

City of Bogata

Regular City Council Meeting

July 6, 2026 – 7:00pm
Bogata Community Center
206 2nd St NW
Bogata, Texas 75417

Council Members may participate by audio/ video conference and may speak and vote on all agenda items consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Appearance by Phone only is limited to Emergency Meetings

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Establish Quorum – Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
4. THE ITEMS IN THIS AGENDA MAY BE DISCUSSED AND VOTED ON IN ANY ORDER THE PRESIDING OFFICER MAY PREFER.
5. Public comments/ Public Forum

Citizens may speak on a non- agenda item during the Public Forum. Consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council may not discuss or respond to non-agenda items. Public comments regarding agenda items may be made during the public forum or at the time the agenda item is called. All comments are limited to three (3) minutes, and the time may not be saved, transferred or assigned. All speakers are expected to maintain proper decorum. Threats, persona insults, cursing or profanity may result in forfeiture of remaining time. Citizens must complete a written request to speak and furnish that request with the City Secretary at least ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting.

- a. Citizen Comments on non-agenda items .
- b. Citizen comments on agenda items.

6. Consent item; Discuss/take action:

- a. Monthly bills and purchase orders for June 2026
 - b. Financial Report for June 2026.
 - c. Minutes from June 1 and June 24, 2026 City Council/Budget Meetings.
 - d. Monthly Activity reports for June 2026 from:
 - i. Police Department.
 - ii. Public Works Department.
 - iii. Volunteer Fire Department.
7. Debra Hudson to speak on sewer backup in her house.
 8. Set all future council meetings at 6:30 p.m.

9. Hotel allowance for new council training in July.
10. David Rozell to cut, inspect, and estimate repairs to kitchen floor of the community center.
11. Requirement that Department heads submit monthly reports and attend Council Meeting.
12. Consequences if Department heads do not submit monthly reports and/or attend Council Meetings.
13. Replacement of batteries on Police Department Tahoe
14. Spending authority for Department heads without Council approval.
15. Remove Cecil Tex Loftin and any other former council or mayors from bank accounts.
16. Personnel Issue: Complaint on Chief of police and discipline if indicated
17. BAU permission to do various projects at the park at no cost to the city.
18. BAU report on bathrooms at the park.
19. Maturity of CD 7490 in amount of \$1479.58. How would the council like to move forward with this CD.
20. Cumby Police Department purchase the pepper ball gun from the city of Bogata.
21. Bank account 2880 explanations for deposits and expenses for April thru September 2025 including but not limited to
 - \$126,000 from 5620 Grant payments
 - \$10,000 from 5665
 - \$2000 from 4706
 - \$3000 from 4166
 - \$5000 from 2899
 - \$8000 from 8841
 - \$7000 from 3033
 - \$10,000 from 3033
 - \$4000 from 108
 - \$6000 from 108
 - \$6000 from 108
 - \$4000 from 8841
 - \$40,000 from ---- no source
22. Income and expense report Crime District November 2025-June 2026.
23. Resignation of Chief of Police.
24. Future of the Police Department.
25. Repair of the lawn mowers.

Old Business Item; Discuss/take action:

1. Amend the 25/26 city budget to address the municipal Judge's salary.
2. Salary for Municipal Judge
3. Tolison Plumbing Bill

Adjourn.

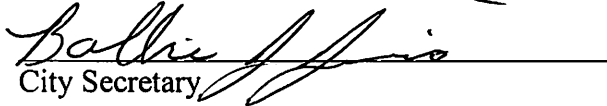
Executive Session(s): The City of Bogata does not routinely list the items for executive session consideration; however, consistent with the authority cited below, the City may retire into executive session as permitted and as needed on agenda items, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with attorney); 551.072 (Deliberations regarding Real Property); 551.073 (Deliberations regarding Gifts and Donation); 551.074 (Personnel Matters); 551.076 (Deliberations regarding Security Devices); 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development negotiations); and 321.3022 (Confidential Sales Tax Information)."

