



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

April 02, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Keene City Hall - Robert G. Cooper Council Chamber
1000 N. Old Betsy Rd., Cleburne, Texas 76031

Recorded Live Stream Available at <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofkeenetexas>

Members present: Samantha Gillin, Mayor Pro Tem; and Council Members Bob Chapman, Chuck Easley, and Troy Smith. Council Member Shaw arrived at 6:09 p.m.

Members Absent: Rob Foster

City Staff present: Jonathan Seitz, City Manager; Holly Russell, City Secretary; Don Martin, Director of Development & Neighborhood Services; Chief James Kidd and Lt. Robert Steele, Keene Police Department; Chief Dan Warner; Keene Fire & Rescue; Keith Barrow, Digital Marketing Coordinator.

1. Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to Texas Flag

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Council Member Smith gave the invocation.

2. Mayor Announcements

A. *Keene Fire Department will present a "Lifesaving Award" to a Keene resident.*

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin announced that City Hall is closed tomorrow for Good Friday. She shared a recap of the dedication of the memorial bench to Matthew Davis. She called Chief Warner forward to present a lifesaving award. Chief Warner spoke of the heroic deeds young resident Hayden who went to call for emergency services while his parent administered aid to a younger sibling. The family reported that the youngest son is doing well, and they are grateful for the first responders of the city.

3. Public Comments

Paul Gnadt, Director of the Keene Chamber of Commerce, invited anyone interested in a Memorial Day service to attend a planning meeting on April 6 at 5:00 p.m., in the small meeting room of the Community Center.

4. Reports

Informational reports only; no action to be taken.

A. *Receive a report from Ahrein Bennett, Texas Health Community Impact (THCI) Program Manager for Johnson County, about the THCI program, available grants, information on the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment, and information on receiving proposals for grants.*

Ahrein Bennett, Texas Health Community Impact (THCI) Program Manager for Johnson County, gave an overview of the health needs assessment for the area and what grants are available to help alleviate these needs. They also partner with local organizations, such as the REACH Council, to help meet the needs of residents. The 2027-2028 grant request proposals will be focusing on innovation in health programs that assist with meeting needs. In 2023-2024, a grant was given to REACH Council to develop the website *Starting Point*, which helps the public find the assistance in Johnson County. Two representatives of the REACH Council spoke briefly about the "Seeds to Success" grant that will focus on youth to young adults (ages 15-25) that are not in school or employed and how to get them reconnected with education or employment.

B. *City Manager's Comments – Project Hero, Metalplate and Industrial Park, Luz Arauzo Park, Shelly Lane Petition, City Fleet*

Jonathan Seitz, City Manager, shared information on the May 9 Project Hero bike ride coming through Keene, a company (Metalplate) will be joining the Keene Industrial Park and potentially creating up to 250 new jobs, staff are already working with the EDC-B Board to improve the Pocket Park/Luz Arauzo Park that was Donated by former Mayor Gary Heinrich and his wife, staff have met with engineers to see what can be done about the flooding on Shelly Drive and have also met with the residents there on the matter, and that some of the new fleet vehicles are beginning to be delivered and the cost is projected to be \$127,000 under budget. He announced that Metalplate will be at the next Council meeting to report on their plans and how they want to be involved in the community, and staff are also starting a community coffee time prior to each meeting that all are invited to attend.

5. Consent Agenda

All items listed below have been previously discussed, require no deliberation, or are routine by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of the items. Items to be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion by the City Council. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. Otherwise, approval of the consent agenda authorizes the City Manager to implement each item in accordance with the staff's recommendation.

- A. *Consider approval of the minutes of the Keene City Council special meeting held on March 01 and 02, 2026 in Granbury, Texas.*
- B. *Consider approval of the minutes of the regular Keene City Council meeting held on March 05, 2026.*

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Smith, Seconded by Easley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

6. Public Hearing Items

There was no public hearing scheduled for this meeting.

7. General

General business items for discussion:

- A. *Review, discuss, and consider approval of the second reading of Resolution No. 2026-495 approving the following EDC Type B projects approved by the Keene Community Development Corporation: the purchase and installation of a skate park, the purchase and installation of specific sidewalks in the city, the naming of the pocket park to "Luz Arauzo Park and the purchase and installation of improvements to the park, the purchase and installation of additional secondary outdoor warning sirens, and the purchase and installation of additional lighting at Elisa Carver Park.*

Council Member Smith spoke to his visits to two other skate parks and what he observed. Mayor Pro Tem Gillin asked Ms. Russell to read Resolution No. 2026-495 and then asked Council if there was any discussion on the item.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-495

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KEENE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING TYPE B PROJECTS: THE KEENE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ("KCDC") WILL PROVIDE FUNDS FOR: TWO ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR SECONDARY WARNING SIRENS, ADDITIONAL LIGHTING TO ELISA CARVER PARK, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUZ AROUZO PARK, THE CREATION OF A SKATE PARK, AND THE ADDITION OF SIDEWALK TO THE CITY.

