

BOGATA CALLED COUNCIL MEETING –  
AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Date: September 26, 2025, Time: 7:00pm

Bogata Community Center, 201 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Bogata, Tx 75417

**NOTICE: Members of the Council may appear by telephonic and/or video means for this hearing. Any input will be amplified so those in attendance at the meeting will be able to hear any conversations.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Ross, C. Kennedy, T. Allison, M. Kerby, C. (Tex) Loftin

II. INVOCATION

III. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members of the public may speak **on an agenda item** during the meeting when an item is called for discussion by the Mayor. Speakers are allowed three (3) minutes per speaker, and the time cannot be saved, transferred, or assigned. Consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council members cannot discuss or respond to non-agenda presentations.

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

IV. OLD BUSINESS – TAKE ACTION ON

1. Follow-up on request from David Anderson to build dome houses, and rules for water meters and number of occupant structures on property.

V. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSS; TAKE - ACTION ON

1. Proposed Tax Rate 2025 – 2026. (No New Revenue Tax Rate – 0.475320)  
(2024-2025 tax rate – 0.499999)  
(voter approval rate – 0.619930)  
Individual votes required to be recorded.
2. Public Hearing: 2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget
3. Action / approval of 2025 – 2026 Budget; Resolution # 092625  
Individual votes required to be recorded.
4. Action approval of tax rate for 2025 – 2026.

IX EXECUTIVE SESSION: The City does not routinely list Executive Session items. This provision has been added to the agenda with the intent of meeting all elements necessary to satisfy TEX GOVT CODE 551.144(c). The council may vote and/or act upon each of the items set out in this agenda. In

addition, the City Council of the City of Bogata has the right to adjourn into executive session at a time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney); 551.072 (Personnel Matters)551.076 (Deliberation regarding the deployment of security devices or the implementation of security policy; 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development negotiations).

X. ADJOURNMENT-

Attendance by Other Elected or Appointed Officials- NOTICE OF POTENTIAL QUORUM: It is anticipated that members of City Council or other city board, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the other city boards, commissions and/or committees. Notice is hereby given that the meeting, to the extent required by law, is also notice as meeting of other boards, commissions and/or committees may participate in discussion on the same items listed on the agenda, which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless such item and action is specifically provided for on an agenda for that board, commission or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the front door of City Hall on 09/22/2025 , at a place convenient and readily accessible to the public at all times, and to the city's website, <https://cityofbogata.com> in compliance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

  
Larry Hinsley, Mayor

  
Bobbie Jarvis, City Secretary

# City Council Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2025

## Call to Order & Opening

- The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 7:01 p.m.

**Present:** Dakota Ross, Cecil (Tex) Loftin, Teresa Allison, Chris Kennedy, Larry Hinsley

**Absent:** Melissa Kerby

- Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were conducted.
  - Special mention was made for **Melissa Kirby**, who was absent due to health issues.
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## Old Business

### Item: Geodesic Dome Houses – David Anderson

- David Anderson submitted a request to build **three geodesic dome houses** on 2nd Street.
  - **Motion:** Approve the application.
  - **Motion Made By:** Cecil (Tex) Loftin
  - **Seconded By:** Dakota Ross
  - **Motion Carried:** Unanimously.
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## New Business

### 1. Proposed Tax Rate & Budget Discussion

- Reviewed documents from the **appraisal district** and **budget packet**.
- Discussion of:
  - **Current tax rate:** 0.499999
  - **Proposed tax rate:** 0.619930
  - **Projected revenue:** ~\$367,477

Budget calculations were based on updated figures and assistance from city staff (notably Bobbie and Evan).

### Property Tax Rate Discussion

- **Council members** emphasized that the city has had the **lowest tax rate** in the area and had not raised taxes in four years. Any increases had only matched previous revenue levels—not exceeded them.
- **Clarification Provided:** If the city were to **raise the tax rate above the voter-approval rate**, it would trigger a **mandatory election**.