This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or serviced for this meeting should contact City Hall

Certificate of Posting

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that this notice of meeting was posted on the front door at City Hall, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, and on the city's website, in compliance with Texas open meetings act, chapter 551, Texas governmental code, at least 72 business hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

June 30, 2026 at 4:00 a.m.(p.m.)


City Secretary

CITY OF BOGATA

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 6, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Bogata Community Center
206 2nd St. NW
Bogata, Texas 75417

1. Call to Order

Aaron Lum called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.**

2. Establish Quorum – Roll Call

Council Members present:

- Chris Kennedy
- Teresa Allison
- Melissa Kerby
- Dakota Ross Absent

A quorum was established.

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by those in attendance.

The invocation was offered by Councilman Lum, asking for wisdom and guidance in conducting the City's business.

4. Public Forum

Councilman Lum read the City's public comment procedures, reminding citizens that:

- Council may not deliberate or take action on items not posted on the agenda.
- Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.
- Speakers must complete a request to speak form at least ten (10) minutes before the meeting.
- Proper decorum is expected during public comments.

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- One citizen expressed concerns regarding the distinction between the responsibilities of the City Council and the Crime Control and Prevention District Board, stating that Crime Control funds should not be used as a backup funding source for City operations. The citizen also expressed concerns regarding the city attorney addressing citizens during meeting procedures and recognition of speakers.
- A second citizen addressed flooding issues affecting their property. The citizen reported that sewer backup and drainage problems caused flooding inside a residence and expressed concern that inadequate drainage and aging infrastructure continue to create problems during heavy rainfall. The Mayor Pro-Tem and Council acknowledged the concerns, requested the property address, and advised staff that the issue would be investigated.

No action was taken during Public Forum.

CONSENT AGENDA

6 a. Approval of Monthly Bills and Purchase Orders for June 2026

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To approve the Monthly Bills and Purchase Orders for June 2026.

During discussion, Council questioned several transfers into savings accounts. Staff explained that the transfers were budgeted monthly transfers, including:

- Fire Department debt repayment.
- Volunteer Fire Department donations collected through water bill contributions.
- Other budgeted savings transfers.

Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

6 b Financial Report for June 2026

Reports were reviewed.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To take no action.

Motion carried unanimously.

6 c. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by: Councilman Kenndy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Allison

To approve the minutes as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

6 d. Department Reports

Department reports were presented.

There being no additional discussion,

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by Councilman Kennedy

To accept the reports.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Debra Hudson spoke during open form.

8. Future Council Meetings

Council discussed changing the starting time of future City Council meetings.

A motion was made by: Councilman Kennedy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To begin future City Council meetings at **6:30 p.m.**

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion and Possible Action – City Officials and Employee Training

Council discussed upcoming training opportunities for elected officials and City staff, including the Texas Municipal League (TML) training scheduled for the end of July.

Discussion included:

- Registration for training had already been completed for those attending.
- Estimated costs associated with attendance, including registration, lodging, meals, and travel expenses.
- The remaining balance in the City's training budget.
- An upcoming certification examination for the Municipal Clerk to be taken in September in Tyler, Texas.
- The importance of planning training expenses in advance so adequate funds are included in the budget.

Several Council members expressed concern that exact lodging costs had not been presented and requested that future travel requests include estimated expenses before Council approval.

Council discussed establishing a per diem for meals while attending training.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

- Approve attendance at the scheduled Municipal League training.
- Authorize lodging expenses for those attending at \$160.00 a night per attended.
- Approve a **meal allowance (per diem) of \$25.00 per day** for the Municipal Clerk and Council Members while attending training.

The motion **carried unanimously.**

10. Discussion and Possible Action – Community Center Kitchen Floor

Council discussed allowing work to be performed on the Community Center kitchen floor.

