

BOGATA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: September 8, 2025, Time: 7:00pm

Bogata Community Center, 201 NW 2nd St, Bogata, Tx 75417

I. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM

Dakota Ross, Chris Kennedy, Teresa Allison, Melissa Kerby, Cecil (Tex) Loftin

II. INVOCATION

III. 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 allowed three (3) minutes per speaker, and the time cannot be saved, transferred, or assigned.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on non-agenda items may do so with a three

(3) minute per speaker limit. Consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council members cannot discuss not 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.

Citizens wishing to comment must make the request in writing and deliver the requests to the City Secretary 10 minutes prior to the meeting.

IV. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS- Pursuant to TEX GOVT CODE 551.041S(b) each Crime Board member may announce city events/community interest and request that items be placed on future Crime Board agendas.

V. CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under this item are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by any council member on any item, that will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

A. Department Reports

1. Fire Department

2. Public Works

3. Police Report

4. City Financial

5. Mayors Report

B. Approval of previous meetings – August 4, 2025, and July 7, 2025, and July 17, 2025 - roll call; no quorum established; meeting canceled.

VI. OLD BUSINESS – TAKE ACTION ON

- Reconsider changes to the office hours for City Hall (8a -5p; Monday – Friday)
Dakota Ross

VII. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSS TAKE - ACTION ON.

A. Appraisal District needs a new nomination for a Director from our area, for the remainder of the year and for a two (2) year term beginning on January 1, 2026.

Council to offer nominations.

B. Discussion on bringing our QuickBooks application up to date so we will have more accurate finance control and reporting capabilities, with the assistance of our CPA. Mayor and City Secretary

C. Discuss the need to streamline the numerous accounts at the bank. Mayor and City Secretary

D. Review and discuss updating the rate codes within our billing service (Ampstun) system. Some services are not billing accurately. Mayor and Public Works Secretary

E. Discussion / Action on: Background Checks for law enforcement and city employees. Tex Loftin

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).

- Contract with Chris Bruton executed 1-29-2024.
- Settlement with former Chief Bruton.

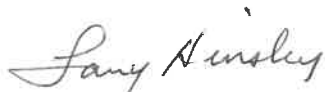
- Contract dispute for internet services.
- Interviews for the position of Police Chief.
 1. Tim Martin
 2. William Suiter

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 September 3, 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 OF BOGATA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 7:00 PM
BOGATA COMMUNITY CENTER**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hinsley called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and welcomed everyone to the September council meeting.

1-A. ROLL CALL

The following council members were present:

- Teresa Allison – Present
- Melissa Kirby – Present
- Cecil (Tex) Loftin – Present
- Dakota Ross – Present
- Chris Kennedy- Present

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hinsley.

An invocation was delivered by Mayor Hinsley.

2-A. HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor noted he was hoarse and asked for patience. He reminded members that applications distributed during the meeting should not be removed from city meeting and must be returned at the end of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Roselle addressed the council and voiced concerns about:

- Lack of visible financial statements.
- Continued city spending over the past three years.
- Poor condition of city infrastructure (floors, flower beds, park entryways, ditches, and streets).
- Concerns over unnecessary overtime for police coverage during the rodeo.
- Request for financial accountability and documents on spending authorization.
- Acknowledged new office staff are performing well and are called for hiring a new police chief.

Additional Public Comments:

- A resident spoke about involvement in community events and requested that “Trade Days” and the “Fall Festival” be reinstated as city-sanctioned events.
- Mention was made of donations from local hunters to the Clarksville food pantry.
- Concern raised about a projected 20% increase in health insurance premiums and its impact on residents.
- A request was made to reinstate the optional \$2 donation to the Volunteer Fire Department on utility bills, clarifying it must be opt-in due to legal constraints.

4. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor introduced Mr. Evan McGoardy as the new Public Works Clerk Secretary. Mr. McGoardy provided an overview of:

- Updates to utility billing processes and rate codes.
- Ongoing issues with polycart billing and duplicate charges.
- A need to correct garbage rate codes and communicate with Ampstun for consistency.
- Residents encouraged to update contact information.
- Questions about reinstating the \$2 donation to the fire department were discussed, noting it can only be included with explicit consent due to legal limitations.

