

CITY OF BOGATA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Date: April 6, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Bogata Community Center

206 2nd Street

Bogata, Texas 75417

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION

III. ESTABLISH QUORUM

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may speak on an agenda item during the public forum section of the meeting or at the time the agenda item is called for discussion by the Mayor. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker; time may not be saved, transferred, or assigned.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on non-agenda items may do so during this time, subject to the same three (3) minute limit.

Consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Council members may not discuss or respond to non-agenda items.

All speakers are expected to maintain proper decorum. Threats, personal insults, vulgar, or profane language are out of order and may result in forfeiture of remaining time and possible removal from the meeting.

Citizens wishing to comment must submit a written request to the City Secretary at least ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting.

V. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.0415(b), the Mayor and each City Council Member may announce city events or matters of community interest and may request that items be placed on future City Council agendas.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of minutes from previous meeting

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action on the following items:

1. Extension of Water Line on Highway 37
2. Amendment to the Water Rate Ordinance
3. Rental of Tables and Chairs until Community Center Reopens
4. Public Works to Remove 2 Trees at the City Park
5. City Secretary Training (July 29–30)
6. New City Council Member Training
7. Public Comment Policy for Bogata City Council
8. Mosquito Spraying
9. Change of Date for May Meeting due to Election
10. Installation of Mini Library at City Park
11. Sale of Police Vehicle Fleet
12. Ultra Vires Resolution Regarding Halo Subscription Agreement Dated December 13, 2024
13. Authorize City Attorney to Proceed on Two (2) vehicle leases with K-State Bank Dated October 2024
14. Authorize City Attorney Halo Subscription Agreement (dated December 13, 2024) – Windstream Collection Matter
15. Status report from Mayor on closing documents for BEDC
16. Social Media Policy
17. Electronic Fund Transfer Policy
18. Discussion with Johnny Jarvis for Position of Judge
19. Discussion with Chief Candidates

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on the official bulletin board for the City of Bogata, Texas.

Posted this 31 day of March, 2026 at 4:20 P.M.

City Secretary



CITY OF BOGATA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Bogata Community Center

Bogata, Texas

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Larry Hinsley	Present
Cecil (Tex) Loftin	Present
Dakota Ross	Absent
Teresa Allison	Present
Melissa Kerby	Present

A quorum was established.

3. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by those in attendance.

An invocation was given, asking for guidance, wisdom, and blessings for the City, Council, and community.

4. Public Comments

Citizens were reminded of the three-minute time limit for public comments.

Ms. Patty Haney addressed the Council regarding the possibility of hosting a public debate for candidates running for City Council positions. She stated that community members would like the opportunity to get to know the candidates and asked if current and prospective candidates would be interested in participating.

No further public comments were made.

5. City Council Comments

- A council member provided an update regarding the City's financial condition, stating that:
 - The City is now current on its bills
 - Work is ongoing to reimburse the Fire Department
 - Efforts are being made to stabilize finances and improve infrastructure, including roads
- It was noted that items previously tabled in 2025 had not been revisited. Councilwoman Allison stated intent to place a review of those items on the May agenda.
- Announcement:
Councilman Kennedy requested that Council members and the Mayor meet at City Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday for a car show event. Council members will participate in selecting a "Council's Choice" vehicle.

6. Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, meeting.

Motion by: Melissa Kerby

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7. New Business

7.1 Engineering Services – Water Tap Project (Highway 37)

Discussion was held regarding a water service compliance issue requiring the separation of one meter serving multiple buildings into individual meters.

- The project is required for compliance with TCEQ regulations
- The cost of the project will be paid by the customer, not the City
- An engineering firm (Data Point Engineering & Surveying) will submit necessary permits on behalf of the City

A motion was made to approve the engineering services agreement.

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Second by: Melissa Kerby

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.1 Contractor Selection – Water Tap Installation

Two contractor estimates were presented for the water tap installation and boring.

- One contractor was recommended based on experience and references

A motion was made to approve **J&B Utility Contractors** for the project.

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Melissa Kerby

Vote: Passed unanimously

Melissa Kerby	Yes
Teresa Allison	Yes
Chris Kennedy	Yes
Cecil (Tex) Lofton	Abstained from voting

7.2 Amendment to Water Rate Ordinance

Discussion was held regarding the absence of an existing water rate ordinance.

- Staff will draft a new ordinance
- The draft will be reviewed by the City Attorney prior to presentation

A motion was made to table this item until the May 2026 meeting.

