



City of Mesquite, Texas

Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, March 2, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall | Council Chamber
757 N. Galloway Avenue | Mesquite, Texas

Present: Mayor Daniel Alemán, Jr., and Councilmembers Kenny Green, Elizabeth Rodriguez-Ross, Jeff Casper, Andrew Hubacek, B. W. Smith and Brandon Murden, City Manager Cliff Keheley and City Secretary Sonja Land.

PRE-MEETING - TRAINING ROOMS A&B - 5:00 P.M.

AGENDA REVIEW

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- 1 Receive a briefing regarding the North Gus Thomasson Road Corridor Study.

CITY COUNCIL/STAFF WORK SESSION - CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER - 6:20 P.M.

- 2 Receive presentation of 2025 Meritorious Awards to Fire Department employees.

Fire Chief Keith Hopkins stated that the purpose of the annual Mesquite Fire Department meritorious awards is to recognize members of the Fire Department and employees of the City of Mesquite for providing outstanding service to the citizens of Mesquite and the Mesquite Fire Department. Numerous members of the department will be recognized for Life Saving Awards, Officer of the Year, Paramedic of the Year, and Firefighter of the Year for their bravery and outstanding excellence in service for 2025. In 2025, the Mesquite Fire Department officially introduced the Excellence Award to honor personnel who embody the department's core mission of achieving excellence in everything we do and treat everyone we encounter like family. This is presented to those who willingly give of themselves to exceed the expectations of both our citizens and our department.

Fire Chief Keith Hopkins presented meritorious awards as follows:

- Officer of the Year – Lieutenant/Paramedic (LT/PAR) Royce Cartwright
- Paramedic of the Year – Firefighter/Paramedic (FF/PAR) Jesse Boone
- Firefighter of the Year – Driver-Engineer/Paramedic (DE/PAR) Jeremy Heiner
- Excellence Award – Captain/Paramedic (CPT/PAR) Jesse Kingery, CPT/PAR Jacob Heise, DE/PAR Justin Turner, and Senior Management Analyst Debbie Randall
- Life Saving Award No. 1 – Engine 2 - LT/PAR Bobby Bryant, DE/PAR David Bates, FF/PAR Andrew Durham, FF/PAR Caleb Pollard and Ambulance 2 - FF/PAR Alex Craig, and FF/PAR Ben Hanley
- Life Saving Award No. 2 – Engine 7 - CPT/PAR Justin James, DE/PAR Michael

Glasgow, FF/PAR Chris Thomas, FF/EMT Ethan Williams and Ambulance 7 -
FF/PAR Conner Tobias, and FF/PAR Ray Sewell

The work session ended at 6:42 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM - 6:46 P.M.

Mayor Alemán announced that the City Council would meet in Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code to consider commercial or financial information regarding business prospects or projects (Item No. 13 – Discuss an economic development program agreement amendment for a project at I-30 near North Galloway Avenue); whereupon, the City Council proceeded to meet in Council Conference Room. After the closed meeting ended at 6:51 p.m., the City Council reconvened in Open Session.

No executive action was necessary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM - 6:51 P.M.

Mayor Alemán announced that the City Council would meet in Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to conduct a private consultation with its attorney related to pending or contemplated litigation; a settlement offer; and issues in which there exists a duty of the City Attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas (Receive update on pending litigation cases); whereupon, the City Council proceeded to meet in the Council Conference Room. After the closed meeting ended at 6:56 p.m., the City Council reconvened in Open Session.

No executive action was necessary.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER - 7:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

Kelly James, Pastor, Pathway of Life Church, Dallas, Texas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of Scouting America Troop 852.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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Recognize Real. Texas. Service. Champions.

City Manager Cliff Keheley stated that the following employees are being honored for their customer service efforts as City of Mesquite employees. They are nominated by City Staff and selected by the City Manager as employees who embody the City's C.A.R.E. message: We place our CITIZENS first, with a professional ATTITUDE, with the RESPECT to understand their needs and with a consistent effort to deliver service in a manner which embodies the principal ETHICS of the City of Mesquite.

