

Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting  
May 19, 2026

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, at 7p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened for a Regular Meeting, the same being open to the public, at the Dr. George S. Woods Community Center, 200 E. Hondo Avenue, Devine Texas 78016. Notice of said meeting having been prescribed in Chapter 551, Government Code, and Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, and the following members being present:

Alderman Ray Gonzales  
Alderman Jeff Miller (absent)  
Alderman Michael Hernandez  
Alderman Harold Lance Jr  
Alderman Adrian Valle  
Mayor Butch Cook

Thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel Present: Michelle Martin, City Secretary, Pete Sanchez, Director of Public Works, Debra Dubose, Library Director, Bonnie Manning, Community Engagement, Juanita Romero, Director Permits/Code Enforcement, David Jordan, City Administrator, Lt. Chris Andrews, Police.

Others Present: Martha Wall, Current Events Club, Nancy Saathoff, Devine Historical Commission, Gary Saathoff, Devine VFW, Brian Navarro, Devine Golf Course Group, Tiffany and Dewey Maneewat, Redbirdway Farm & Crafts, Anton Riecher, Devine News.

Mayor Butch Cook called the regular council meeting to order at 7:02pm.

The second order of business was invocation and the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Cook led the invocation. Council and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

The third order of business was citizens to be heard.

Gary Saathoff addressed the Council on behalf of VFW Post 3966 and announced the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony as part of Devine's America 250 Celebration.

Key details included:

- Memorial Day Ceremony beginning at 9:30 AM.
- Presentation of the Missing Man Table.
- Flag Retirement Ceremony.
- Public invited to bring retired flags.

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Mr. Saathoff also announced the opening of a new VFW thrift store initiative, “Thrift and Sip,” which will focus on gently used merchandise, creative reuse, and support for veterans.

Nancy Saathoff and Martha Wall presented information regarding the upcoming “Celebrating Old Glory” event as part of the National America 250 initiative.

Highlights included:

- Flag Day Celebration on June 13, 2026.
- Dedication of a new flagpole at Judge Joe Briscoe City Park.
- Presentation of Colors by the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Patriotic music by Fort Sam Houston’s 323rd Brass Quintet.
- Musket salute.
- Community participation encouraged through patriotic decorations and displays throughout the city.

Council thanked the presenters for their efforts and community involvement.

The fourth order of business was public recognition. There was no public recognition at this time.

The fifth order of business was Employee Recognition. Mayor Cook recognized Municipal Employees’ Week and National Police Week. Council expressed appreciation for all city employees and their dedication to serving the citizens of Devine. Mayor Cook thanked members of the Devine Police Department for their service, sacrifice, and commitment to public safety.

The sixth order of business was to consider and act upon a Proclamation for Community in Action Month. Mayor Cook read the proclamation to declare the month of May as Community in Action Month.

The seventh order of business was to consider and act upon appointment of Alderman for District 1. Council discussed the vacancy resulting from the recent election cycle. Alderman Ray Gonzales was nominated for appointment to continue serving District 1 until the next election. Motion made by Alderman Hernandez to appoint Alderman Gonzales for Alderman District 1 until the next election cycle. Motion seconded by Alderman Valle. Motion carried 3-0. Alderman Gonzales abstained. Alderman Miller was absent.

The eighth order of business was to administer the oath of office to Appointed Officers. Mayor Cook administered the Oath of Office to Alderman Ray Gonzales for District 1. A motion was made by Alderman Hernandez to reschedule the Oath of Office for Alderman Jeff Miller at the next council meeting scheduled for June 16, 2026. Alderman Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent.

The ninth order of business was to approve the meeting minutes from April 21, 2026. Alderman Hernandez made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 21, 2026. Alderman Lance seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent at this time.

The tenth order of business was to act upon approving the Devine Downtown Market Proposal.

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Tiffany and Dewey Maneewat from Redbirdway Farm & Crafts presented a proposal for a recurring Downtown Devine Night Market.

Market Proposal Highlights:

- Monthly community market.
- Estimated 30–60 vendors.
- Food trucks.
- Local artisans and farmers.
- Youth entrepreneur opportunities.
- Family-friendly atmosphere.
- Live acoustic music.
- Evening operation hours (approximately 5 PM-10 PM).
- Potential location on College Avenue.

Council provided the following feedback:

- Benefits to downtown businesses.
- City Support needed.
- Tourism opportunities.
- Discussed street closures.
- Electrical service needs.

Council expressed strong support for the concept. Alderman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Devine Downtown Market Proposal. Alderman Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent at this time.

