CITY OF TATUM
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Mayor
Tate Smith – Mayor, Pro-Tem

City Council
Jonathan Knapp
Robin Palmer
Wendell Moore
JR Smith

Secretary

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Attendance, and Quorum.

Mayor Pro Tem Tate Smith presided. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Council members present: Aldermen J.R. Smith, Wendell Moore, Jonathan Knapp, Robin Palmer, and Mayor Pro Tem Tate Smith.

Staff present: City Secretary Jacqueline "Jackie" Muckleroy.

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Members absent: None reported.

2. Citizens' Comments

- **Dennis Trout** expressed concerns about the reported $50 water late fee, leadership turnover, and the proposed removal of the City Secretary.
- **Victoria Ross** opposed the loss-of-confidence complaint against City Secretary Jacqueline "Jackie" Muckleroy and raised allegations of harassment, retaliation, and inadequate investigation.
- **David Godwin, external auditor,** discussed improvements in previously identified audit deficiencies and encouraged the Council to maintain a transition plan to preserve institutional knowledge and internal controls during personnel changes.

3. Approval of Prior Month's Checks and Minutes

J.R. Smith moved to approve the prior month's checks and minutes. Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

4. Acceptance of Mayor Michael Henry's Resignation

J.R. Smith moved to accept Mayor Michael Henry's resignation. Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

5. Independent Contractor for City/Building Inspections

Wendell Moore reported contacting a retired inspector from Kilgore about providing inspection services as needed. Mayor Pro Tem Tate Smith recommended considering additional candidates and confirming the inspector's availability before the next meeting.

Wendell Moore moved to follow up with the retired inspector and review any other prospective candidates. Robin Palmer seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Follow-up: Contact the retired inspector and review other prospects before the next meeting.

6. Proposed Six-Inch Water Line Between Tractor Supply and O'Reilly Auto Parts

Nakia Smith, TEDCO Executive Director, presented a proposed partnership between TEDCO and the City to install a six-inch water line serving O'Reilly Auto Parts and supporting future development of adjacent property.

The initial estimate was $33,110. Micheal Morton indicated that extending the line across both driveways could cost at least $40,800 and would obtain a final construction estimate.

Smith reported that TEDCO would contribute $15,000 and would consult its Board regarding additional funding.

Wendell Moore moved to proceed with obtaining the actual cost for work across both driveways. Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Actions assigned:

- **Micheal Morton:** Obtain and report the final construction estimate for City Council consideration and approval of City funding.
- **Nakia Smith:** Consult the TEDCO Board regarding an additional contribution.

City funding approval remains pending receipt and consideration of the final estimate.

7. Employee Compensation for Attendance at the September 10 Meeting

J.R. Smith moved to pay employees for two hours of attendance at the September 10, 2026, City Council meeting. Wendell Moore seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

8. Water Clerk Pay Increase Following 90 Days of Employment

Wendell Moore moved to approve a $2.00-per-hour increase for Rebecca Tatum, Water Clerk, bringing her hourly pay to $20.00, effective immediately on September 23, 2026. Jonathan Knapp seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

9. Loss of Confidence in City Secretary Jacqueline "Jackie" Muckleroy

The Council considered the agenda item concerning loss of confidence in the City Secretary. Ms. Muckleroy requested that the personnel matter be heard in open session and presented an affidavit concerning the Texas Whistleblower Act.

Recess and Reconvening

At 4:00 p.m., the City Attorney recommended an executive session to obtain legal advice. The meeting recessed at 4:01 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Tate Smith reconvened the meeting at 4:10 p.m. He reported that the closed-session discussion concerned legal matters and that no vote had been taken.

The Council resumed discussion. Ms. Muckleroy requested specific reasons for the proposed removal and an opportunity to respond. She disputed the basis for removal, raised allegations of harassment and retaliation, and requested that Robin Palmer and Tate Smith recuse themselves based on complaints she stated she had filed.

Wendell Moore opposed the proposed removal, citing Ms. Muckleroy's work and contributions to the City. Discussion also addressed concerns regarding impartiality, ethics, and professionalism.

Motion: Jonathan Knapp moved to remove City Secretary Jacqueline "Jackie" Muckleroy from her duties due to loss of confidence. Robin Palmer seconded the motion.

Vote: Jonathan Knapp, Robin Palmer, and J.R. Smith voted in favor. Wendell Moore voted against. Mayor Pro Tem Tate Smith abstained. Motion carried, 3–1, with one abstention.

Mayor Pro Tem Tate Smith directed Ms. Muckleroy to gather her belongings and coordinate with Matt Allison, Rusk County Constable, to retrieve remaining belongings at a later date.

10. Adjournment

Jonathan Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting. Robin Palmer seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

APPROVED by the City Council on: 10-19-26

Tate R. Smith Date: 10/19/26

Tate Smith, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Jarrell Ray Smith Date: 10-14-26

City Alderman