- **Current Proposal:** A motion was proposed and discussed to set the **property tax rate at \$0.619930**, which is **within the allowable voter-approval limit**, thus **not requiring voter approval**.

### Motion and Vote

- **Motion:** to set the **property tax rate at \$0.619930** for the upcoming fiscal year.  
**Motion made by:** Teresa Allison
- **Motion seconded by:** Cecil (Tex) Loftin
- **Vote Tally:**
  - **Dakota Ross:** No
  - **Theresa Allison:** Yes
  - **Chris Kennedy:** No
  - **Cecil (Tex) Loftin:** Yes
  - **Mayor Larry Hinsley (tie-breaking vote):** Yes
  - **Result:** Motion passed with **2 Yes, 2 No, Mayor voting Yes**

### 2. Revenue & Expense Breakdown

- **Court system:** Last year's budget showed \$25,000, but actuals were likely lower; this year's estimate is **\$21,600**.
- **Sales tax:** Estimated at **\$150,000**, based on recent trends showing stronger revenue in the last four months.
- **Water meters:** Around **water meters**; revenue projections tied to water bills.
- **Water loan:** Originally ~\$995,000 bond from 2010, repaid through a \$10/month fee.
- **TAP fees:** Projected **\$2,000** (based on 4 taps at \$500 each).

### 3. Budget Concerns Raised

- **Cecil (Tex) Loftin** raised questions about:
  - Overestimated figures in the **24–25 budget**.
  - Large discrepancies between reported and actual numbers in prior budgets.
  - Source of some numbers, possibly due to extrapolated averages and limited data.
  - Concern over accuracy and transparency in financial reporting.

### 4. Fire Department Collections

- Line item showed **\$1,000 under "Fire Collection"**.
  - No clear explanation for the source of this revenue.
    - Possibly donations, but no supporting data from **bank statements** or records.
  - Fire department representatives were present but unaware of any such funds.
  - Cecil (Tex) Loftin expressed strong concern about **budgeting funds from unidentified or unverifiable sources**.
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## C. Fire Department Budget & Spending Issues

- **Fire Supplies Budget:** Currently set at \$500.
- Fire department reported submitting a **\$625 reimbursement** for supplies, which remains **unpaid**.
- The city administrator acknowledged the 2024-2025 budget was approved but noted a **cash flow issue**.
- Fire Chief expressed frustration: *"Why would I submit a budget request when I can't even get the money that's already approved?"*
- Past issues of **fire department funding being blocked or dismissed** were cited as causing ongoing distrust.
- Discussion ensued about allowing departments to **submit their own budgets**, including from the fire department.

### Key Quotes:

- City Secretary: "This city has a cash crisis."
  - Fire Rep: "If it's the fire department's money, we shouldn't be touching it."
  - Citizen : "The history between Council and Fire hasn't been good. Maybe now we can start rebuilding that bridge."
  - General concern was expressed over the **lack of transparency**, historical budget overestimations, and **insufficient documentation** of revenue sources.
  - Further follow-up required on:
    - **Fire collection funds**
    - **Accurate revenue forecasting**
    - **Historical budget discrepancies**
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## D. Gas Cards & WEX Account Concerns

- **WEX Gas Cards:** Currently **18 cards** exist; council questioned the necessity.
  - **Issue:** The city has **fewer operational vehicles** than gas cards.
  - Dakota Ross and others requested a review of **who has cards and why**.
  - City Secretary stated efforts were underway to cancel unnecessary cards once access is granted.
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## E. Budget Data and Transparency

- Council discussed **inconsistencies and inaccuracies** in previous and current budgets.
- Multiple members asked why **prior year actuals weren't used**, or why current figures seemed **extrapolated** from incomplete data.
- Cecil (Tex) Loftin asked: *"How did we get so off?"*

- Response: Many line items were estimates based on partial-year data and historical trends.

