

MINUTES
City of Dickinson
CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 27, 2026

The Dickinson City Council met in a duly called and announced on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026** , at **7:00 PM**. Council Chambers 4403 State Highway 3 Dickinson, TX 77539 The presiding member and a quorum of the City Council were present at the physical location shown above. The meeting was held for the purpose of considering the following items:

ITEM 1.) CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Councilmembers present were as follows: Travis Magliolo, Johnnie Simpson, Mark Townsend, Bill Schick, Marston S Holt, Scott E Shrader, Kevin D Edmonds.

ITEM 2.) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DPD Chaplain Bea Kelley gave the invocation, Mayor Magliolo led Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3.) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Announcements concerning items of community interest. No action will be taken or discussed. Councilmember comments regarding items of community interest in accordance with Texas Government Code section 551.0415.

3.A Council Comments

Councilmember Simpson - Welcomed everyone attending in person and online. Hoped everyone stayed safe during the recent inclement weather.

Councilmember Holt - Gave a general welcome. No special announcements.

Councilmember Townsend - Welcomed attendees. Noted one more weekend of cold weather ahead and urged caution on the roads.

Councilmember Shrader - Welcomed everyone. Praised Public Works for working in harsh cold weather.

Councilmember Schick - Attended Mayor–Council meeting in League City. Updated on boat ramp issues: deficiencies reviewed with county officials; county agreed to replace rotted pier boards; work planned to remove misplaced dirt and cover exposed bolt heads. Addressed a citizen-raised traffic issue on 25th Street tied to school congestion; met with county and school district officials and formed a plan to prevent traffic backup.

Councilmember Edmonds - Attended Police Department promotions and award ceremony, congratulated recognized officers. Attended ribbon cutting for new boat ramp; recognized issues still being addressed before final payment to contractor. Announced that the Charter Review Commission had submitted its final report and thanked its members (King, Copeland, Carney).

Mayor Magliolo - Provided updates from conversations with TxDOT (Northbound feeder road restriped based on citizen feedback. Entrance ramp remains closed due to TxDOT concerns over roadway narrowness.) Announced a February 12 community forum at Dickinson High School to hear citizen concerns. Emphasized commitment to improved communication with residents and proactive public engagement.

3.B City Manager Update

Chaise Cary thanked those in attendance and presented updates

1. OEM / Weather Response

The recent winter storm shifted away from Dickinson, sparing the city from expected ice conditions.

City Manager praised OEM Director Greg Trantham for excellent communication, preparedness, and coordination throughout the event.

Reminded the public that when OEM is activated, the Mayor is the head of OEM, consistent with national structure.

Explained why the City follows ISD closures—many staff have children and this avoids operational strain.

2. Drainage Issues

Drainage is the most frequent concern raised by residents.

The City conducted extensive assessments of bayou systems, tributaries, and conveyance structures.

\$10 million in fully engineered, shovel-ready drainage projects are prepared but unfunded.

Projects span multiple neighborhoods, including Cheyenne, Trail Plantation, Winding Way, Palm/Tanglebriar, Deets Rd., Hill St., Sherwood Forest, Colonial Estates, Frostwood Circle, Country Club Dr., Mariners Morning, Sunset Drive, and Bayou Chantilly.

Additional bayou/tributary dredging and clearing projects are planned.

3. Streets & Infrastructure

The 2022 pavement condition assessment identified \$84 million in immediate street deficiencies, and over \$200 million in total needs.

Conditions have continued to worsen due to decades of deferred maintenance.

Emphasized the need to secure grant funding and increase revenue tools to address major infrastructure gaps.

4. Need to Increase Revenue / Sales Tax Growth

The City historically pushed away development, harming long-term revenue growth.

To avoid raising property taxes or relying on bonds, the City must grow sales tax and pursue grants aggressively.

The City Manager met with a grant-writing consultant about pursuing low- or zero-match grants for the animal shelter, code enforcement, and police department.

Recommended hiring a grant writer as a necessity.

5. Department Highlights

Depot: Assessment completed by a volunteer citizen; facility needs significant review; AC replacement pending until condition report reviewed.

Library: Serious foundation issues due to improper drainage and tree impact; requires long-term capital planning.