Mayor Alemán, City Councilmembers and Mr. Keheley presented Certificates of

Appreciation to the following employees in honor of their service to the City of Mesquite: Nicole Alcala, Staffing Specialist - Human Resources Department; Ashley Anderson, Housing Supervisor - Housing and Community Services; Lisset Palma, Marketing and Events Coordinator - Economic Development Department; and Caleigh Griffin, Administrative Aide - Mesquite Police Department.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mr. Casper announced that the Vintage Car Show, hosted by Historic Mesquite, Inc., will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Opal Lawrence Historical Park, 711 East Kearney Street. Register your classic car for \$30.00 to be eligible for trophies and prizes or attend the show for free.
2. Mr. Green stated that the Courtyard Concert Series begins on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 North Galloway Ave. Music can be enjoyed twice a month with the first performance by a local band "The Elton Johns." The series runs through June 2026.
3. Ms. Rodriguez-Ross stated that the City is looking for new partners to serve on its boards or commissions. Engaged citizens can volunteer their time, knowledge and expertise to make a difference in the community. By serving on a board or commission, you can advise the City Council and staff on a wide range of service areas. Duties of boards and commissions may include serving in an advisory capacity, examining in-depth issues such as recommendations for zoning ordinances, advise and assist the City in adopting land use assumptions, making decisions on variance requests from citizens, and more. To learn more about the requirements for service and to complete an application, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/Boards to learn more.
4. Mr. Hubacek encouraged citizens to attend the next Town Hall Tuesday Meeting on March 10, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., at City Hall, 757 North Galloway Avenue. This gathering is a Q&A with City Manager Cliff Keheley. Come with your questions about programs, projects and anything that's happening in Mesquite. Town Hall Tuesday Meetings are held every other month and gives residents a chance to learn more about various City departments.
5. Mr. Hubacek invited citizens to attend a District 4 and District 5 Neighborhood Meeting on Saturday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m., at the Dallas County Mesquite Government Center, Cliff Keheley Community Room, 500 South Galloway Avenue.
6. Mr. Smith encouraged citizens to sign up for Mesquite Alerts. You will receive real-time notifications with reliable information regarding emergencies, weather and news that pertains to your neighborhood. Your contact information remains private and will only be used for community notifications. Visit www.cityofmesquite.com/MesquiteAlerts to learn more and sign up.
7. Mr. Smith invited citizens to attend a Rutherford Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Rutherford Recreation Center, 900 Rutherford Drive.
8. Mr. Murden announced that the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting Spring Break Camps for kids in Kindergarten through 5th Grade during the week of March 16, 2026. The camps will be held at Dunford Recreation Center, 1015 Green Canyon Drive, and Rutherford Recreation Center, 900 Rutherford Drive. Indoor and outdoor activities and a field trip are included. There will also be an Outdoor Adventure Camp at Rorie-Galloway Day Camp, 3100 Lawson Road, on those same dates. Find pricing and details at www.cityofmesquite.com/HolidayCamps.
9. Mayor Alemán stated that the City of Mesquite is offering two opportunities for teens aimed at fostering civic engagement and leadership development. Under the City's Youth Services Division, the Mesquite Youth Council and Summer Internship Program are accepting applications now through March 31, 2026. Students who participate in these initiatives get the chance to engage with their community, get a behind-the-scenes look at how local businesses and government operate and meet like-minded youth across Mesquite. Students interested in learning more and applying for the Summer Internship Program and Youth Council can visit www.cityofmesquite.com/YouthServices.

10. Mayor Alemán thanked Estefania Sosa, Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator, for her work on the recent Neighborhood Summit.
11. Mayor Alemán reminded everyone that today is Texas Independence Day.
12. Mayor Alemán stated that Dallas College – Eastfield Campus recently hosted Black History Month events and shared his experiences during these events.

APPOINTMENTS FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE

- 4** Receive presentation regarding the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fill-the-Boot Campaign.

Battalion Chief Phil Cunningham announced the kick-off of the 2026 Fill-the-Boot campaign. The International Association of Firefighters has partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) since 1954. All donations collected benefits the MDA to be used for research and summer camps for kids, with firefighters serving as camp counselors. The campaign will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026; Friday, March 27, 2026; Thursday, April 9, 2026; Friday, April 10, 2026; Thursday, April 23, 2026; and Friday, April 24, 2026. Firefighters will be collecting donations on street corners each afternoon from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All boots will display a QR code to scan for any electronic donations. Mr. Smith kicked off the campaign making the first donation followed by other Councilmembers and City staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Ms. Rodriguez-Ross requested that Item No. 6 be removed from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately. Mr. Casper moved to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda, as follows. Motion was seconded by Mr. Green and approved unanimously.

- 5** Minutes of the regular City Council meeting held February 16, 2026.

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- 7** Bid No. 2026-051 - Purchase Kubota Tractor, 20' Rotary Cutter, and Parallel Cutter.
(Staff recommends award to Deen Kubota, through Sourcewell Contract No.070821-LPI, in the amount of \$170,163.67.)

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- 8** Authorize the City Manager to finalize and execute Change Order No. 11 to Bid No. 2023-029, Faithon P. Lucas, Sr. Boulevard Paving and Drainage Reconstruction Project (McKenzie Road to East Cartwright Road), with Zachry Construction Corporation, for the additional construction scopes in the amount of \$325,082.34.

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- 9 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the 2025-26 Police State Seizure Budget in accordance with Title 28, Section 524, of the United States Code and Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure in the amount of \$236,000.00.

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- 10 Authorize the Mayor to execute a First Amendment to an Employment Agreement between the City of Mesquite, Texas, and City Secretary Sonja Land.

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- 11 Authorize the Mayor to execute a First Amendment to an Employment Agreement between the City of Mesquite, Texas, and City Attorney David Paschall.

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- 12 Authorize the Mayor to execute a First Amendment to an Employment Agreement between the City of Mesquite, Texas, and Municipal Court Judge Detra Hill.

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

- 6 An ordinance adopting the 2025-26 Pay Plans for General Government Personnel with an effective date of October 1, 2025, and for Commissioned Police and Fire Personnel with an effective date of January 1, 2026.

Ms. Rodriguez-Ross expressed appreciation for City staff. She stated the proposed budget amendment is Council's commitment to pay staff fairly.

Mr. Green moved to approve Ordinance No. 5231, as presented to the City Council at tonight's meeting, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE 2025-26 PAY PLANS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND FOR COMMISSIONED POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2026; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Motion was seconded by Mr. Murden and approved unanimously. (Ordinance No. 5231 recorded in Ordinance Book No. 136.)

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION - COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM - 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Alemán announced that the City Council would meet in Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to consider the appointment, evaluation, employment, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Manager, City Attorney, Municipal Court Judge, City Secretary, members of the various City boards and commissions, and City officers or other City employees (Annual review of City Manager); whereupon, the City Council proceeded to meet in the Council Conference Room. After the closed meeting ended at 8:40 p.m., the City Council reconvened in Open Session.

No executive action was necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Green and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Sonja Land, City Secretary

Daniel Alemán, Jr., Mayor