**Key Issue Raised:**

- Mayor Larry Hinsley admitted: *“The system was not used as it should have been. We didn’t have anyone properly entering the data.”*

## 4. Summary of Action Items & Concerns Raised

Issue	Action/Decision
Fire Collection (\$1,000)	Temporarily left in budget pending verification.
Dome Homes on 2nd St	Approved unanimously.
Budget Concerns	Council acknowledged prior budgeting inaccuracies; aim to improve tracking and transparency.
Fire Department Reimbursement	Approved in principle, but <b>pending available funds</b> .
Gas Cards	Review underway; unused cards to be canceled.
Department Budgets	Fire Dept encouraged to submit budget; broader plan discussed for all departments to submit their own in the future.

### City Cell Phones & Wireless Accounts

Cecil (Tex) Loftin and others raised serious concerns over **city cell phone expenditures**:

- There are currently **22 AT&T devices** active across departments (including Public Works and PD).
- The city is also incurring a **\$5,575.79 Verizon bill**, with confusion over who approved or managed those accounts.
- Many devices appear **unused or unnecessary**; a move is underway to consolidate to **2–3 phones per department**.
- **Prospective Police Chief Martin** stated the department would reduce its number of phones from **5 to 2 or 3** and eliminate Verizon accounts.
- **FirstNet (AT&T)** was identified as the preferred network due to reliable local coverage.
- Multiple speakers emphasized the importance of **canceling Verizon accounts immediately**, if contractually permissible.
- There was confusion over **who holds city-issued phones**, including whether Public Works employees (David and Dakota) should be reachable via emergency numbers.

**Action Items:**

- Prospective Chief Martin and staff will audit all devices and **present findings by the October 8th meeting.**
  - The goal is to **reduce city phone costs by \$4,000+ annually.**
  - Investigate AT&T and Verizon contracts and determine the **earliest cancellation options.**
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## ☰ **City Audit & Financial Transparency**

- As of **September 1, 2025, state legislation now mandates annual city audits**, with penalties for non-compliance.
- The city must complete its 2024–2025 audit **within 180 days of Sept. 30, 2025**, or face limitations on setting the **tax rate** in future budgets.
- Although **\$25,000 is budgeted for the audit**, the actual cost may exceed this amount.
- There's uncertainty about the **location of past budgeted audit funds**, which could total up to **\$50,000** if located.
- The city is facing a **projected \$40,000–\$60,000 deficit** going into the new fiscal year and will begin **paying last year's bills with October's revenue.**

### **Discussion on Employee Insurance (Account 4371):**

Mayor Larry Hinsley informed the council that employee insurance rates had decreased due to current personnel shortages. The only employees currently on the plan were David and Dakota, with potential inclusion for others pending. Funds were allocated for potential enrollees.

The city currently pays 100% of employee health insurance, with any family coverage being an additional cost to the employee.

Council members emphasized the increasing costs of health insurance and recounted past issues where employees threatened to quit if insurance was not provided.

Cecil (Tex) Loftin suggested revisiting the city's insurance plan and recommended organizing a workshop with the insurance representative. The goal would be to explore cost-saving options, potentially switching to a base-level plan where the city covers the employee only, and dependents pay the difference. Several members supported the idea of direct communication with the insurance provider rather than through intermediaries.

Teresa Allison noted their experience in health insurance and believed the council lacked full information. There was general agreement that a dedicated session should be scheduled to review the current plan, costs, and potential alternatives.

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### **City Training & Travel Expenses (Accounts 4383 & 4384):**

Concerns were raised over the \$8,000 spent on training, with council members pointing out that no council members attended. Council clarified that the expenses included required training for

staff such as the city secretary, code enforcement, court clerk, and police. City Secretary added that additional training for the water department (Ampstun program) and the court clerk (Jamie Webster) was required and upcoming.

It was noted that past training had not been effectively utilized, resulting in billing and utility discrepancies (e.g., double-charged trash services). Cecil (Tex) Loftin confirmed that water department training is necessary due to recent discoveries of billing issues.

