

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2026: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jared Hillier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Jared Hillier, Council President Nick Hainline, Council Member Bob Bonning, Council Member Erika Cornett, Council Member LuAnne Coates, and City Attorney Tim Stover (via zoom) were present.

CONSENT AGENDA: Nick Hainline made a motion to accept the consent agenda (Minutes for 2-4-2026 and Treasurer's Report) as written. The motion was seconded by Erika Cornett. A roll call vote was held. The Council votes are officially recorded as:

Nick Hainline: aye

Bob Bonning: aye

Erika Cornett: aye

LuAnne Coates: aye

Motion passed.

ANIMAL CONTROL/CODE OFFICER REPORT: Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer Brenna McLean was present to give the report. The report is on file.

LIBRARY UPDATE REPORT: Library Director Geri Omohundro was present to give the report. The report is on file.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** Appoint City Council President-Action Item: Erika Cornett made a motion to appoint Nick Hainline as City Council President. LuAnne Coates seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held.

Nick Hainline: aye

Erika Cornett: aye

LuAnne Coates: aye

Bob Bonning: aye

Motion passed.

- B.** America 250 Ambassador City-Action Item: The State Treasurers Office is promoting the America 250 Celebration with Ambassador Cities to help promote community involvement. As understood at this time, there is no financial or material obligation on behalf of the City of Hagerman, and the City can request a revolutionary war character 'Spuddy Buddy' to be present at the annual fireworks show hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Nick Hainline made a motion to become an ambassador city for the America 250 program. Erika Cornett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held.

Nick Hainline: aye

Erika Cornett: aye

LuAnne Coates: aye

Bob Bonning: aye

Motion passed.

- C.** Letter of Intent: Hagerman Bike and Walk Path-Action Item: This letter is on file. LuAnne Coates made a motion to approve the letter of intent for the Hagerman Bike and Walk Path. Erika Cornett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held.

Nick Hainline: aye
Erika Cornett: aye
LuAnne Coates: aye
Bob Bonning: aye

Motion passed.

- D.** Letter of Intent: Hagerman Cemetery District-Action Item: This letter is on file. Nick Hainline made a motion to approve the letter of intent for the Hagerman Cemetery District. Erika Cornett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held.

Nick Hainline: aye
Erika Cornett: aye
LuAnne Coates: aye
Bob Bonning: aye

Motion passed.

- E.** Selection of new City Auditor-Discussion-Action Item: Ashley Cook addressed the Council regarding various benefits regarding each of the two presented potential auditors. After reaching out to several auditors, 2 calls were returned. It was specifically noted that the City Attorney does not see a conflict of interest in using Martin CPA.

This item will be moved to another agenda following the availability of both potential auditors.

- F.** Water Utility Rate Increase & Scheduling of Public Hearing-Discussion-Action Item: A workshop will be held on March 18, 2026 at 4:30 PM and this item will be on the agenda for the regular city council meeting on March 18, 2026.
- G.** Residential Trash Rate Increase & Scheduling of Public Hearing-Discussion-Action Item: Following a discussion regarding the rate increase with the new contract with PSI, Nick Hainline made a motion to schedule a public hearing for April 1, 2026 at 6:00. Erika Cornett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held.

Nick Hainline: aye
Erika Cornett: aye
LuAnne Coates: aye
Bob Bonning: aye

Motion passed.

- H.** WW1603 Sewer Bond-Discussion-Action Item: Mayor Hillier and Jerri Henry with DEQ addressed the Council. A payment of \$204,415.04 was mistakenly recorded prior to the bond being closed out, and the final bond documents must be amended as a result to reflect the accurate loan amount of \$3,767,121.47. Since the error was made by DEQ, they have agreed to pay for all attorney and any other bills associated with this amendment. At request of the Council regarding interest being waived and principal forgiveness options, DEQ is going to compile a list of options to resolve this issue. Ms. Henry thanked the City Clerk for bringing this error to light.

This item will be added to the next agenda.

- I. Sewer Rate Increase & Scheduling of Public Hearing-Discussion-Action Item: This item will be added to the next agenda.
- J. Direct Deposit Transition-Discussion-Action Item: Nick Hainline made a motion to transition to direct deposit. LuAnne Coates seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held.

Nick Hainline: aye
Erika Cornett: aye
LuAnne Coates: aye
Bob Bonning: aye

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENT: None.

MAYOR'S COMMENT: Mayor Hillier thanked the Council and asked that all questions regarding the ongoing agenda items be directed to him or the City Clerk if they would like more information.

CLOSE: Nick Hainline made a motion to close the City Council Meeting for February 18, 2026. Erika Cornett seconded the motion.

ADJOURNED: 7:06 PM.

Jared Hillier, Mayor

Ashley Cook, City Clerk & Treasurer