



# The City of Liberty City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1829 Sam Houston  
Liberty, TX 77575  
[www.cityofliberty.org](http://www.cityofliberty.org)

April Gilliland  
City Secretary  
936-336-3684

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

### I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order on April 14, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston Street, Liberty, Texas at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor John Hebert.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Mayor John Hebert, Jr.				
Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Brents				
Council Member Ed Seymour				
Council Member Ross Ward				
Council Member Debbie Dugger				
Council Member Bruce Bell				
Council Member Nick Dennis				

### II. INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Deacon Fred Lemond, Jr. from the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Liberty, Texas.

### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge to the American Flag and the pledge to the Texas Flag were led by Camille Harper and Harper Pavliska.

### IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment is reserved for members of the public who would like to address the City Council regarding agenda and non-agenda items. Please be aware that, under Texas Law, the Council may not deliberate or take any action during Citizen's comments for items not on the agenda. In some situations, City Staff may be able to respond to the public comment with a factual statement or clarification. The City Council may have the item placed on a future agenda for action or refer the item to Management and Staff for study or conclusion.

Mayor Hebert welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council. No comments were made.

### V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

**A. Proclamation - Beach Volleyball**

Camille Harper and Harper Pavliska were present to receive a proclamation for their achievement in earning a spot in the 2026 USA Volleyball Beach National Championship that was read aloud and presented by Mayor Hebert.

**B. Proclamation - Dr. Myers**

Dr. Ricky Myers was present to receive a proclamation for his outstanding care as a veterinarian that was read aloud and presented by Mayor Hebert.

**C. Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Heroes Weekend Proclamation**

Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.) Chapter representatives were present to receive a proclamation for B.A.C.A Heroes Weekend from April 24-27, 2026, that was read aloud and presented by Mayor Hebert.

**D. City Manager's Report - City Manager Bryan Kendrick - Includes various updates of interest to our community.**

City Manager Bryan Kendrick reported on the following updates:

- Employee Service Awards
- EMPACT Engineering Geospatial Report for Electric Utility
- Roadway Asset Services
- Strategic planning meeting on June 9th.

**E. Department Reports**

Monthly reports are submitted by departments and are attached to the agenda for the council to review and to comment on or ask questions that they may have. Council Member Dugger commented on the airport, fire, golf and library reports. Council Member Ward asked about the flock cameras. Council Member Bell thanked the Fire and Parks Department for their work on opening day for LYBA.

**F. Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Hebert**

Mayor Hebert, Board Member of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that last's month meeting was a normal business meeting and nothing to report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 in Livingston.

**G. Mayor, Council and Staff Comments**

No comments were made.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

All consent items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, and if such a request is made, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to approve all items on the consent agenda and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

**A. Minutes Approval**

1. March 10, 2026
2. March 17, 2026

**B. Consider a resolution approving a fire services agreement with Liberty County.**

## VII. REGULAR AGENDA

### A. Regular Session

1. Consider a presentation related to the need for Pickleball Courts.

Mr. Jay Shivers presented to the City Council the business case for Liberty Pickleball. Mr. Shivers went over the following topics:

What is Pickleball?

Growing popularity of Pickleball

Benefits of Pickleball for the Community

Pickleball in the local area

Liberty Texas Pickleball group

Importance of Good Facility Design

Key takeaways

Project Timeline

Project Scope

Recommendations

Different locations for courts throughout the City (Golf Course, Municipal Park, and Liberty High School) would prefer Municipal Park.

The pickleball courts will be a project that will be moved to the strategic planning session for consideration for future budgeting and planning with competitive bids through buy board.

2. Consider adopting an Ordinance suspending the proposed rates associated with CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.'s Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program, providing for related matters.

On February 17, 2026, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas ("CenterPoint" or "Company") filed a Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") adjustment factor with each of the communities in the Beaumont/East Texas Division of the Company. The Company is authorized to make annual GRIP rate change requests pursuant to Texas law passed in 2003, Gas Utility Regulatory Act, Tex. Util. Code § 104.301 ("GRIP Statute") also see Section 7.7101 of the Railroad Commission of Texas ("Commission") Gas Services Division Rules. The GRIP Statute authorizes gas utility companies to request annual rate increases associated with year-to-year changes in incremental investment. The changes in investment are not subject to reasonableness review in the GRIP filing. Instead, all amounts collected under a GRIP filing are considered interim rates subject to review and refund in the Company's next base rate proceeding.