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#### **Fire Department Contributions & CD Account (Accounts 4394, 4405):**

Council members provided clarification on multiple accounts related to fire department contributions and a fire truck CD. A historical overview was given, revealing that:

- Citizens contribute \$2/month voluntarily, which may amount to \$1,000–\$2,000 annually, though it requires clarification.
- A CD originally designated for the fire truck was merged into another CD (account ending in 9204), and the fire truck designation was removed.
- \$22,000 was added to the original \$78,000 from the fire truck CD to form a new account. However, the fire designation was lost in the process, leading to its classification as “unallocated” and later used during an emergency.

Council members requested information on who authorized the closure and fund transfer. Cecil (Tex) Loftin confirmed that documentation exists, including meeting minutes from May 16, and supporting bank records. Copies of the documentation were distributed.

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#### **Insurance on City Vehicles:**

Council members inquired whether insurance claims had been filed after hail damage to city vehicles. Mayor Larry Hinsley responded that the vehicles had full coverage and a check was reportedly issued, but its location or deposit remains unverified. Cecil (Tex) Loftin promised to review the bank statements further to track down the transaction.

#### **Bank Statements and Financial Allocation Discussion**

Council members raised questions regarding recent bank statement documents, believed to include every city account, including the general account. Clarification was sought regarding a \$25,000 transfer from the fire department savings account. Council member stated that this transaction was initially justified as part of a 2025 fire station payoff, but the associated was paid off a year or two ago. It was later observed that funds were again moved in July without a clear record or confirmation of authorization. A follow-up visit to the bank is scheduled to request documentation and transaction origin.

#### **Fire Department Account and Budgeting**

Mayor Larry Hinsley proposed a repayment strategy of depositing \$2,500 monthly to replenish

the fire department account over time. Clarification was provided that this transfer was not related to police vehicle purchases.

### **Police Department (PD) Budget and Staffing Concerns**

The proposed police budget includes compensation based on an assumed chief and three officers. Council and the prospective chief explained that this would not allow for true 24-hour coverage, noting that administrative responsibilities reduce actual patrol availability. A full staff of four or five officers would be necessary for consistent round-the-clock service.

The prospective chief shared potential schedules based on two to four officers, emphasizing the need for flexibility and the requirement to balance patrol with administrative duties such as UCR reporting and investigations. Speaker 4 (a former city employee or police staff) supported this, confirming past experience with both three- and four-officer departments, and advocating strongly for five officers for effective coverage.

### **Concerns Regarding Financial Limitations**

City Secretary highlighted a current lack of funds, citing only approximately \$3,000 left in the city's account. They warned against over hiring without the budget to sustain personnel, which could lead to layoffs and damage to morale and public trust. Speakers expressed concern about balancing public expectations, particularly regarding 24-hour policing, with budgetary realities.

### **Salary History Review**

A brief salary review was conducted. Chief Bruton's previous salary and certifications were discussed. His salary reportedly ranged from \$56,136 to \$69,620 depending on certification. Discrepancies between posted job salary ranges and actual payments were noted. Concern was raised about offering high compensation amidst financial strain.

### **Conclusion**

Multiple speakers emphasized the need for transparency with citizens about coverage limitations and fiscal responsibility. The meeting concluded with continued emphasis on financial clarity and responsible planning before any staffing decisions are finalized.

**Subject:** Budget, Payroll, and Police Department Funding Discussion

### **Budget and Financial Concerns**

- **Payroll Shortfalls:** City Secretary and others discussed difficulty in meeting payroll obligations. It was noted that there is **currently not enough revenue** to support new hires or significant budget increases.
- **QuickBooks Issues:** It was revealed that **accounting entries were not consistently input into QuickBooks**, hindering transparency and audit-readiness. Council members shared that an accountant was needed because "stuff wasn't being put in QuickBooks."
- **Audit Status:** Council members mentioned difficulties in conducting an audit due to disorganized financial records. Speaker 1 expressed frustration that **the mayor could not provide clarity** on fund allocations.

- **CD Balances:** The total amount left in CDs (including fire department funds) was discussed. After subtracting fire department-related CDs, **only \$44772.74 remained**, which limits emergency funding options.

