



**ELGIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**January 20, 2026**  
**6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McShan called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor McShan called roll. Mayor McShan stated that Council Member Rodriguez was absent due to an illness. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love motioned to excuse Council Member Rodriguez. Council Member Gibson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

**Present:**

Theresa Y. McShan, Mayor  
Arthur Gibson III, Council Member, Ward 1  
Joy Casnovsky, Council Member, Ward 1  
Chuck Swain, Council Member, Ward 2  
YaLecia Love, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 2  
Tiffany St. Pierre, Council Member, Ward 3  
Sue Brashar, Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 4  
Liston Crim, Council Member, Ward 4

**Absent:**

Al Rodriguez, Council Member, Ward 3

**Staff:**

Robert Eads, City Manager  
Peyton Standifer, City Secretary  
Mark Schroeder, City Attorney  
Beau Perry, Development Services Director/City Engineer  
Sonia Browder, Media Specialist  
Kristina Alvarez, Main Street Manager  
Heather Fowler, Library Services Manager  
Terry Fowler, Construction Manager  
Todd Johnson, Police Commander  
Esmeralda Rangel, Assistant City Secretary  
Uriel Campos, Administrative Assistant  
Grace Perez, Interim Parks and Recreation Manager  
Mathew Decker, Police Sergeant  
Bryan Heinrich, Police Corporal  
Oscar Taboada, Police Officer  
Lori Lankford, Gradient Leadership Solutions

## **INVOCATION**

Council Member Casnovsky provided the invocation.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor McShan led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING A 45.452-ACRE TRACT OF LAND, THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED, TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF ELGIN, BASTROP AND TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AND EXTENDING THE BOUNDARY LIMITS OF SAID CITY SO AS TO INCLUDE SAID HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY LIMITS, AND GRANTING TO ALL THE INHABITANTS OF SAID PROPERTY ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS AND BINDING SAID INHABITANTS BY ALL OF THE ACTS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND REGULATIONS OF SAID CITY; AND ADOPTING A SERVICE PLAN OR AGREEMENT; AND GRANTING ZONING OF "R-1" SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS.**

No one in attendance wished to speak for the Public Hearing.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Annette Whatley, Booted Eagle Pass, requested an explanation from the City about the Elgin Police Department's response to the ICE operations. Ms. Whatley stated that transparency regarding the direction the Elgin Police Department has been given for ICE operations is necessary, and protecting the community is not about politics but about upholding the law, preserving trust, and keeping families safe. She hopes that Elgin leads with clarity and compassion.

Caroline Mueller, North Main Street, stated that she has lived in Elgin for 3 years and has found it to be a wonderful place to live. She thought Elgin was a safe place away from violations of due process, but through watching the news about ICE, she sees that's not the case. She understands there is only so much one person can do, and hopes that everyone will bring their power together and use it to fight back against injustices, as she has seen the community show up for each other before.

Mary Callahan Kuismore, Wilbarger Creek Drive, addressed the ICE situation and reminded everyone that every inch of this country was stolen land and that the settlers committed genocide. Even though she knows that there is a lot that cannot be done, she will not stay silent and hopes that others won't either. She also stated that they will not stop, and once they are done with one group, they will go for the next minority.

Amber Gagliano, Christina Drive, expressed that Elgin is made of families, and some families are scared, not because they did something wrong, but because they do not know where their City stands. She respectfully asks City officials to make a public statement about where they stand on ICE operations, as public statements are not breaking any federal laws, and to remember our slogan of "One Town, One Team, One Family".

Krista Gaston, North Main Street, stated that she grew up in Elgin and worked with immigrants as a therapist for trauma-informed care. She believes the current political climate is wrecking the communities' nervous systems. As a trauma-informed systems strategist, she believed that when a

protest emerges in the community, trauma fragmentation was already present. She stated that Elgin leadership needs to turn towards healing-oriented policies and asked for a statement from the City, police chief, and school district regarding their policies and relationships with federal ICE agents.

