

**MINUTES FOR THE  
FEBRUARY 09, 2026  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Call to Order and Recording of Quorum.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and a quorum was established.

City Council Members Present

Mayor John Low

Emmy Ballantyne

Bill Mitchell

Peter Mako

Kate Lanfear

City Staff Present

City Manager, William Foley

Executive Secretary, Kristyn Schones

Fire Chief, William Knupp

Asst. Fire Chief, Justin Seibert

Police Chief, Gail Baham

Asst. Police Chief, Gabriel Ortiz

Director, Rick Baldarrama

Attorney, Frank Garza

Others Present

Jessica Mitchell

Michael Carroll

Michael Knott

Suzie Thomas

Collier Bashara

Frank Burney

Renee' & Terry Bailey

Dick Tips

Sidney Swearinger

Jill O'Brien

Scotty Dewald

Henry Jones

Linda Camp

**2. Review/Action of minutes from:**

**a. December 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing & Regular Meeting**

Mayor Low asked if all had read the minutes and asked if anyone had any corrections or amendments, there were none. Mayor Low asked for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Mitchell motioned, Mako seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**3. Comments by Citizens.** Sidney Swearinger stood and stated that from East to West on Geneseo there are speeding vehicles and she is concerned as there are pedestrians along with children and animals that walk that

area. Ms. Swearinger wanted to suggest that the council consider putting in a 4-way stop sign at Geneseo and Eldon. Mayor Low thanked Ms. Swearinger and agreed it was an unusual intersection and suggested she follow up with Chief Baham and Foley, City Manager. There were no other comments.

**4. Discussion/Action: Improvements of the ground cover on the Geneseo Esplanade.**

Mayor Low stated that plans had been circulated and the plans were prepared by a landscape architect that the city had retained. Low informed everyone that as the years have gone by the tree canopy has gotten bigger, making it harder to grow ground cover and grass underneath the trees. Mayor Low advised we have had preliminary plans, new plans and budgets and advised it is a big-ticket item for our budget. Mayor Low stated should we want to make the improvements we will need to get feedback from the community about the desirability of the project. Mayor Low opened the floor for discussion. Taylor Dawson introduced himself and stated he loved the idea of improvements to the esplanade and the plans. Dawson advised his only request would be that there continue to be a line item in the future for maintenance once improvements are made. Terry Bailey advised it is a strategic location for the beautification of our community, and it is a reflection on Terrell Hills. Bailey stated he is in favor of improvements and agrees with Dawson on the budget item for maintaining the improvements. Dick Tips stood to present bids and ideas that he feels will be beneficial for the safety concerns at Geneseo and Eldon as well as options for the community to consider. Tips advised he would like all to review the bullet points as this would help all to consider what works for the community and not just the residents on Geneseo. Discussion continued between Tips, Dawson and Swearinger regarding historical markers and ideas for the markers. Mr. Bailey thanked Tips for his presentation and asked what the costs were in comparison to what had already been submitted. Tips advised that the bids are higher as they include the street and they go from \$105,000 to \$230,000.00. Tips stated he would email these bids and ideas. Mayor Low advised Tips to email them to Foley. Mayor Low asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak. Frank Burney introduced himself and stated that he and Boo advised they have a little money raised already to help with the project and will do whatever they can to help. Mayor Low thanked Burney and asked if there was anyone else that wanted to speak for or against on the Geneseo project. Dick Tips advised he had a questionnaire of frequently asked questions and stated he would also try to help raise money to fund the project. Mayor Low thanked Tips and asked if there was anyone else with thoughts or ideas for the project. There were none. Mayor Low advised there were four emails that had been received and the questions asked were whether this project is using city dollars to enhance the value of the homes on Geneseo and others advised the street projects are of more communal benefit than the esplanade. Mitchell said in reading the emails the question comes down to money and who is funding. Mayor Low advised the discussion is getting everyone's input and whether we have the financial capability along with community interests to move forward with the project. Mayor Low advised he expects there will be another meeting and decide if we do want to go forward. Mayor thanked all for coming for the discussion and due to no other discussion, the session closed.