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.3 Rental of Tables and Chairs (Community Center Closure)

Discussion was held regarding whether the City should offer rental of tables and chairs while the Community Center is unavailable.

Concerns included:

- Responsibility for damage
- Condition of returned items
- Rental procedures and fees

7.3 Rental of Tables and Chairs (Community Center Closure) – Continued

Further discussion was held regarding the rental of tables and chairs. Concerns were raised about prioritization of City needs and administrative burden.

A motion was made **not to proceed with renting tables and chairs to the public at this time.**

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.4 City Park – Tree Removal

Discussion was held regarding hazardous and dead trees located in the City Park, including areas near the creek and main park entrance.

- Multiple trees were identified as safety concerns
- Removal may include stump grinding and debris hauling
- The project is larger than initially anticipated

A motion was made to **solicit bids for tree and stump removal.**

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Melissa Kerby

Vote: Passed unanimously

Staff were directed to advertise for bids and notify interested contractors.

7.5 City Secretary Training (July 29–30, 2026)

Discussion was held regarding sending the City Secretary to training.

- Training scheduled for July 29–30, 2026
- Cost estimate to be finalized and presented at a future meeting

A motion was made to approve sending the City Secretary to training.

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.6 City Council Training (Post-Election)

Discussion was held regarding training for newly elected and seated City Council members.

- Training to be conducted by the City Attorney
- Attendance cannot be mandated but will be strongly encouraged

A motion was made to **strongly encourage post-election City Council training coordinated with the City Attorney.**

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Melissa Kerby

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.7 Public Comment Policy Clarification

Discussion was held regarding public comment procedures and consistency on meeting agendas.

- Reference was made to previously adopted Council policies
- Clarification needed to ensure consistent inclusion on agendas
- Emphasis placed on structure, time limits, and appropriate conduct

A motion was made to **ensure the public comment policy statement is included on every agenda moving forward.**

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.8 Mosquito Spraying

Discussion was held regarding seasonal mosquito control.

- Spraying typically begins earlier in the year
- Increased mosquito activity has been observed

A motion was made to **begin mosquito spraying as soon as possible.**

Motion by: Chris Kennedy

Second by: Teresa Allison

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.9 May 2026 Meeting Date Change

Discussion was held regarding rescheduling the May meeting due to the election and canvassing requirements.

A motion was made to **move the May meeting to May 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.**

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Second by: Teresa Allison

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.10 Installation of Mini Library (City Park)

Discussion was held regarding a proposed “Little Free Library” project.

- Project to be installed and maintained by a citizen as part of a college project
- No cost to the City
- Intended to promote reading in the community

A motion was made to **approve installation of the mini library in the City Park**, with final placement to be coordinated.

Motion by: Chris Kennedy

Second by: Melissa Kerby

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.11 Sale of Police Vehicle Fleet

Discussion was held regarding previously approved sales of City vehicles.

- Vehicles include Crown Victoria, Tahoe, and Dodge pickup
- Pricing had been previously established
- Additional vehicles and lease considerations discussed

A motion was made to:

- Contact the City of Deport regarding interest in vehicles
- List vehicles for sale on Facebook Marketplace
- Explore auction options for certain vehicles

Motion by: Teresa Allison
Second by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin
Vote: Passed unanimously

7.12 Ultra Vires Resolution – HALO Subscription

Discussion was held regarding a subscription agreement entered into without proper authority.

A motion was made to **adopt an ultra vires resolution stating the City did not authorize the agreement and is not financially responsible.**

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin
Second by: Teresa Allison
Vote: Passed unanimously

Melissa Kerby	Yes
Teresa Allison	Yes
Chris Kennedy	Yes
Cecil (Tex) Lofton	Yes

A motion was made to take a 5-minute recess

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin
Seconded by: Teresa Allison
Vote: Passed unanimously

Recess:

A recess was taken at 8:20 p.m.

A motion was made to reconvene

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin
Seconded by: Teresa Allison
Vote: Passed unanimously

Reconvene: at 8:25 p.m.

7.13 Vehicle Lease Payments (K-State Bank)

Discussion was held regarding existing vehicle lease payments.

- City attorney directed to contact the bank regarding lease agreement.

A motion was made to **proceed with addressing the two vehicle leases and related payment issues.**

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.14 Authorization of City Attorney – HALO & Windstream Matters

Discussion was held regarding collection actions related to the HALO subscription and Windstream account.