Debbie Gaston, North Main Street, expressed her concerns about ICE. She stated that she remembers when she taught in the public schools in Elgin, and the main thing schools did was to make sure the kids who were minorities were safe. She hopes it continues to be the same and that we haven't stopped caring about that important part of the community.

Darcy Schneider, Norwood Lane, spoke against ICE being allowed in the community. She stated that she finds it frightening to see their activity in town, and wants the community to support each other instead of working against each other. She stated that she is mostly here to support everyone who spoke before her and ask the Council to continue to serve those in the community, and stand up to speak on this important issue.

Julia Assata, East 8th Street, stated that she has lived here for 13 years and was drawn to Elgin by the sense of community. She realizes that there are racial divisions in where people live, but we come together. She is asking the Council to decide where they stand on ICE operations for transparency, with a cohesive message from the City, school, and Elgin Police Department. If a cohesive message can not be reached, then she suggests that on the City website, each Council member states their stance on the ICE operations, as the citizens have a right to know who they elect.

Kim Snyder, Norwood Lane, stated that her family is Jewish, and her father fought in WWII. He always said the Holocaust would happen again, and she is nervous and sad that it seems to be happening now. She believes that, as taxpayers, the Elgin Police Department should not be working with ICE to take citizens, and that schools and churches should be safe places. She believes people should stand up for the community, or else this will keep happening. She also requested transparency on elected officials' beliefs.

Caitlin Harris, Brandy Lane, stated that she is a farmer and community member. She acknowledged that two of the Council Members were at the protest last week. She believes that if Elgin collaborates with ICE, it will shred the community. She reminds everyone that Texas has never been all white and never will be, and we take care of one another. She reminded the Council that the community will remember what the leaders of Elgin do and what decisions they make. She also asked the Council to look for another place to put the wastewater treatment plant.

Stephanie Lippke, North Main Street, states to the Council that this is a moment to pause and reflect, and that sending the City Manager to an out-of-town training in the middle of budget season might not set the right tone for the City's priorities. She stated that Elgin still does not have a finance director, while the City Manager is currently making \$260,000.00 a year before benefits. She emphasizes that leadership is about timing and readiness. This decision raises concerns about the priorities and places this above the security of the finances. She also questioned how the City is hiring for a finance director and senior accountant if the positions are still not posted.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. ADHD Parenting Playbook Thursday, January 22nd at Elgin Public Library 7pm**  
Grace Perez, Interim Parks and Recreation Manager, provided this announcement to the Council.

**2. Prime Timer Field Trip Curio Mrvosa & Hayley's Grains Monday, January 26th 2pm-4pm**

Grace Perez, Interim Parks and Recreation Manager, provided this announcement to the Council.

**3. Emancipet's Central Texas Regional Low-Cost Mobile Clinic Thursday, January 29th at Elgin Recreation Center**

Grace Perez, Interim Parks and Recreation Manager, provided this announcement to the Council.

**4. Blood Drive Wednesday, February 4th at Elgin Recreation Center 12pm-6pm**

Grace Perez, Interim Parks and Recreation Manager, provided this announcement to the Council.

## **PRESENTATION**

**1. A PROCLAMATION HONORING GLORIA JEAN HOUSTON-OCKLETREE**

Mayor McShan read the proclamation. No one was present to receive the proclamation.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**1. Introduction of New City Employees**

Robert Eads, City Manager, invited Pamela Sanders, Human Resources Director, to address the Council. Ms. Sanders explained that this would be a recurring item each month to introduce new City of Elgin team members. Ms. Sanders introduced Dallin Dean, Animal Control Officer, who holds a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Mr. Dean has worked as a public safety officer, correctional officer, and animal engagement instructor. Next, she introduced Daryl Armstead, patrol officer, who brings over a decade of law enforcement experience from the University of Texas Police Department and LaGrange Police Department. Mr. Armstead holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice and has earned his Master's Peace Officer License. Finally, Ms. Sanders introduced Amy Andrade, part-time Parks and Recreation Program Assistant. She will be working alongside Ms. Perez in coordinating various community programs and is eager to bring her hospitality and customer service skills to a public service role.