Library Director: Shared award recognition and community initiatives, including Project Prom.

Animal Shelter: Major reduction in animal numbers due to operational improvements; intake remains high but efficiency significantly increased.
Community Development: Citation issued at Hughes Landing for violation of a stop-work order; UDC/P&Z updates are progressing but slow.
EMS: Captain Robbins promoted to EMS Chief; introduced publicly; continued staffing efforts underway.

3.C Department Head Status Report

1. Public Works / Facilities (Matt Maggiolino)

Report on the Historic Depot:

Citizen volunteer Jim Hime completed a full assessment and hand-delivered the report.

Early indication: facility conditions are not good; city will evaluate before replacing the AC unit.

Library:

Serious foundation problems caused by improper drainage and tree impact.

Requires long-term consideration in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Highlighted high performance of multiple departments and staff.

2. Library (Director Brianna Long)

Announced the Dickinson Public Library received the Achievement of Library Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association.

Only 101 of 545 libraries statewide earned this recognition.

Noted upcoming extended hours and introduced Project Prom, seeking donations of prom attire for local students.

3. Animal Shelter (Director Nina Baker)

Reported significant reductions in shelter population:

2024: 71 dogs / 32 cats → 115% capacity

Last year: 52 dogs / 18 cats → ~78% capacity

Current: 30 dogs / 8 cats, soon dropping to 29 / 4

Improvements reflect increased efficiency, despite higher intake numbers.

4. Community Development / Code Enforcement

Issued a citation to Hughes Landing for working under a stop-work order.

UDC and zoning map updates are progressing but slower than anticipated;

next P&Z workshop set for February 11, and meeting on February 17.

5. EMS (Chief Robert Robbins)

Introduced formally following recent promotion to EMS Chief.

Shared career background: 33 years in EMS, previously EMS Director in Kansas.

Working to return staffing levels to full strength; operations remain strong due to dedicated personnel.

ITEM 4.) PUBLIC COMMENTS Members of the public are invited to give comments at this time, lasting not longer than 3 minutes. Comments may be general in nature or may address a specific agenda item, and should be directed at the entire Council, not individual members of Council or staff. Any speaker making personal attacks or using vulgar or profane language shall forfeit his/her remaining time and shall be seated. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, The City Council may not deliberate.

1. Joe Wilburn

Spoke about long-standing tensions and differing visions surrounding the EDC. Described past council decisions, including his own removal from the EDC board, as examples of how quickly political shifts impact economic development. Voiced concern over misallocation of funds, consultant spending, and the city giving away money instead of focusing on streets and drainage. Emphasized that business recruitment requires a competitive environment and strong leadership, not multiple decision makers.

2. Anne Mart

Thanked city leaders for progress made. Raised concerns about Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) collection from Airbnb/short-term rentals, noting several near her home that never went through permitting. Requested the city establish a system for residents to report unpermitted rentals. Commented on poor appearance of FM 517 grassy easements, asking the city to restore the regular mowing/edging previously done by local contractors.

3. John Harris (Citizens Police Academy / DCPA)

Announced the next Citizens Police Academy starting February 19. Explained the role of Citizens on Patrol: assisting police by patrolling neighborhoods, reporting hazards, helping with traffic during events, reuniting lost pets with owners, checking on elderly residents, and providing additional community eyes and ears. Encouraged residents and councilmembers to register; provided applications on-site.

4. Chris Tucker (comments tied to later agenda item)

Requested to speak during **Item 7.E** instead of general public comment.

ITEM 5.) CONSENT AGENDA The following items are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion on these items unless a Council member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and discussed after the consent agenda.

Johnnie Simpson motioned to Approve with corrections, and Marston S Holt seconded the motion.

5.A Consideration and possible action to approve the Minutes from City Council's Regular Meeting held on January 13th, 2026.

