

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF RUNNELS §  
CITY OF BALLINGER §

On the 5th day of January 2026, the Ballinger City Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall located at 700 Railroad Avenue with the following members present:

Darlene Kelly	Mayor
Martin Akins	Councilmember Place #1
John Fulton	Councilmember Place #2
Steve Gray	Councilmember Place #4

**Absent:**

Ryan Lange	Councilmember Place #3
Cord Bowman	Public Works Director

**Staff Present:**

Lindsey Gayoso	City Manager
Sharon Hicks	City Attorney
David Brem	Public Utilities Director
Ray Cornutt	Chief of Police

1. **Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Prayer and Pledges:** Councilmember Gray gave the invocation and led the pledges.
3. **Citizen Presentations for Items not on the Agenda:** N/A
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing:** N/A
5. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a. Approve Minutes from December 15, 2025 City Council Meeting. Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
  - a. **Resolution #2026-01-001 adding Mayor Darlene Kelly as a signer at Keystone Bank and removing Dawni Seymore and Richard Morrish.** Councilmember Fulton made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - b. **Designate the official newspaper for publication of City notices and legal advertisements in accordance with applicable state law.** City Manager Gayoso discussed the Agriplex flyer has been a reliable source and continued discussion with Councilmember Gray on Cherry Road Media (Runnels County Register) of difficulties getting ads in the paper and they only run every 2 weeks as Agriplex

Flyer is every week. Councilmember Akins moved to designate the Agriplex Flyer as the official newspaper for publications and legal notices for the City of Ballinger. Councilmember Fulton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. **Discussion regarding an ordinance addressing dead or hazardous trees located near or along roadways to prevent potential damage to ensure the safety of traveling citizens within public right-of-way.** Councilmember Gray presented concerns regarding dead or hazardous trees that may fall into roadways, creating safety hazards for motorists. Councilmember Gray noted that this has occurred multiple times during storms or high winds, resulting in damage to vehicles traveling on city roadways. City Manager Gayoso discussed the numerous calls City Hall has received regarding tree-related issues and questions about responsibility for tree maintenance and removal. Some citizens have requested clarification on where responsibility is defined, while others may be compliant with recommendations if provided with additional information regarding tree hazards and ownership responsibilities.

Attorney Hicks advised that providing education and clearer guidance to citizens regarding tree responsibility and potential hazards may be beneficial. Attorney Hicks will review ordinances from other cities to determine how similar issues are addressed and will report findings back to the Council.

**7. Department Reports:**

- a. **Public Works Update: Cord Bowman-** Director Bowman was absent. Councilmember Fulton inquired about paving plans and whether the City would be requesting assistance from the County or pursuing an alternative route. City Manager Gayoso stated she would follow up with Director Bowman and expressed hope that the County would be willing to take on paving projects this year.
- b. **Public Utilities Update: David Brem**
- c. **Public Safety Update: Chief Ray Cornutt**
- d. **City Manager: Lindsey Gayoso**

**8. Future Agenda Items – Discuss and Consider:** Financials, Payables, Amendments

**9. Executive Session:** Council Convened into Executive Session at 5:58 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code.

- a. **Section 551.071 Consultation with the City Attorney.**
  - a. **Ballinger Volunteer Fire Department**
  - b. **Mutual Aid**
- b. **Section 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property.**
  - a. **907 N 14<sup>th</sup>**
  - b. **902 N 11<sup>th</sup> Deed**
  - c. **1308 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street**
- c. **Section 551.074 Personnel Matters.**

**10. Reconvene and take Action if needed from Executive Session:** The City Council reconvened in open session at 6:46 p.m. Mayor Kelly stated that no votes or actions were taken. Mayor Kelly turned the council to Attorney Hicks for the discussion and votes for

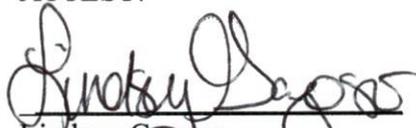
- a. Ballinger Volunteer Fire Department**
- b. Mutual Aid**
- c. 907 Nth 14<sup>th</sup> Street**
- d. 902 N 11<sup>th</sup> Deed**
- e. 1308 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

- a. Councilmember Gray moved to remove the requirement from the BVFD/City Agreement that the BVFD pay for insurance for Attack 2 and Councilmember Fulton seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- b. No action on Mutual Aid
- c. 907 N. 14<sup>th</sup>: Councilmember Akins moved to list for sale after verifying that the taxes have been paid and Councilmember Gray seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- d. 902 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Deed—Councilmember Fulton moved to seek approval from the sole heir (surviving daughter) for city to secure property and have ownership transfer to city; Councilmember Gray seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- e. 1308 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street, No action taken (staff to reverify December 2025 purported deed)

**11. Adjourn:** Councilmember Gray made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
Darlene Kelly  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lindsey Gayoso  
City Manager, City Secretary