A motion was made to **authorize the City Attorney to represent the City in these matters.**

Motion by: Tesesa Allison

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.15 Mayor's Report – BEDC Closing Documents

The Mayor provided a status update:

- Required documents are in progress
- IRS Form 990 and related filings are being completed
- Completion is expected by the end of the week

No action was taken.

7.16 Social Media Policy

Discussion was held regarding the City's social media presence and the need for a formal policy.

Key points discussed:

- Limiting or disabling public comments on official posts
- Maintaining a single official City social media account
- Eliminating unauthorized or duplicate pages representing City departments
- Ensuring compliance with public records requirements
- Designating authorized administrators for City accounts

A motion was made to **adopt the Social Media Policy as presented and publish it on the City's website.**

Motion by: Teresa Allison
Second by: Melissa Kerby
Vote: Passed unanimously

7.17 Social Media Account Access (Meta Business Suite)

Discussion followed regarding access and administrative control of the City's official Facebook page.

A motion was made to **authorize Council Member Loftin to attempt to access and regain administrative control of the City's social media account via Meta Business Suite and report back to the Council.**

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin
Second by: Chris Kennedy
Vote: Passed unanimously

7.18 Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Policy

Discussion was held regarding adoption of an Electronic Fund Transfer policy as prepared by the City Attorney.

A motion was made to **adopt the Electronic Fund Transfer Policy as written.**

Motion by: Cecil (Tex) Loftin
Second by: Chris Kennedy
Vote: Passed unanimously

7.19 Police Chief Candidates / Discussion

Discussion was held regarding applicants for the Police Chief position.

- It was noted that no complete applications had been formally received at City Hall
- One candidate present, **Andy Chester**, introduced himself and provided background:
 - Over 40 years of law enforcement experience
 - Served as Police Chief in multiple departments
 - Experience in small communities and departmental restructuring

- Holds a Master Peace Officer certification and degree in Criminal Justice Management

Discussion included:

- Current lack of access to police department files and facilities
- Need to secure the department and inventory equipment
- Coordination with the District Attorney and other agencies for oversight
- Importance of community relationships and department rebuilding

The candidate was advised to:

- Submit an application directly to City Hall
- Re-submit documentation if needed due to inaccessible records
- Possibly participate in a formal interview process at a later date

No action was taken.

7.19 Police Chief Candidate – Additional Applicant Discussion

A second prospective candidate Chad Hilton addressed the Council and provided a summary of qualifications, including:

- Experience in both small towns and large city law enforcement agencies
- Advancement from Corporal to Lieutenant within a short period
- Experience as a Field Training Officer, including retraining officers
- Work with U.S. Customs and multi-agency operations
- Experience handling evictions and community-level enforcement issues
- Background in a law enforcement family and lifelong exposure to policing

The candidate emphasized:

- Importance of strong leadership and accountability
- Need to remove unfit officers from service
- Challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified officers
- Importance of restoring public trust and building community relationships

Discussion with Council included:

- Current staffing limitations and need for rebuilding the department
- Difficulty in recruiting officers due to competition from larger cities
- Importance of training, planning, and adaptability in small departments

The candidate indicated willingness to serve and assist in rebuilding the department, even on a short-term basis if needed.

Council advised the candidate to:

- Ensure a complete application is submitted
- Possibly participate in a formal interview process at a later date

No action was taken.

7.19 Police Department Budget & Expense Review

Discussion was held regarding a provided list of police department expenses.

- Council emphasized the need to review total operational costs, not just salaries
- Coordination between the City budget and Crime Control District budget is necessary
- Further detailed discussion will be required at a future meeting

No action was taken.

7.20 Municipal Judge Position

Discussion was held regarding the need for a Municipal Judge.

Key points included:

- Existing cases and paperwork requiring judicial action
- Need to support the court clerk in organizing and processing cases
- Position may initially require limited hours (e.g., once per month)
- Training requirements for municipal judges were discussed

It was determined that the position had not been recently posted on the City website.

A motion was made to:

- **Post the Municipal Judge position publicly**
- **Request submission of an updated application**
- **Schedule an interview with the interested candidate (Johnny Jarvis)**

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Chris Kennedy

Vote: Passed unanimously

8. Additional Announcements

- Discussion was held regarding the upcoming **city-wide yard sale**, which has been posted on the City website.
 - Staff may also post the information to social media for additional public awareness.
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9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made.

Motion by: Teresa Allison

Second by: Melissa Kerby

Vote: Passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor

Jerry Hensley 5/19/26