VOTE:

7 AYES (Travis Magliolo, Johnnie Simpson, Mark Townsend, Bill Schick, Marston S Holt, Scott E Shrader, Kevin D Edmonds)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ITEM 6.) OLD BUSINESS

6.A **ORDINANCE NO. XXXX-2026** - Consideration and possible action to approve an ordinance to amend the official zoning map from **Neighborhood Conservation (NC)** zoning district to **Urban Transition (UT)** zoning district for 4 parcels of land of approx. ±0.19 acres located at **4404 E 25th St**, parcel ID 612270; and 0.21 acres located at **4410 E 25th St**, parcel ID 612271; and approx. ± 0.19 acres located at **4416 E 25th St**, parcel ID 612272; and approx. 0.19 acres, located at **4426 E 25th St**, parcel ID 183061; providing a repealer clause. (2nd Reading) (Community Development)

Kevin D Edmonds motioned to Approve , and Marston S Holt seconded the motion.

VOTE:

7 AYES (Travis Magliolo, Johnnie Simpson, Mark Townsend, Bill Schick, Marston S Holt, Scott E Shrader, Kevin D Edmonds)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ITEM 7.) NEW BUSINESS

7.A Discussion and possible action regarding future infrastructure, facility planning, and development of a Capital Improvement Plan. (Magliolo)
Pulling till next meeting - Mayor

7.B Discussion and possible action on a long-term marketing plan for the City of Dickinson. (Magliolo)
Mayor Magliolo introduced a proposal to explore contracting with an external **marketing team** to significantly improve the City's communication, website, and public outreach capabilities. He explained that current communication demands are far too heavy for a single staff member and that the city needs a modern, consistent, and professional approach to information sharing.

Key Points Presented:

The Mayor has met with a marketing group he was previously introduced to in his private business.

The group could provide a team of **4–5 professionals** to manage the City's website updates, video content, marketing campaigns, and communications.

Cost: **\$5,500 per month** (\$66,000/year) for a one-year contract.

Rationale for Considering the Proposal:

The City struggles with getting accurate and timely information to residents.

Current staff (e.g., Kaitlyn McMillan) is overloaded, handling both city and EDC communications duties.

Outsourcing would free staff to focus on their primary roles while improving citywide transparency and messaging.

Council Discussion:

Councilmember Townsend asked whether the marketing team would present directly to the Council; the Mayor confirmed they would.

Councilmember Edmonds asked if any contracts currently exist for such services; staff confirmed no.

City Manager Cary emphasized that staff are wearing multiple hats and communication duties are overwhelming current capacity.

Councilmember Simpson suggested cost-sharing through agreements with the EDC and DMD, since all three entities would benefit.

Procurement questions were raised about whether an RFP would be required; the attorney clarified that because the cost is under the new \$100k threshold, it would not require competitive bidding.

Outcome:

No vote was taken.

Consensus was to allow the Mayor to invite the marketing team to present at the next Council meeting so the Council could evaluate their proposal in depth.

- 7.C Consideration and possible action to accept the combined Final Report of the Charter Review Commission and City Attorney Recommendations regarding proposed amendments to the City Charter. (Charter Review Commission)

The City Council considered the combined Final Report of the Charter Review Commission and the City Attorney's recommended amendments to the City Charter. The City Attorney clarified that the action before Council was **only to accept the report**, not to submit amendments to voters at this time; a subsequent meeting will include a resolution identifying which amendments, if any, will be placed on a ballot. The attorney also noted a correction regarding Amendment #3, where ballot language should reflect an **11-year** Council questions regarding term limits, rationale for the recommended one-year service gap, treatment of unexpired terms, and discussions about whether mayoral service should be distinguished from council service; the Commission ultimately chose not to separate those offices. After discussion, the Council **voted to accept the Final Report** as presented.

Kevin D Edmonds motioned to Approve , and Scott E Shrader seconded the motion.

VOTE:

7 AYES (Travis Magliolo, Johnnie Simpson, Mark Townsend, Bill Schick, Marston S Holt, Scott E Shrader, Kevin D Edmonds)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

- 7.D **ORDINANCE NO. XXX-2026** - Consideration and possible action to approve an ordinance calling a special election for the purpose of reauthorizing the local sales and use tax for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. (Edmonds)

Council considered an ordinance calling a special election to reauthorize the local sales and use tax dedicated to the **maintenance and repair of municipal streets**. Councilmember Edmonds explained that placing the reauthorization on the upcoming regular election ballot would provide **cost savings**, as 2027 would otherwise be a non-election year and require a standalone ballot process. Council discussed timing, noting that approving the measure this year aligns future reauthorizations with regular election cycles. With no further questions, the Council **approved the ordinance** to call the special election.