A motion was made by: Councilman Kennedy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To authorize **David Rozell** to cut and inspect the kitchen floor to determine the condition beneath the flooring and identify any necessary repairs. David Rozell will make all necessary repairs to the underside of the kitchen floor at no cost to the city.

The motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion and Possible Action – Department Head Monthly Reports and Attendance at Council Meetings

Council discussed requiring department heads to submit monthly reports and attend City Council meetings.

Discussion included:

- The importance of department heads submitting written monthly reports.
- Whether department heads should be required to attend every regular City Council meeting.
- Several Council members expressed that attendance at every meeting may not be necessary if there are no agenda items concerning their department.
- Council agreed that department heads should be present when:
 - An agenda item directly relates to their department;
 - Council has questions regarding their monthly report; or
 - Their attendance is specifically requested by the Mayor or City Council.

Council noted that requiring attendance at every meeting could result in unnecessary time away from departmental duties and increased personnel costs.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To require department heads to:

- Continue submitting monthly written reports; and
- Attend City Council meetings when requested or when an agenda item pertains to their department.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. Discussion – Consequences for Failure to Submit Reports or Attend Meetings

Council briefly discussed whether consequences should be established for department heads who fail to submit monthly reports or attend meetings when requested.

Council members noted the importance of accountability but did not establish a formal disciplinary policy during this meeting.

No formal action was taken.

13. Discussion and Possible Action – Police Vehicle Equipment and Batteries

Council discussed the condition of the inactive police vehicles and the equipment installed in them.

Discussion included:

- Whether to replace the vehicle batteries.
- The estimated cost of replacement batteries (approximately **\$160.80 each**).
- Removing police equipment, including radios, radar units, consoles, sirens, and other accessories before disposing of the vehicles.
- Whether it would be more cost-effective to hire a vendor to remove the equipment or transport the vehicles to the vendor for removal.
- The concern that replacing batteries solely to remove equipment may not be the best use of City funds if the vehicles are being sold.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To table till the August meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

14. Discussion and Possible Action – Spending Authority for Department Heads

Council discussed establishing spending limits for department heads without prior City Council approval.

Discussion included:

- The need for department heads to monitor their departmental budgets and line-item expenditures.

- Providing department heads with current budget reports so they are aware of available balances.
- Allowing flexibility for routine purchases while maintaining Council oversight.
- Procedures for handling emergency purchases and budget amendments when necessary.

Following discussion,

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To establish the following policy:

- Department heads may spend **up to \$500.00 per month** without prior Council approval;
- At least **10% of the applicable line-item budget must remain available** before additional purchases may be made;
- If a purchase exceeds the authorized amount or the remaining balance falls below the required threshold, prior City Council approval is required;
- The City Council is to be notified of qualifying expenditures by email.

The motion carried unanimously.

15. Discussion and Possible Action – Removal of Former Officials from City Bank Accounts

Council considered updating the City's authorized bank account signatories.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To remove **Cecil "Tex" Loftin** and any other former elected officials who are no longer serving from all City bank accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs).

The motion carried unanimously.

16. Executive Session

The monitor announced that Agenda Item 16, **Personnel Issues – Chief of Police and discipline, if indicated**, would be considered together with Agenda Item 23.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act to discuss personnel matters at 8:08 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously,

The Council entered Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session

Motion made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To return from executive session at 8:41 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Motion made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To move Chief Chester resignation up to July 10, 2026

The motion carried unanimously.

17 & 18. Discussion and Possible Action – Bogata Area United (BAU) Park Projects and Park Restroom Report

Bogata Area United (BAU) reported that the park restroom renovation project had been completed and the facilities were operational for Frontier Day. A key to the restroom facilities was provided to City Hall.