Boy Scout Troop 809 introduced themselves and stated they are attending the meeting for a badge in citizenship and community which is to listen to a topic that has two opposing points and explain to their leader why they agree with one opinion more than the other. Mayor thanked Troop 809 for attending the meeting.

**5. Discussion/Action: Adoption of Ordinances 1557 & 1558- Ordering a General Election**

**a) Ordinance #1557:**

**ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF TERRELL HILLS, TEXAS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILPERSONS FOR PLACES ONE (1) AND TWO (2), EACH TO SERVE A TWO YEAR TERM; TO BE HELD THE 2<sup>nd</sup> OF MAY 2026; DESIGNATING THE MAIN EARLY VOTING PLACE FOR SUCH ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR AN ORDER AND NOTICE OF SUCH GENERAL ELECTION; DESIGNATING MICHELE CAREW, BEXAR COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR, AS THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR TO CONDUCT SAID ELECTION; DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACES; DESIGNATING FILING**

**DEADLINES: ORDERING NOTICES OF ELECTION TO BE POSTED AND PUBLISHED AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW IN CONNECTION WITH SAID ELECTION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**b) Ordinance # 1558:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TERRELL HILLS, TEXAS ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2026, IN THE CITY OF TERRELL HILLS ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF A ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN THE CITY OF TERRELL HILLS, TEXAS, FOR CONTINUED MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL STREETS; MAKING PROVISION FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION; RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO SUCH ELECTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Schones explained that Ordinance 1557 is a general election for the mayor and for council places one and two and the election is to be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Schones advised Bexar County Elections has been contracted to help run the elections as they have in the past. Schones then explained Ordinance 1558 is to also run on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, this election is for our sales tax, it is good for 4 years and this helps us use our sales tax money to allocate those funds to our street maintenance. Mayor Low asked if there were any questions on the ordinances, there were none. Mayor Low asked for a motion to approve Ordinance # 1557 as submitted. Ballantyne motioned, Mitchell seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed. Mayor Low asked for a motion to approve Ordinance # 1558 as submitted. Mako motioned, Lanfear seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**6. Discussion/Action/Approval: for the City Manager to enter an agreement with Apple Pest Control for the provision of animal trapping and wildlife management services.**

Mayor Low read the agenda item and asked the Police Department to explain the request. Assistant Ortiz advised the purpose is to obtain assistance with unwanted wildlife and what was founded and recommended by Texas Parks and Wildlife was to hire a pest control company due to the fact they have permission and permits to capture and relocate the animals outside the community. Ortiz stated that Apple Pest Control was the only pest control willing to come down on costs as shown in council's packets. Ortiz explained the costs included officer training in deterring, bating, and setting traps. Mayor Low advised this is a service that is needed and asked for a motion to approve the agreement with Apple Pest Control. Ballantyne motioned, Mitchell seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**7. Discussion of monthly reports as submitted in the council packets.**

Mayor Low asked if anyone had questions regarding the monthly reports. Mitchell asked Baham about the progress of the occurring car break-ins and vehicle thefts. Baham advised that Lieutenant Guttierrez has identified individuals and advised that Assistant Chief Ortiz would be working nights providing guidance and leadership to evening patrol. Discussion continued how the cloning of key fobs can occur and how it has been found to be factory key fobs that were taken to obtain the vehicles stolen. Baham stated that they need the vehicle to be found to know if the fob was cloned or if the factory fob was used. Mayor Low asked the fire department about their assistance with the police department on a bomb threat. Knupp stated the police department could explain the outcome. Baham stated it was a mental health consumer out of New York and advised New York was contacted. Mayor Low asked Baldarrama if all was well in his department and how leaf pick up was going. Baldarrama advised, yes, that his department is running three trucks for the pick-ups.

**8. Adjournment**

Mayor Low advised no further business and adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY-MANAGER