**2. Authorize the Acceptance into Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program on June 1–19, 2026, and to Authorize the City Manager to Apply for the ICMA William Ferguson Jr. Scholarship to Fund the Tuition.**

Robert Eads, City Manager, explained that this item is to authorize the City Manager to accept the position in the Harvard Kennedy School, and authorize him to apply for the scholarship. Mr. Eads stated that this program is about local and City governance specifically, and that his application was approved by the board out of thousands. He believes this would make the City more credible. He explained that Harvard needs an answer by the end of January. Council Member Swain complimented Mr. Eads for his acceptance. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love said she is open to entertaining an agreement with Mr. Schroeder to make sure the City is covered in the event that Mr. Eads decides to leave the City. Mark Schroeder, City Attorney, explained to the Council how they could make the motion to stipulate that Mr. Eads remain for a certain amount of time or Mr. Eads would be responsible for paying the City back the money for this training. Council Member St. Pierre questioned the timing and the effect it would have on the budget season. Council

Member Crim questioned where the money would come from to pay for this if Mr. Eads was not awarded the scholarship. Mr. Eads explained that the City has salary savings, and the roughly \$1.3 million that the City is no longer required to pay to ESD No. 3 for Emergency Services.

Council Member Swain made a motion to approve the acceptance and scholarship application, and appropriate the funds, with the stipulation that the Mayor enter into an agreement with the City Manager that if, within 2 years after completion, if resignation is given, the City Manager will reimburse the City. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **3. Finance Department Update**

Robert Eads, City Manager, invited Pamela Sanders to address the Council. Ms. Sanders provided the Quarterly Investment Report, which is required by the City Charter, and explained that the report reflects the ending balance for each account as of the end of the quarter on December 31, 2025. She presented the Budget Report for the General Fund and Utility Fund. She noted that expenditures in both funds are consistent with expectations for the first quarter of the fiscal year, with approximately 77 percent remaining in the General Fund and 79 percent remaining in the Utility Fund. Additionally, Ms. Sanders presented the Sales Tax Report and explained that it was two months behind the current month; therefore, collections received in October reflect activity from August. She also discussed the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) reports, noting that these projects are currently underway, and that the budgets reflected correspond to the fiscal year in which each project began, rather than the current fiscal year. There were no questions from the Council regarding the reports. Mr. Eads informed the Council that staff are in the process of cleaning up financial records from 2024 and 2025. Mr. Eads noted that finance staff is performing a significant portion of the work that would typically be handled by Gradient or the auditors, with approximately 75 percent of the reporting completed internally. Ms. Sanders stated that the reports will be posted on the City's website by the end of the week.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes - January 6, 2026**

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

### **2. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE POLLING LOCATION RESERVATION CONFIRMATION AND RESERVING THE ELGIN RECREATION CENTER AS A POLLING LOCATION FOR THE MARCH 3, 2026, PRIMARY ELECTION; AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATED THERETO. (Standifer)**

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

### **3. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR THE KENNEDY STREET AND COUNTY LINE ROAD DRAINAGE PROJECTS ALSO KNOWN AS GLO CONTRACT No. 22-085-029-D270 AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATED THERETO. (GONZALEZ)**

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar motioned to approve the consent agenda. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-09-26-15 THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Robert Eads, City Manager, invited Pamela Sanders, Human Resources Director, and Lori Lankford, Gradient Leadership Solutions, to address the Council. Ms. Sanders explained that this budget amendment is for the previous budget, and copies were left at their place. More revenue was collected than was expensed, so this is a balanced budget amendment. Debt Services was not correctly written in the original budget, and this amendment is written to remedy that. The Transfers In and Out address the money that was not moved from the Construction Fund to the General Fund to cover expenses that were paid out of the General Fund. Ms. Sanders stated that this is a requirement for the upcoming audit. Council Member Crim questioned whether this should have been done at the time of the expense. Mr. Eads and Ms. Sanders explained that it has taken this long to decipher the transactions and bring this to Council. Ms. Lankford explained that this will allow City Staff to write the 2027 budget while knowing the Fund Balance.