A motion was made to approve the second reading of Resolution No. 2026-495 approving the EDC Type B project expenditures and naming of Luz Arauzo Park, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Smith, Seconded by Shaw.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

B. Review, discuss, and consider approving the expenditure of up to \$115,000 to repair Well 12.

Mr. Seitz explained that the pump motor on Well 12 has expired and needs to be replaced. From the quotes that were given, the cost of materials and labor are projected to be as high as \$115,000. The City is requesting approval for expenditure of funds not to exceed this amount to make the necessary repairs. A motion was made to approve the use of up to \$115,000, using funds from the TWDB grant, for the necessary repairs to Well 12, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Chapman, Seconded by Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Smith, Shaw

C. Review, discuss, and consider action to adopt a revised Boards and Commissions Membership Appointment Policy, amending the section prohibiting Council from being appointed to a board or commission to allow for Council to be appointed in the event there is a shortage of appointed members.

Paul Gnadt, resident, spoke in favor of not appointing Council to a Board, or appointing a person to multiple boards, and shared his reasons. Wes Scram, former EDC-A Board member, spoke to how difficult it once was to get more people to serve on the Boards and Commissions, and is in support of a Council Member being active on the EDC Boards as a representative of Council.

A motion was made to approve the revision to the Appointment policy as presented, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Shaw, Seconded by Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

Council had a consensus that Ms. Gillin can complete her term on the EDC-A Board. She noted that she would step down should another member of public wish to be appointed to the Board.

D. Review, discuss, and give direction to regarding posting a dress code for those who attend and wish to speak to Council or to revise the Rules of Order and Procedure.

Ms. Russell explained that the City Attorney recommended that Council can make a statement that they will also adhere to the posted Courtroom Rules of Decorum that are to be posted outside of the doors, or they may revise the Rules of Order. Ray Johnson, resident, disagreed with there being a dress code. A motion was made to table the item until the next meeting when the attorney is in attendance, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Smith, Seconded by Easley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

E. Review, discuss, and take action to consider rescheduling or canceling the June 4, 2026, regular Council meeting date due to Administration staff's absences to attend seminars and conferences.

Mr. Seitz explained that Administrative staff would be absent the day of the June meeting date for various training seminars and conferences, and asked Council to consider moving the meeting to the third Thursday, June 18, or cancelling the June meeting. A motion was made to move the meeting to June 18, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Easley, Seconded by Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

8. Executive Session

Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council may recess to Executive Session at any time during the meeting that a need arises for the City Council to seek advice from the City Attorney as to any posted item and by the following authority:

- A. Texas Government Code Section 551.071** - Consultation with an attorney for advice about pending litigation (Cause No. DC-C202600174 Vincent Carl Castro v. City of Keene, Texas, Jonathan Seitz, Troyce Samantha Gillin, Robert Allan Foster, Troy William Smith, Johnny Ray Shaw, Robert Eugene Chapman)
- B. Texas Government Code Section 551.076** - Deliberation regarding security devices or security audits to deliberate the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices.

Ms. Russell read the Executive Session agenda items as listed on the published meeting agenda, and Mayor Pro Tem Gillin recessed into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

9. Reconvene into Open Session

To take action on the above-listed Executive Session item(s), if any:

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin reconvened the open meeting at 8:13 p.m. A motion was made on item 8A to authorize the City Manager to work with the TML attorney to file a response on behalf of the City and Council Members named in the court documents, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Smith, Seconded by Chapman.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

A motion was made on item 8B to give the City Manager approval to move forward with the discussed security software upgrades to City Hall, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Shaw, Seconded by Easley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Smith, Shaw

10. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Revisiting the June meeting date to see June 18 is still needed or can be cancelled.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Gillin adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

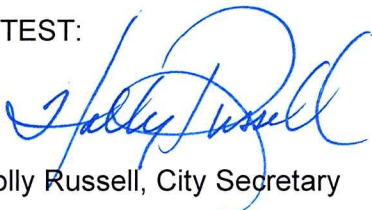
Approved on this the 5th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:



Samantha Gillin, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Holly Russell, City Secretary