4-A. WEBSITE & AGENDA UPDATES

Mayor provided updates regarding:

- The new city website is live, but some archival data is still being migrated.

- Agendas and minutes will be posted to the new system moving forward.
 - Current and previous year items will be added; older documents will be archived.
 - Assistance is welcomed for website content management.
 - Some confusion noted regarding location of agendas on the new website; clarification was provided that it had been posted under the "News" section.
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5. REPORTS

Reports included in the packet:

- Mayor's Report
- Fire Department
- City Financial

Note: No reports were received from Public Works or Police Department.

Motion: Council Member Teresa Allison moved to accept the reports.

Second: Council Member Melissa Kerby seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

5-B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes under review:

- **July 7, 2025**
- **July 17, 2025**
- **August 4, 2025**

Discussion:

- Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin noted the July 7 minutes lacked detailed vote recording for certain items (Item L and Item A under Old Business).
- Corrections were requested to include individual council member votes and the exact motion outcomes.

Motion 1: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin made a motion to reject the July 7 minutes until corrected.

Second: Council Member Dakota Ross

Vote: Motion passed 4-1. Tereas Allison voted against.

Motion 2: Council Member absent from July 17 meeting Cecil (Tex) Loftin, Dakota Ross, Chris Kennedy. Present: Teresa Allison, and Melissa Kerby. No quorum met.

Motion 3: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin made a motion to accept the August 4 minutes as written.

Second: Council Member Chris Kennedy

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

Item 6: Reconsideration of City Hall Office Hours.

- **Discussion:**
Council Member Ross requested reconsideration of changing City Hall office hours, stating feedback from citizens who prefer accessibility before or after standard work hours. He emphasized the need to serve working residents.
 - Several council members noted confusion about the pushback against offering extended hours. Concerns were raised regarding citizens who work standard 8–5 jobs being unable to access services during those times.
 - **Suggestions:**
Council Members discussed alternatives such as:
 - Staggering employee shifts (e.g., 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM)
 - Avoiding a full office closure during lunch by rotating staff breaks
 - Maintaining Friday half-days for staff morale, while preserving customer access
 - **Action:** Item 6 was tabled until next meeting.
Council Member Teresa Allison made a motion to table the discussion until staff (Bobbie and Evan) could be consulted on scheduling feasibility. Motion was seconded by Dakota Ross.
 - **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.
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7. New Business

A. Appointment to Appraisal District Board

- **Discussion:**
Council discussed the need for a nomination to the Appraisal District Board for the remainder of the year and the upcoming two-year term beginning January 1, 2026.
- **Nomination:**
Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin nominated Mr. Sean Tully, noting he owns property in the city though he resides outside. Clarified that residency is not required to serve.
- **Clarification:**
Purpose of the board was explained—similar to a council but focused on appraisal district governance.

- **Action:** Motion made by Cecil (Tex) Loftin and seconded to close nominations and appoint Sean Tully.
 - **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.
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B. QuickBooks Application and Financial Controls Update

- **Discussion:**

Mayor and council members discussed recent issues with financial operations due to staff turnover and system breakdowns, including:

 - Lapse in bill payments and payroll
 - CPA assistance required to regain financial reporting accuracy
 - Limited access to online banking and check signing authority
 - **Key Points:**
 - Emergency transfer of \$40,000 was made without prior council-wide communication, prompting concern over transparency.
 - Council Members expressed frustration that they were not notified via email or phone despite the urgency.
 - The mayor acknowledged the oversight and accepted responsibility.
 - **Follow-up Information:**
 - A full accounting review is in process.
 - Current general fund balance: ~\$62,218.18 (excluding Crime Board fund)
 - Outstanding obligations: ~\$74,682.85
 - Additional accounts and CDs exist but need consolidation.
 - **Recommendations:**
 - Reduce the number of accounts from 22 to approximately 6 for manageability
 - Investigate better interest rates on CDs (next maturities: Sept 17 & Nov 15)
 - Remove auto-renewal on CDs where applicable
 - Explore more transparent and efficient internal financial oversight systems
 - **Action:**