Kevin D Edmonds motioned to Approve , and Bill Schick seconded the motion.

VOTE:

7 AYES (Travis Magliolo, Johnnie Simpson, Mark Townsend, Bill Schick, Marston S Holt, Scott E Shrader, Kevin D Edmonds)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

- 7.E **ORDINANCE NO. XXX-2026** - Consideration and possible action to approve an ordinance calling a special election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a ballot proposition to abolish the sales and use tax for the benefit of the Dickinson Economic Development Corporation and increase the City's sales and use tax for general revenue. (Shrader)

Council held an extensive discussion regarding an ordinance proposing a special election to **abolish the 0.25% sales tax** allocated to the Dickinson Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and **reallocate that revenue** to the City for general purposes. Initial concerns were raised regarding the term "abolish," its statutory meaning, and its impact on the historic voter-approved EDC sales tax structure. The City Attorney clarified that state law requires the tax to be formally abolished before it can be reallocated, and that the half-cent tax approved in 1998 had previously been reduced to one-quarter cent; eliminating the remaining 0.25% would fully terminate the EDC's dedicated revenue stream.

Councilmembers expressed differing views on whether eliminating the EDC tax would constrain or improve the City's long-term financial position, and discussions included: the City's declining sales tax trends, investor perceptions, appropriate use of economic development tools, the need for dedicated street funding, and concerns about decision-making efficiency within the EDC structure. During discussion, it was disclosed that a \$20 million investor withdrew from a pending development project after seeing the agenda item, raising concern about potential negative impacts to economic momentum.

Councilmember Shrader amended his motion to propose a non-binding referendum, but the City Attorney advised that non-binding referendums are only permissible for reconsidering existing ordinances, not for asking advisory questions on sales tax structure. As a result, Council concluded that additional legal clarification was required before proceeding. A motion was made and seconded to postpone Item 7.E to the next Council meeting, which was approved.

Mayor agreed to suspend the rules and this conversation was split when the Council entered Executive Session at 8:50 PM and returned at 10:14 PM

Kevin D Edmonds motioned to Approve an order for a non-binding resolution regarding dissolution of the EDC tax (specifically, a non-binding referendum on abolishing/reallocating the EDC's 0.25% sales tax), and the was no second to the motion.

VOTE:

0 AYES

0 NAYS

MOTION FAILED

Mark Townsend motioned to put the reallocation of the EDC quarter-cent to the General fund for streets and drainage on the ballot. (the motion did not proceed to a vote.)

Scott E Shrader motioned to reallocate the money collected by the DEDC to the General Fund(Ordinance as Drafted per City Attorney), and Kevin D Edmonds seconded the motion for Discussion.

Mayor agreed to suspend the rules and this conversation was split when the Council entered Executive Session at 8:50 PM and returned at 10:14 PM

Scott E Shrader amended his motion to a non-binding referendum for redistribution of DEDC funds, and Edmonds seconded the amendment.

City Attorney explains non-binding referendum is not appropriate for the action proposed.

Scott E Shrader motioned to Postpone , and Kevin D Edmonds seconded the motion.

VOTE:

7 AYES (Travis Magliolo, Johnnie Simpson, Mark Townsend, Bill Schick, Marston S Holt, Scott E Shrader, Kevin D Edmonds)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ITEM 8.) EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION(S)

Enter Exec Session at 8:50PM

8.A Texas Government Code Section 551.074 - Personnel Matters

Deliberations on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, or duties of a public officer or employee to wit: City Attorney.

8.B Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney

Consultation with Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act.

ITEM 9.) ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION(S)

Return to open session -10:14 PM

No action on 9A or 9B

9.A Texas Government Code Section 551.074 - Personnel Matters

Consideration and possible action on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, or duties of a public officer or employee to wit: City Attorney.

9.B Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney

Consideration and possible action regarding a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act

ITEM 10.) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7.A and 7.E are to be added to February 10, 2026 City Council Agenda.

PASSED APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 10th day of February, 2026 .

Travis Magliolo

Travis Magliolo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Claude Allen Oliver

Claude Oliver, City Secretary