City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

October 01, 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, Rob Foster, and Jonny Shaw.

Members Absent: Council Member Troy Smith

City Staff present: Jonathan Seitz, City Manager; Holly Russell, City Secretary; Mira Lam, Director of Finance; Sandra Overstreet, HR Director; Chief James Kidd, Keene Police Department; Chief Dan Warner; Keene Fire & Rescue; Cari Warwick, Management Assistant; and 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 6:01 p.m. and Council Member Foster gave the invocation.

2. Mayor Announcements

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin reminded everyone about the meet-n-greet receptions before regular Council Meetings and invited all to attend, and then announced that National Night Out is Tuesday, October 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Mr. Seitz added that Starfest will be on Wednesday, October 28, at the KISD school grounds.

3. Public Comments

Matt Seale, Keene Police Association President, shared the association is hosting a bike helmet drive for kids that starts on October 6. Donations of new bike helmets can be dropped off at the Keene Police Department until the end of November. Later in the year, they plan to also give out bicycles closer to the Christmas holiday.

Paul Gnadt, Keene Chamber of Commerce Director, spoke about the upcoming Chamber's 13th Annual Candidate Forum, to be held on October 13 at 6:00 p.m., in the Keene Community Center. This year will also include the Mayoral Candidate Forum. The Chamber is asking for public input for questions for the candidates at 6:00 pm in the Community Center on October 6. All are encouraged to attend and share their questions.

Joveta Kanion, Director for Nature's Open Door community garden, gave an update on the success of the community garden and classes that have been hosted. Every first and third Monday, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00a.m., of the month is a cooking class called from "garden to table". All are welcome to attend.

4. Reports

Informational reports only; no action to be taken.

A. Receive a report from Dr. Stephens, Keene ISD Superintendent, on the public schools; topics covering summer activities and the beginning of the school year.

Dr. Stephens notified city administration that he was unable to make a report at the meeting due to a school events for families during this time. He requested to be pushed to the December meeting.

B. City Manager's Comments – City Development Updates, Crosswalks at FM 2280 (Old Betsy) and 4th street and TXDOT Meeting

Jonathan Seitz, City Manager, shared an update on the various city developments and showed photos from his recent trip to visit the Metalplate facility in the Houston area. He shared that the CR 317 Improvements have started, as well as the relocation of the sewer line in the Canyons Development. He gave an update on the topic of the crosswalk of FM 2280 and Fourth Street, and his conversation with TxDOT. The city is going to plan for a section of sidewalk at that location with ADA ramps, and then TxDOT will put in the crosswalks for the intersections. Lastly, he shared that the city website project is complete and now live as of today.

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 regular Keene City Council meeting held on September 03, 2026.

Council Member Foster asked to pull this item for discussion. It was discussed after the vote on approval of the remaining Consent Agenda items. Mr. Foster wanted to strike a statement about the Charter Review Commission and the recommendation brought to Council since the wording was confusing. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Shaw, Seconded by Chapman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Foster, Shaw

B. Consider approval of the minutes of the special-called Keene City Council meeting held on September 17, 2026.

C. Consider approval of a corrected agreement between Johnson County and the Keene Police Department for Dispatching Services for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

D. Consider approval of Addendum No. 2 to the Master Service Agreement with MCCi to receive expanded services of Laserfiche Cloud, and Addendum No. 3 for the added service of JustMeetings.

A motion was made to approve Consent Agenda Items B-D as presented, and was seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Shaw, Seconded by Foster.
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Foster, Shaw

6. Public Hearing Items

There was no public hearing held at this meeting.

7. General

General business items for discussion:

A. Discuss the speed limit of FM 3048, especially in the vicinity of the CR 805-B intersection, and give possible direction to staff on requesting TxDOT to consider a change to the speed limit for safety reasons.

Mr. Seitz gave shared that FM 3048 belongs to TxDOT and the city will have to follow their guidelines for requesting improvements or changes. He noted that the biggest hinderance is the tree that blocks a driver's view of the road. For the speed limit to change, the state will have to do a traffic study, and advised that most studies often result in higher speed limits rather than slower. He will discuss with Public Works about handling the tree to improve visibility, and asked Council to advise on how they would like to proceed with approaching the state for addressing the speed issue. Council advised Mr. Seitz to proceed with conversations with TxDOT on the issue.

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. 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY and **551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS**: to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations (Industrial Park).

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

9. Reconvene into Open Session

Mayor Pro Tem Gillin called the meeting back to order at 7:12 p.m.

A motion was made to authorize the City Manager to update the city's tax abatement and guidelines pursuant to the Texas Tax Code, and to continue negotiations with the sale of real property in the Industrial Park, and seconded. The motion carried.

Motion made by Foster, Seconded by Easley.
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Gillin, Chapman, Easley, Foster, Shaw

10. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Foster - discussion about possibly allowing metal containers for storage within city limits

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Gillin adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Approved on this the 5th day of November 2026.

APPROVED:

Samantha Gillin

Samantha Gillin, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Holly Russell

Holly Russell, City Secretary