BAU requested permission to continue additional volunteer improvement projects at the City Park at **no cost to the City**. Proposed projects included:

- Restoration of the volleyball court;
- Installation and replacement of park benches;
- Removal or improvement of the unused horseshoe pit area;
- Repairing or replacing unsafe concrete picnic tables near the RV area; and
- Other park beautification and maintenance projects.

Council discussed improving communication between BAU and the City and the possible appointment of a Council liaison to serve as the point of contact for future projects. Council also discussed reimbursement of donated funds designated for park improvements after receipts are submitted.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To authorize Bogata Area United to proceed with the proposed park improvement projects discussed during the meeting at **no cost to the City**.

The motion carried unanimously.

19. Discussion and Possible Action – Certificate of Deposit (CD) Maturity and Reinvestment

Council discussed the maturity of two of the City's Certificates of Deposit (CD) and reviewed investment options.

Discussion included:

- One CD with a balance of approximately **\$12,742.64** that will mature July 15, 2026.
- An additional CD would mature July 21, 2026 in the amount of **\$1,479.58**.
- The City's current investment strategy.
- Whether to reinvest through the City's bank or the Lone Star Investment Pool.
- Selecting investment terms that would provide flexibility while the City continues budget planning.

Council agreed that maintaining shorter investment terms would allow greater flexibility until the City's financial position is evaluated during the upcoming budget cycle.

Following discussion,

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

- To reinvest the maturing Certificates of Deposit into the **shortest available investment term offering the highest rate of return**, with City Secretary Jarvis to selecting the financial institution or investment option providing the best available interest rate.

The motion carried unanimously.

20. PepperBall Gun

Council discussed the agenda item regarding the PepperBall gun.

Following discussion,

Motion was made by: Councilman Kennedy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To **take no action** on the item.

The motion carried unanimously.

21. Discussion and Possible Action – Review of Bank Account Transactions (April–September 2025)

Council reviewed transfers made through Bank Accounts **April through September 2025**, including several transfers in even dollar amounts related to grant funds and other deposits.

Council discussed:

- The inability to determine the original source and final destination of several transferred funds.
- Concerns that the transfers could not be readily traced through the City's accounting records.
- The importance of maintaining complete documentation for all transfers.
- Establishing procedures to better document future transfers and improve financial transparency.

Staff explained that current transfer notifications are provided to Council by email and that QuickBooks is now being used to properly record bills and expenditures.

Council also discussed providing Council Members with bank statements by email throughout the month to assist in monitoring City finances.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To request that the City's auditor review the transfers and determine the source and destination of the funds reflected in the 2025 bank records.

The motion carried unanimously.

22. Discussion and Possible Action – Crime Control District Income and Expense Report (November 2025 – June 2026)

Council reviewed the Crime Control and Prevention District Income and Expense Report covering the period from **November 2025 through June 2026**.

During discussion, Council noted that:

- Approximately **\$30,000** remained invested in a Certificate of Deposit.
- Combined with previous recoveries from the Merchant's Bond claim, approximately **\$50,000** had been recovered and accounted for.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To approve the Crime Control District Income and Expense Report for the period of November 2025 through June 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

23. Personnel Matters

This item was considered during Executive Session in conjunction with Agenda Item 16.

Action taken following Executive Session is reflected under Item 16.

24. Discussion and Possible Action – Future of the Police Department

Council discussed the future operation of the Bogata Police Department following the Chief of Police's resignation.

Discussion included:

- Delaying the hiring of a new Police Chief until outstanding department matters are resolved.
- Completing the disposition of police vehicles and equipment.
- Continuing to rely on the Red River County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services during the interim.

- Developing a more thorough hiring process for any future Police Chief position, including background investigations, reference checks, employment verification, contract review, salary negotiations, and other pre-employment requirements.

Council agreed that any future hiring process should be deliberate and well-planned to ensure the City selects the most qualified candidate.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To continue accepting applications for the position of **Chief of Police** while the City evaluates the future structure and needs of the Police Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

25. Discussion and Possible Action – Repair of Parks Department Lawn Mower

Council discussed repairs needed for a Parks Department lawn mower that was out of service.

