

**Flatonia City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

Present

Mayor	Travis Seale
Mayor Pro Tem	Ginny Sears
Council	Allen Kocian
	Josh Homan
	Kevin Laney
	Jeff Brazill
City Manager	Ray Miller
City Secretary	Jacqueline Ott
City Attorney	Barbara Boulware-Wells
Utility Director	Jack Pavlas
Utility Supervisor	Steve Cobler
Fire Chief	Chris Swenning
Police Sergeant	Trey Tunis

Absent

Police Chief	Lee Dick
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Call to Order

Mayor Seale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Kocian led the invocation and pledges.

Citizen Participation

Mike Whitten spoke on the history of the ownership and lease of the American Legion Post 94 building.

Presentation Agenda

1. Kristen Laney presented the Council with a proposal to become a host city on the Harvest Host app. She has volunteered to manage the listing with direction from the City. She proposed creating four parallel spaces at the rear of the Main Street parking lots. Mrs. Laney explained that the app strictly limits the timeframe of usage from no earlier than 5:00 p.m. until no later than 11:00 a.m. the next morning. The purpose is to bring people to the downtown area and promote business patronage.
2. Mike Patton and Jeff Bednarz presented the Council with a rough cut of the advertising commercial that was filmed by The Board of Directors.

Staff Reports

1. Fire Chief Swenning added that the Flatonia Fire and Rescue has a new certified firefighter.
2. Sergeant Tunis updated the Council on the recent vehicle break-ins at McWhirter Park and gave tips on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of such a crime.

3. Utility Director Pavlas gave an update on the planned electric outage on June 10th.
4. Councilman Kocian said a citizen complained to him about the overgrown grass at the former Napa building on Highway 609.
5. Mayor Seale updated the Council on the award of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreation grant. The grant award is \$375,000 and will be used to pave the walking trails at 7 Acre Park and McWhirter Park. City Manager Miller and Mayor Seale will attend a check presentation ceremony at the Capital Area Council of Governments on June 11th. The presentation is from the General Land Office for a water improvements grant.

Consent Agenda

Consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

1. Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting held on May 14, 2025.
2. Financial reports from May 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem Sears moved to approve the consent agenda items. Councilman Brazill stated there is a mistake in the minutes of the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Sears altered her motion to approve the consent agenda with the correction. Councilman Brazill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Discussion Agenda

1. Mayor Seale set July 29th at 6:00 p.m. as the first budget workshop for the General Fund.

New Business Agenda

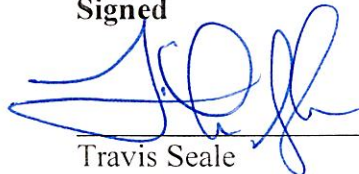
1. Mayor Pro Tem Sears moved to approve setting up a host stop on the Harvest Host app and allowing Kristen Laney to maintain the listing. Councilman Kocian questioned the size of the vehicles utilizing the space. City Attorney Boulware-Wells suggested creating an agreement between Mrs. Laney and the City to outline the agreed-upon terms. Mayor Pro Tem Sears amended her motion to add “as per the agreement between the City of Flatonia and Kristen Laney.” Councilman Homan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
2. Councilman Homan clarified that this vote is simply to approve the general feel of the commercial and that the project met the initial objectives. Councilman Homan moved, with a second from Councilman Laney, to approve the film in its current direction. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
3. The Council previously voted to approve a draft of the lease agreement in February 2024 and gave the City Manager the authority to negotiate the final version. The item has been brought back to the Council because a final version was never agreed upon, and since then, both the Council and the City Manager have changed. After much discussion, Councilman Homan moved, with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Sears, to table the agenda item. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

4. City Manager Miller informed the Council that the Parks Committee recommended two projects for the LCRA grant application: installing a bridge over the drainage creek to make McWhirter Park and 7 Acre Park ADA accessible, and installing low-impact exercise equipment along the walking trail. He has spoken with the City's LCRA liaison to identify weaknesses in the City's previous grant application, and plans to begin gathering information to strengthen the upcoming application. Mayor Seale would like to focus on shading at the pool and splash pad. The Council advised the Parks Committee to gather bids and get a list of projects that would be more beneficial to the community. No action was taken. The item will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.
5. Councilman Homan moved, with a second from Councilman Laney, to approve setting the budget for the sludge removal project at \$458,693. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
6. Councilman Brazill asked for clarification on the rates, and City Secretary Ott informed the Council that the City employee benefits are paid for the employee only. Mayor Pro Tem Sears moved, with a second from Councilman Kocian, to approve the Texas Health Benefits rates for Fiscal Year 2026. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
7. Councilman Laney moved, with a second from Councilman Kocian, to approve changes to the FEDC budget to create a new line item for Drainage Study and to move \$30,000 from the Business Incentive Program grant line to the Drainage Study line. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
3. Councilman Homan moved to remove the agenda item from the table. Councilman Homan moved to suspend the American Legion agenda item to be discussed in the next regular meeting with the Mayor, City Manager, and relevant parties to develop a framework for consideration and presentation at the next regular meeting to enable further refinement. Councilman Brazill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Adjournment

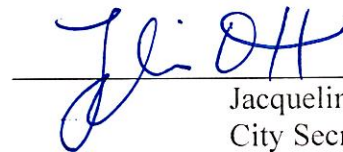
Mayor Seale adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Signed



Travis Seale
Mayor

ATTEST



Jacqueline Ott
City Secretary