The GRIP Statute provides that the proposed GRIP rate surcharge will become effective 60 days from the date of the Company's filing or April 18, 2026, unless suspended by the Cities. Cities may suspend the GRIP rate increase for an additional 45 days beyond the Company's proposed effective date of April 18, 2026, while reviewing the GRIP application. This Rate Ordinance will suspend the GRIP rate effective date until June 2, 2026. If the city wishes to suspend the proposed rates, action must be taken by passing the Rate Ordinance prior to April 18, 2026. Otherwise, the Company's requested rates will go into effect on April 16, 2026. The review process of a GRIP filing is generally a ministerial review, limited to ensuring that the GRIP filing complies with the GRIP Statute. During the suspension period, any issues related to whether the GRIP filing complies with the GRIP filing rules can be reviewed, so cities may make a final decision on this GRIP proposal.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to adopt the Ordinance suspending the proposed rates associated with CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.'s Gas Reliability Infrastructure

Program and seconded by Council Member Dennis. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

3. Consider the repeal and replacement of Ordinance § 9.01.001 "Personnel rules adopted".

The City of Liberty desires to modernize and clarify the process for adopting, amending and maintaining personnel policies to ensure transparency, consistency, and effective administration.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to adopt the Ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance § 9.01.001 Personnel rules adopted and seconded by Council Member Ward. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

4. Consider a Resolution approving the Employee Policy Manual, providing for related matters.

Staff presented to City Council for consideration a fully updated Employee Policy Manual that consolidates, modernizes, and replaces the City's existing personnel policies. The proposed manual establishes a clear, consistent, and legally sound framework for employee expectations, workplace standards, and administrative practices.

A motion was made by Council Member Ward to approve the resolution approving the Employee Policy Manual as presented and seconded by Council Member Dennis. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

5. Consider a Resolution awarding the bid for the park restroom and concession stand project and authorizing City Manager to negotiate and execute the contract.

On March 26, 2026, four bids were received, ranging from the apparent low bid of \$1,122,677.00 to the high bid of \$1,532,000.00. Five alternates were included in the bid, which included the installation of a veneer stone base on the walls (Alternate 1), the installation of a mini-split AC unit in both concession stand areas (Alternate 2), the installation of a shingle roof in lieu of a metal roof (Alternate 3), changing the CMU walls to use wood studs and Hardie Plank siding (Alternate 4), and changing the plumbing fixtures from stainless steel to porcelain fixtures (Alternate 5). The amount of additions and deductions for each bidder are noted on the enclosed bid tab. The recommended funding source for the project is the Cambridge Funds already allocated.

A motion was made by Council Member Bell to approve the resolution awarding the bid to Daniels Building & Construction, Inc in the amount of \$1,168,813, which includes the original bid plus the following alternates: alternates number one and two and seconded by Council Member Ward The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

6. Consider a Resolution regarding the solid waste collection contract with Frontier Waste Solutions.

In 2016, the City awarded a contract to Frontier Waste (formally LT's) to provide solid waste collection services for the City. The contract was for three years with two one-year extensions, if agreeable by both parties. Frontier Waste initiated a pilot automated collection system in 2018 for residential customers in the southern and northern areas of the City. Survey results from the pilot program were favorable based on the experience of the customers on the pilot program routes. In 2020, an amended municipal solid waste contract was approved with automated collection services for an additional two years and then extended in 2022 for an additional five years, extending the contract term to December 31, 2026. The new agreement is an eight-year agreement (five years with three one-year renewals) beginning January 1, 2027, and extending

until December 31, 2035.

All options include the existing once per week collection for a 95-gallon cart and bulk / brush pickup. Twice a month collection for Heavy Vegetation Debris. The commercial rate increases by 5% each year. Starting in 2028, residential rates will increase 3.5% each year.