Discussion included:

- Replacement of a starter at a cost of approximately **\$87.00**.
- The need to replace a gearbox/spindle assembly after receiving an incorrect part.
- Purchasing replacement parts through **Kubota** versus **Amazon**, considering both price and quality.
- The importance of balancing necessary repairs with remaining budgeted funds.
- Ensuring that any expenditures exceeding the approved line-item budget would be addressed through a formal budget amendment.

Council recognized that the Parks Department was operating with one less mower and that repairs were necessary to maintain mowing operations.

Following discussion,

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

- Authorize the repair of the Parks Department lawn mower;
- Obtain pricing from Kubota and purchase the appropriate replacement part; and
- If the repair exceeds the available line-item budget, bring a budget amendment to the City Council at the next meeting to transfer funds as needed.

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1 - 2. Discussion and Possible Action – Amendment to the FY 2025–2026 Budget for Municipal Judge Salary

Council discussed the Municipal Judge's salary and the need to ensure adequate funding within the current fiscal year budget.

Discussion included:

- The Municipal Judge's annual salary.
- Whether sufficient funds had been budgeted for the position.
- The process for amending the budget if additional appropriations became necessary.
- Whether the salary had already been included within the City's overall personnel budget.
- The City's current cash position and available year-end funds.
- The importance of ensuring that every expenditure is properly budgeted and accounted for.

Council reviewed the budget reports and discussed the relationship between line-item balances, overall cash on hand, and the City's obligation to maintain a balanced budget in compliance with state law.

Council members emphasized that future hiring decisions and personnel expenditures should be carefully planned to ensure that adequate funding is available before commitments are made.

A motion was made by: Councilman Kennedy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Allison

Council agreed that the matter would be addressed further during the upcoming budget workshop as part of the FY 2026–2027 budget planning process.

Council continued discussion regarding a possible budget amendment to fund the Municipal Judge's salary and other personnel expenses.

Discussion included:

- Available funding sources within the current budget.
- The need to ensure expenditures are properly budgeted before payment is made.
- Concerns regarding hiring personnel before sufficient funding had been identified.
- The importance of complying with budget requirements and accurately documenting all expenditures.

- An update that the City's independent auditor had been contacted and would be visiting City Hall to assist with outstanding financial matters.

After further discussion, Council determined that additional information was needed before amending the budget.

A motion was made by: Councilman Kennedy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Allison

To **table the proposed FY 2025–2026 budget amendment** until additional financial information and guidance from the auditor could be obtained.

The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

23. Tolleson Plumbing Invoice

Council revisited the previously tabled invoice from **Tolleson Plumbing**.

Discussion centered on identifying the appropriate budget line item from which the invoice should be paid and ensuring adequate funds were available before authorizing payment.

A motion was made by: Councilman Kennedy

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

No action was taken, and the item remained under consideration pending further review of the budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

28. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council,

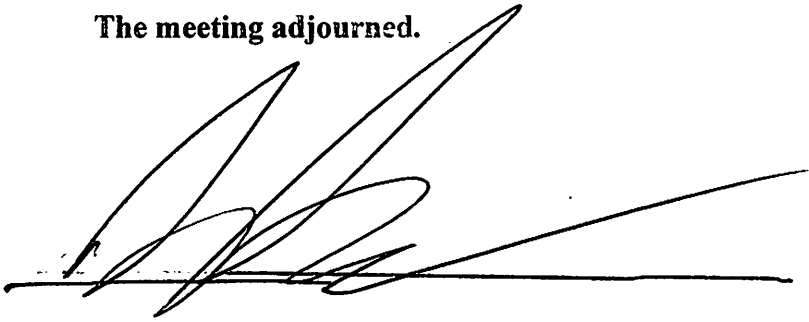
A motion was made by Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

7.20.2026