Council Member St. Pierre motioned to adopt an ordinance of the City of Elgin, Texas, amending Ordinance No. 2024-09-26-15, that adopted the Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. Council Member Crim seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

**2. AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING A 45.452-ACRE TRACT OF LAND, THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED, TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF ELGIN, BASTROP AND TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AND EXTENDING THE BOUNDARY LIMITS OF SAID CITY SO AS TO INCLUDE SAID HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY LIMITS, AND GRANTING TO ALL THE INHABITANTS OF SAID PROPERTY ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS AND BINDING SAID INHABITANTS BY ALL OF THE ACTS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND REGULATIONS OF SAID CITY; AND ADOPTING A SERVICE PLAN OR AGREEMENT; AND GRANTING ZONING OF “R-1” SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS. (Perry)**

Mayor McShan invited Beau Perry, Development Services Director, to address the Council. Mr. Perry stated that this property is owned by a single development but is two different properties. One is already within City limits, and the other is not. Originally, the property was under a development agreement which stipulated that when the developers submitted a Development Plan and/or a Preliminary Final Plat, they would annex into the City. He explained that this tract of land is part of a larger development, and the zoning change will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission before it returns to the Council. Council Member Casnovsky questioned the collection of the sales tax for this area. Mr. Perry stated that currently there is no sales tax to be collected from this area, but the annexation will allow the City to collect sales tax when there is.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love motioned to approve the ordinance. Council Member Gibson seconded. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

**3. AN ORDINANCE ASSIGNING NEWLY ANNEXED PROPERTIES TO CITY COUNCIL WARD AREA NO. 3; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING**

**AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING  
CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS. (Perry)**

Beau Perry, Development Services Director, explained that when property is annexed into the City limits it must be assigned to a Ward. As it is currently, the property will have a zero population, and based on the adjacent property, this would qualify as Ward 3. Mr. Perry clarified that at some point in time, the Wards will need to be balanced and redistricted.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar motioned to approve the ordinance. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

**4. Discussion with Possible Action to Establish a Policy that Requires the Rotation of Council Members' Board Assignments Annually, excluding the Board of Adjustments Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Building Standards Commission, and the Elgin Economic Development Corporation, with the Initial Rotation After the May 2, 2026 Elections.**

Mayor McShan read the title of the item. Council Member St. Pierre explained that this item was brought forward by herself, Council Member Gibson, and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love. She explained that the proposal would designate Council Members as liaisons to each of the Boards and Commissions. She believes this will allow them to provide guidance when needed, rather than serving as voting members of the Boards or Commissions. Council Member St. Pierre noted that this approach would help strengthen communication and connection between the City Council and the Boards. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Love expressed disagreement with the proposal, stating that she believes Council Members should serve as voting members on the Boards and Commissions. She noted that this structure is used successfully in other communities, including Pflugerville. She also questioned why the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was not included. Mr. Eads explained that the EDC was excluded because the by-laws include specific eligibility requirements, such as property ownership. Discussion followed.

Council Member St. Pierre made a motion for Council Members to become liaisons to specific boards: Historic Review Board, Library Advisory Board, Main Street Board, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Council Member Gibson seconded. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mayor McShan stated that there would be further discussion on selection of Board liaisons after the elections.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council did not adjourn into Executive Session.

**RECONVENE**

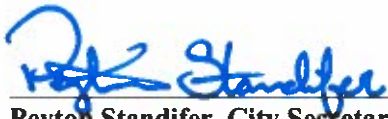
The Council did not adjourn into Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McShan adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Theresa Y. McShan, Mayor



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**Peyton Standifer, City Secretary**