No formal vote taken. Council directed staff to continue working with CPA and banking representatives and report back with streamlined proposals.
 - **QuickBooks Accounting Software Update**
 - Bobbie Jarvis reported that QuickBooks has not been properly utilized. The CPA, Elizabeth, has taken 8 boxes of records dating back to 2019 to reconcile the city's financial records. She is working to update the software and accounting practices.
 - Council emphasized the importance of accurate data entry to get reliable financial reports. Bobbie Jarvis requested patience during the cleanup process.
 - Bobbie Jarvis and Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin discussed the historical lack of accurate check registers and questioned recent discrepancies.
 - No action was taken; item was discussed for informational purposes.
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. Additional Items & Public Comments

- **Transparency & Oversight:**
Council Members requested improved communication protocols, especially concerning financial decisions and emergencies.
- **Vehicle Lease Clarifications:**
Pending review of police department vehicle contracts and related financial commitments.

C. Discussion on City Finances and Bank Accounts

Bobbie Jarvis noted that the city needs to identify all sources of revenue beyond water bills and property taxes. Access to account statements has been limited, and there was a concern about funds not being properly tracked. Bobbie Jarvis mentioned an account incurring a \$15 monthly bank fee despite having no activity.

Mayor Hinsley stated that last year's budget totaled approximately \$1.2 million and remains close to that amount for this year.

Bobbie Jarvis inquired about accessing bank records, and Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin confirmed plans to retrieve 2 to 5 years of bank statements to review account activity.

An account titled "Fire Truck Fund" was discussed. Bobbie Jarvis identified two such accounts:

- One with a balance of \$329.38
- Another previously believed to hold over \$100,000, possibly not listed in the current records.

Council Members discussed the need to consolidate or properly allocate funds listed under "Fire Truck" and "Maintenance" lines. A motion was made:

Motion: Allow Bobbie Jarvis to streamline city accounts and address maturing CDs to obtain better interest rates.

Motion by: Council Member Teresa Allison

Seconded by: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

. Fire Truck Fund and Budget Allocation

Council discussed CD maturity dates and fund balances related to the fire truck fund. It was stated that as of December 3, 2024, the city held:

- \$164,000+ in the fire truck fund
- \$92,000+ pending transfer to the CD upon maturity
- Total estimated value: Over \$250,000

D. Updating Rate Codes in Billing System (Skipped Earlier)

Even McGroarty noted some services are not being billed accurately and recommended updating the rate codes within the billing software.

Motion: Update rate codes within the Ampstun billing system to ensure accurate service billing.

Motion by: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Seconded by: Council Member Melissa Kerby

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

E. Background Checks for Law Enforcement and City Employees

Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin reported that Sheriff Caldwell has offered to run thorough background checks at no cost when hiring a new police chief or other city employees. This would be the same level of scrutiny applied to prospective hires at the sheriff's department.

Motion: Authorize the Red River County Sheriff's Office to conduct background checks for potential law enforcement hires.

Motion by: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Seconded by: Council Member Melissa Kerby

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Public Commentary & Final Discussion

Council discussed the need for better communication regarding budget planning. Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin requested clarity on who builds the annual budget. It was clarified that Mayor Hinsley, Melissa Kerby, and Bobbie Jarvis are part of the budget committee.

Concerns were raised regarding transparency, lack of historical financial clarity, and the need for consistent oversight. There was a general consensus that prior mismanagement or disorganization has contributed to current issues, but that current staff and leadership are working diligently to correct course.

Motion: Adjournment of Regular Session at 8:44 p.m.

Motion made by: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Seconded by: Council Member Dakota Ross

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Enter into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Motion: Adjournment of Executive Session at 11:19 p.m.

Executive Session details: Hire Tim Martin as Chief of Police for City of Bogata.

Motion By: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Seconded by: Council Member Melissa Kerby

Vote: Motion carried Unanimously

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Motion made by: Council Member Cecil (Tex) Loftin

Seconded by: Council Member Dakota Ross


Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

City Secretary's Bobbie J Jarvis _____

Date: September 10, 2025

Approved by: Mayor Hinsley: _____



Date of Approval: _____

10/6/25