### Revenue Timing and Sources

- **Tax Revenue Timeline:** It was explained that **property tax revenue typically starts coming in around October**, with the bulk arriving by **January 31**.
- **Sales Tax Deposits:** Sales tax is received **periodically** (likely monthly or quarterly), but exact timing was unclear.
- **General Fund Deposits:** Cecil (Tex) Loftin plans to investigate the **source and timing of automatic deposits** into the city's general fund by reviewing **bank statements in person**.

### Police Department Discussion

- **Hiring a New Police Chief:** Tim Martin is expected to begin in approximately **two weeks**, pending background checks.
- **Police Department Readiness:** Concerns were raised about **no current law enforcement presence**, and delays were impacting both community safety and state compliance.
- **Asset Inventory:** Tim agreed to conduct a **full inventory** of police department assets but clarified that **he cannot simultaneously handle calls** and administrative setup alone.

### Budget Approval

- **Motion to Delay Budget Adoption:**  
Cecil (Tex) Loftin and others agreed that the council should **not pass the proposed budget** due to lack of accurate financial information.
- **Motion:** Continue operating under the previous year's budget for 90 days.
- **Motion made by:** Cecil (Tex) Loftin
- **Seconded by:** Dakota Ross
- **Motion carried:** unanimously

### Compliance Concerns

- **Audit & Legal Compliance:**  
The city has **not completed a proper audit since 2020**, raising concerns about possible **non-compliance with the State Auditor's Office and the Attorney General**. Speaker 1 referenced Local Government Code **§102.001**, stating that the **council must have a full understanding of city finances**, which currently is not the case.
  - **External Inquiries:**  
A representative from the **Texas Department of Public Safety** contacted the city, questioning the **lack of a police force** and incomplete compliance documentation.
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## Next Steps

- **Cecil (Tex) Loftin and Teresa Allison will meet with the bank** to investigate recurring automatic deposits and other unclear transactions.
- **Tim Martin will begin onboarding**, perform inventory, and assist with department reinstatement.
- **Budget and salary discussions will continue** in upcoming meetings, with attention to incoming revenue and cost-saving opportunities (estimated potential savings: \$18,000–\$20,000 identified by Tim).
- The council will **revisit the Chief’s full salary and department funding** at the **October meeting**, once clearer financial data is available.

## Legal Clarifications

- **Cecil (Tex) Loftin** referenced **Local Government Code 103.005**, stating that current compliance hinges on an AG (Attorney General) determination, which has **not yet been issued** to their knowledge.
- **Senate Bill Reference:** A Senate bill relevant to **FY 2024-25** compliance timelines was discussed, with mention of a **180-day deadline from September 3rd** (based on the presumed adoption date of September 21).

## Closing Remarks

- Final discussions included confirmation that the adopted rate would apply to **upcoming tax bills** and further clarification would be sought from the **tax assessor**.
- Council members indicated that further investigation and communication would be made to **confirm implementation timing**.
- **Adjournment:**  
Mayor Larry Hinsley indicated readiness to entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Adjournment at 10:14 p.m.

**Motion by:** Teresa Allison

**Seconded by:** Cecil (Tex) Loftin

**Motion carried:** 4-0

**Minutes submitted by:**

City Secretary's Bobbie J. Jarvis

**Date:** October 6, 2025

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Larry Hinsley*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*10/6/25*

**RESOLUTION # 092625**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BOGATA, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2025 - 26 BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the budget for the 2025 – 26 fiscal year must be approved, submitted, and offered to the public at a hearing by no later than September 30, 2025, the proposed budget has been finalized and presented to the City Secretary on the 18th day of September 2025, for filing;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT;**

1. The Budget for fiscal year 2025 – 26 has been reviewed and approved by the Governing Body of Bogata, Texas, and submitted to the City Secretary for filing on September 18, 2025, and that budget has been presented to the general public and citizens of Bogata, Texas on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025, at a public meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 26th day of September 2025.

**APPROVED:**

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Larry Hinsley, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Bobbie Jarvis, City Secretary