The eleventh order of business was to consider and act upon adoption of New Parks Master Plan. City Administrator David Jordan presented the annual Parks Master Plan update.

Discussion included:

- Emergency Management Services and Parks Advisory Meeting was held on May 5, 2026. We received feedback from our board on park improvements.
- City Administrator Jordan went over highlights of the Parks Master Plan.
- Grant eligibility requirements to apply for a \$750,000 grant (Rural Community Category).
- Reviewed recent improvements to city parks such as canopies and lighting upgrades.
- Discussed community survey priorities.
- Future recreation opportunities.

Alderman Hernandez made a motion to adopt a New Parks Master Plan as presented. Alderman Valle seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent at this time.

The twelfth order of business was to consider and act upon partnering with the Devine Golf Course to co-host July 4th event.

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Community Engagement Specialist Bonnie Manning presented a proposal to partner with the Devine Golf Course for a citywide Independence Day celebration.

Proposed Activities:

- Patriotic Golf Cart Parade.
- Formal patriotic ceremony.
- Water slides and children's activities.
- Live music and evening entertainment.
- Fireworks display.

Funding Request of \$4,200 from Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds.

Council discussed:

- Event logistics.
- Public participation and safety considerations.
- Potential for annual tradition.

Alderman Hernandez made a motion to partner with the Devine Golf Course to co-host July 4<sup>th</sup> Event and to contribute \$4200 from HOT Funds. Alderman Valle seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent at this time.

The thirteenth order of business was to consider and act upon animal control/law enforcement procedures regarding loose and aggressive animals.

Council reviewed recent concerns regarding loose and aggressive dogs within the city.

Discussion included:

- Animal Control response procedures.
- Municipal Court limitations with the citation processes.
- Enforcement authority.
- Public safety concerns.
- Owner responsibilities.
- Potential legislative limitations regarding penalties.

Lt. Chris Andrews explained:

- Multiple citations had been issued in a recent specific case.
- Animal Control had investigated the case thoroughly and had provided suggestions for prevention of other dogs being attacked.
- Aggressive dogs involved had been seized and euthanized.
- Current laws limit enforcement options beyond citation and court action.

Mayor Cook expressed support for Animal Control personnel and recognized the challenges involved in enforcement. Alderman Lance expressed deep empathy for what has happened and

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wants to ensure we do what we can to prevent something like this from happening again. City Administrator Jordan also described the process of addressing these types of cases and the approach the City of Devine takes on this. No action was taken by council at this time.

The fourteenth order of business was to consider and act upon water pump repair at the Devine Golf Course.

Public Works Director Pete Sanchez presented a request for emergency repair of a golf course irrigation well:

- Well casing deterioration discovered and pump failure has been confirmed.
- Repair Cost: \$9,816.32 to replace the pump and the casing.
- City council had previously approved a budget of \$80,000 for golf course repairs.
- Budget amendment required due to prior infrastructure expenditures.

Mayor Cook discussed the necessity of maintaining golf course operations and protecting existing city investments.

Alderman Hernandez made a motion to authorize the water pump repair at the Devine Golf Course for \$9,816.32 and to amend the budget accordingly. Alderman Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent at this time.

The fifteenth order of business was to review and discuss contract negotiations with City Administrator David Jordan. Mayor Cook discussed timing of contract negotiations with City Administrator Jordan. Due to new council appointments and vacations, this item is being postponed to the next council meeting on June 16, 2026.

Alderman Hernandez made a motion to postpone contract negotiations with the City Administrator Jordan until the next regular meeting. Alderman Lance seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Miller was absent at this time.

### Informational items:

City Administrator Jordan reported on the following:

- Reviewed City Administrator Report with council.
- Completion of staff safety training through Texas Municipal League.
- Ongoing City Hall renovations and improvements.
- Landscaping improvements around City Hall.
- Progress on Four Corners beautification project.
- Increased code enforcement activity.
- Strong library participation and programming.
- City staff is heading in the right direction in productivity and team work.

Mayor Cook highlighted April Police Department statistics, including:

- 345 citations issued.

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- 60 school zone speeding violations.
- Child safety violations.
- Wireless device violations in school zones.
- Failure-to-stop-for-school-bus violations.
- Mayor Cook and Council commended the Police Department for proactive traffic enforcement and public safety efforts.

Mayor Cook also discussed the continued work at the Four Corners and assistance from community organizations on input. Gina Morales was recognized for her guidance on the xeriscape project at City Hall.

The seventeenth order of business was to adjourn. Alderman Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Alderman Jeff Miller was absent. Meeting ended at 8:25pm.

  
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City Secretary

  
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Mayor