A motion was made by Council Member Ward to approve the resolution approving the solid waste contract with frontier waste solutions beginning January 1, 2027, and seconded by Council Member Bell. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

7. Consider a Resolution ratifying LCDC's expenditure of funds for the Rural Texas Trap Neuter Return program.

City Council and LCDC had a joint meeting on March 17, 2026, to discuss the presentations brought to them by Ms. Samantha Roberston & Ms. Shyanne Loftin from Rural Texas Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program, in support of Ms. Austin Thomas from ROSES Rescues, back in January that introduced the Rural Texas TNR program and how it helps the community. The TNR program safely traps stray and feral cat populations, then they are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and treated for health issues at a vet, and are returned to their outdoor homes to live out their natural lives to help reduce overpopulation and improve community health. Various locations within the City of Liberty were discussed that would benefit from partner funding to help to increase the number of cats that are treated specifically in the city. The City Council and the Liberty Community Development Corporation had a joint discussion on how this program would benefit the City of Liberty and its citizens. The program would provide public awareness and education, a public health benefit, and support for animal control.

At the March 17, 2026, joint meeting the following motions were made:

A motion was made by Liberty Community Development Corporation Board Member Campbell to provide \$20,000 in funding for the Rural Texas Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program. The motion was seconded by Board Member McCarty. The motion passed with a 5 to 0 to 1 vote, all present board members voting yes, board member Runkle abstaining, and board member VanDeventer absent.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to ratify the Liberty Community Development Corporation expenditure of \$20,000 in funding for the Rural Texas Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dennis. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

On April 14, 2026, A motion was made by Council Member Brents to approve the resolution ratifying the Liberty Community Development Corporation expenditure of \$20,000 in funding for the Rural Texas Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program and seconded by Council Member Dennis. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

8. Consider a Resolution approving the purchase of an outdoor audio system for events at City Hall and ratifying the Liberty Community Development Corporation's expenditure of funds for same.

During the March 17, 2026 LCDC meeting, City Manager Kendrick and Keith Perry from Peridon Entertainment LLC went over the proposal for the outdoor audio system for the City Hall Campus. The outdoor audio system would be used for outdoor city events, i.e. Lights in Liberty Christmas Event for parade announcements and entertainment at the Daniel pavilion. The system could be used for other events as needed or requested. President Dorsett mentioned the option of zoning out the speakers. That way, if you are just using the gazebo, the sound is

not playing out in the streets and/or area not around the gazebo.

A motion was made by Board Member McCarty to approve funding the full amount of the outdoor audio system presented for City Hall Campus and authorizing the City Manager to seek additional funding sources to reduce Liberty Community Development Corporation expenses if possible. The motion was seconded by Board Member Runkle. The motion passed 6 to 0.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to approve the resolution approving the purchase of an outdoor audio system for events at City Hall and ratifying the Liberty Community development Corporation's expenditure of funds and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

## **B. Executive Session**

At 7:27 p.m., Mayor Hebert closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

1. **Texas Government Code §551.071 - Private Consultation with Attorney**  
Discussion with attorney regarding contemplated/pending litigation and/or regarding matters protected by attorney/client privilege.
2. **Texas Government Code §551.072 - Deliberation Regarding Real Property**  
Discussion regarding real property.
3. **Texas Government Code §551.074 - Personnel Matters.**  
To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.
4. **Texas Government Code §551.087 - Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations.**  
Discussion regarding economic development negotiations.

## **C. Reconvene into Regular Session**

At 7:56 p.m., Mayor Hebert closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Consider and take possible action on legal matters discussed in the executive session.  
No action was taken.
2. Consider and take possible action on real estate matters discussed in the executive session.  
No action was taken.
3. Consider and take possible action on personnel matters discussed in the executive session.  
No action was taken.
4. Consider and take possible action on economic development matters discussed in the executive session.  
No action was taken.
5. Consider a Resolution regarding a Reimbursement Agreement for the Highlands Public Improvement District for repairs to McGuire Road.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to approve repairs to McGuire Road and approve the Highlands Improvement District Reimbursement Agreement, authorizing staff to finalize the agreement and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same and seconded by Council Member Ward. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A. Motion To: Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hebert adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

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John Hebert, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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April Gilliland, City Secretary