



City Council Special Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

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

Members present: Samantha Gillin, Mayor Pro Tem; and Council Members Bob Chapman, Chuck Easley, Rob Foster, Johnny Shaw, and Troy Smith.

Members Absent: none

City Staff present: Jonathan Seitz, City Manager; Holly Russell, City Secretary; Don Martin, Director of Development & Neighborhood Services; Chief James Kidd, Keene Police Department; Chief Dan Warner; Keene Fire & Rescue; Keith Barrow, Digital Marketing Coordinator; Cari Warwick, Management Assistant

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

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and Council Member Smith gave the invocation.

2. Mayor Announcements

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin shared the Keene Police Association school supply drive ends tomorrow.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments made.

4. General

General business items for discussion:

A. Review, discuss, and take action to approve by ordinance an official city limits map that includes all recent annexations and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) changes as of June 30, 2026, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 41.001.

Holly Russell, City Secretary, explained that Council needed to adopt an official City Limits map in order to update the ward boundaries. She presented on the draft map showing that the history of annexations now goes back to include all early ordinances after the city's incorporation in 1955, and corrects many incorrect labels from the 2021 Annexation history map. The proposed map includes the newest annexation areas for current developments, and also reflects the ETJ agreements with Alvarado, Cleburne, and Burleson correctly. A motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 2026-694 adopting an amended official map of the municipal boundaries and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Keene, and seconded. The Motion carried.

Motion made by Foster, Seconded by Easley.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-694

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF KEENE, TEXAS ADOPTING AN AMENDED OFFICIAL MAP OF THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AND EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE REPEALER; PROVIDING A PENALTY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

B. Review, discuss, and take action to adopt an ordinance on an update to the city ward boundaries as required by the Texas Election Code and City Charter, City of Keene § 1.02.C.

Ms. Russell gave a review of the proposed changes to the Ward boundaries since there were several new developments going in and new residents starting to relocate to the new residences. The Johnson County Elections Office, who handles vote registration for the county, has already received one registration application, and that voter cannot be issued a registration card until the city has assigned the new areas to wards. Jacob & Martin, the city's contract engineering firm, has provided a proposed map of the new boundaries and report explaining the process for developing the new boundary lines. It was noted that a new ward map will have to be re-evaluated after the next federal census of 2030. A motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 2026-695 adjusting the municipal ward boundaries of the City of Keene, Texas; and adopting a revised ward map, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Foster, Seconded by Easley.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-695

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEENE, TEXAS ADJUSTING THE MUNICIPAL WARD BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF KEENE, TEXAS; AND ADOPTING A REVISED WARD MAP; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE REPEALER; PROVIDING A PENALTY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

C. Review, discuss, and consider possible action to approve a contract with the Johnson County Elections Office to administrate the November 3 General Election and Runoff Election, if needed, for the City of Keene.

Ms. Russell presented the agreement for contracting the November 3 General Election with the Johnson County Elections Office and explained the changes in voting precincts and the cost burden on the city should it be handled by city staff instead. Thomas Gutwa, 313 Pecan Street, spoke about his concerns about the cost of the runoff. There was a question about changing back to plurality voting, to which it was noted that State Code allows home-rule cities to revise their Charters every two years, and Council will need to appoint a Commission to review and make recommendations that would later have to go before voters. A motion was made to approve the contract with the Johnson County Elections Office to administrate the November 3 General Election and Runoff Election, if needed, for the City of Keene, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Foster, Seconded by Smith.

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

5. BUDGET WORKSHOP: Fiscal Year 2027- Revenue**

Informational reports only; no action to be taken.

A. Receive information and discuss revenue sources, demographics and metrics regarding the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY27) Proposed Budget, including general fund and utility fund revenue.

Mr. Seitz explained that the County Appraiser did not send the Certified Appraised values for the City of Keene, and so staff are not quite prepared to present on revenue for the Budget Workshop. He asked Council to table this item until August 6, when a more accurate reflection of the projected revenue can be presented and discussed, assuming that the Certified Appraisals are received in time. Mr. Gutwa spoke to his concern of the City's Street Rehabilitation Fund and funds not having been transferred yet. Mr. Seitz explained that the audits have to be completed to show that there are surplus funds available to be transferred. There was no action taken on this item.

** Taxpayer Impact Statement			
Property Tax Due on Median Valued Homestead			
2024 Rate vs 2025 Rate vs 2025 No New Revenue Rate			
	Rate per \$100 of Value	Median-Valued Homestead Property	Tax Due
2024 Adopted Tax Rate	\$0.834134	\$ 196,567	\$ 1,639.63
2025 Adopted Tax Rate	\$0.828978	\$ 213,409	\$ 1,769.11
2025 No New Revenue Rate	\$0.816257	\$ 213,409	\$ 1,741.97

*****The 2025 tax year property tax rate listed above as the “2025 Proposed Rate” was adopted on September 25, 2025, and is currently in effect. The information provided above is required by State law. The agenda discussion posted for this meeting is a preliminary discussion regarding projected revenues and expenses necessary to begin and proceed with the preparation of a budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as required by law. In accordance with State law, information necessary for the City to provide a proposed 2026 tax rate will be available from Johnson County Appraisal District on or after July 25, 2026; however, when a proposed budget has been prepared and the City has received the Appraisal District information necessary to provide a proposed 2026 tax year rate, the table above will be updated with information regarding the 2026 tax year proposed rate, and a proposed budget will be posted online and accessible from the City of Keene homepage at www.keenetx.com.***

6. Executive Session

There was no recess for an Executive Session at this meeting.

7. Reconvene into Open Session

There were no items that needed action.

8. Requests for Future Agenda Items

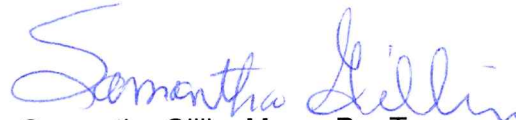
Consider discussing the need for a Charter Review Commission concerning the plurality voting system that was adopted in Nov 2024.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Gillin adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Approved on this the 6th day of August 2026.

APPROVED:


Samantha Gillin, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Holly Russell, City Secretary