordinance 2026-18 Discussion and possible action regarding the amendment to Chapter 6 - Animal Control in the Code of Ordinances. *1st Reading* (Chief Clark)

Mayor Chumley asked about ranchers who come to town with their dogs in the back of the truck untethered and if the ranchers would get a ticket. Chief Clark stated there would be an educational period but eventually yes, a ticket could be given if the dog is not tethered.

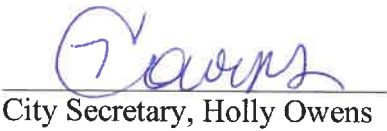
ORDINANCE 2026-18: Motion by Jon Salter, seconded by Aaron Smith to **PASS ORDINANCE 2026-18**, amending Chapter 6, Animals to the next meeting, first reading. All five voting “Aye”, motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

12. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Mayor Gary Chumley

ATTEST:


City Secretary, Holly Owens

