



The City of Liberty City Council

1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575
www.cityofliberty.org

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

April Gilliland
City Secretary
936-336-3684

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order on May 12, 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.	X			
Council Member Tommy Brents	X			
Council Member Ed Seymour	X			
Council Member Ross Ward	X			
Council Member Debbie Dugger	X			
Council Member Bruce Bell	X			
Council Member Nick Dennis	X			
Council Member Betty Runkle	X			

II. INVOCATION

The invocation was delivered by Troy Bryant, Director of the Spirit of Sharing.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge to the American Flag and the pledge to the Texas Flag were led by Police Chief Richard Ashe.

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. Mrs. Angelina Bonett requested to speak to the Council on the Election and the difficulty of obtaining information.

IX. Regular Session

1. Consider an Ordinance canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the General Municipal Election held on May 2, 2026.

The City of Liberty held a General Election on the First Saturday of May, May 2, 2026 for the purpose of voting for a Mayor and three Council Members. The election is held in the manner required by the Texas Election Code and the Charter of the City of Liberty. Liberty County Clerk’s Office provided the official returns and it is found that the persons named received the following votes for said election:

General Election	
<u>Name of Candidate</u>	
	MAYOR
John Hebert Jr.	544
Tommy Brents	427
	COUNCIL MEMBERS
Ross Ward	541
Betty Wells Runkle	359
Ed Seymour	428

It is found and determined that the results of the General Election as canvassed and tabulated reflect the expressed desires of those persons voting at said election and that the following named candidates were duly elected at said general election to the Liberty City Council:

Mayor	John Hebert Jr.
Council Member	Ross Ward
Council Member	Betty Wells Runkle
Council Member	Ed Seymour

Council Member Seymour moved to adopt the Ordinance canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the General Municipal Election. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

2. Oath of Office to be administered to Mayor and Council Members

Mr. Paul Henry administered the oath of office to Mayor John Hebert, Jr. Then Mayor John Hebert, Jr., administered the oath of Council Member to newly elected Council Member Betty Runkle, then to returning Council Members Ross Ward and Ed Seymour. After completion of the new Oaths of Office, the elected Members of Council were seated, and Council Member Brents was excused from the meeting.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Proclamation Recognizing Peace Officers Memorial Week

Mayor John Hebert presented Police Chief Ashe with a proclamation recognizing Peace Officers Memorial Week.

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

Deputy City Manager Naomi Herrington reported on the following updates:

- Water system maintenance
- Fiber Ring infrastructure sale
- EMPACT engineering geospatial report
- Roadway asset services
- Liberty Municipal Park

C. 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 asked about the business checks being done by the Police Department and the Golf Course increase in activity. Mayor Hebert asked about the police department's speed reports and congratulated the Library on a well-attended Easter event.

D. Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Hebert

Mayor Hebert, Board Member of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that the SRMPA meeting held in April was a normal business meeting and the next meeting will be held on May 19, 2026 in Livingston.

E. Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

Mayor Hebert expressed appreciation to the city employees for their hard work and dedication. Council Member Seymour remarked on the high level of activity at the airport.

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. Minutes Approval

- 1. April 14, 2026

B. Consider a Resolution regarding the purchase of property on Scout Street.

C. Consider a Resolution regarding the purchase of property on Lakeland Drive

D. Consider a Resolution adding Anthony Lasky, Finance Manager, as a signatory on all City of Liberty bank accounts.

Council Member Bell moved to approve all items on the consent agenda, and Council Member Seymour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

- 3. Council to elect a Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Dennis moved to nominate himself, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3–4, with Council Members Dennis, Ward, and Seymour voting in favor, and Council Members Dugger, Bell, Runkle, and Mayor Hebert voting against.

Council Member Bell then moved to nominate Council Member Dugger, seconded by Council Member Runkle. The motion passed unanimously, 7–0, with all members present voting in favor.

- 4. Consider a Resolution approving a contract with Public Management to assist in applying and administration of Texas Parks & Wildlife grant.

Council reviewed Public Management's proposed contract for the Texas Parks & Wildlife grant application. PMI noted several important considerations. It is recommended that the City cover Public Management's application fee and administrative services through overmatch contributions. Doing so would allow the City to receive additional points for providing overmatch and would also provide flexibility if engineering services are later needed. Engineering services may be paid for through the grant, with a maximum cap of 12% allocated toward all professional services.

By placing PMI's proposed contract on the May 12 agenda for approval and execution, the City is adhering to local procurement guidelines. As previously discussed, PMI believes the City has a strong opportunity for funding based on the following factors:

- Park Master Plan
- Community Engagement
- Willingness to provide overmatch
- Scheduled consultation
- Top-tier project designation

Council Member Bell moved to approve the resolution approving a contract with Public Management to assist in applying for and administration of a Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant. Council Member Dennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

5. Consider a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to Texas Parks and Wildlife for the 2027 Local Park Grant

Public Management will be assisting the City of Liberty in applying for a Texas Parks & Wildlife 2027 Local Park Grant. As previously discussed, PMI believes the City has a strong opportunity for the grant funding based on the following factors:

- Park Master Plan
- Community Engagement
- Willingness to provide overmatch
- Scheduled consultation
- Top-tier project designation

Council Member Bell moved to approve the resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife for the 2027 Local Park Grant. Council Member Dennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

6. Consider and act upon an Ordinance prohibiting drilling and mining in public parks in the City of Liberty in relation to the Texas Parks and Wildlife 2027 Local Park Grant.

Public Management will be assisting the City of Liberty in applying for a Texas Parks & Wildlife 2027 Local Park Grant. A stipulation in the Texas Parks & Wildlife grant is that the City prohibits all forms of drilling and mining and no previously drilled and abandoned well or mine may be reopened in any public park located within the City limits.

Council Member Dugger moved to adopt the ordinance prohibiting drilling and mining in public parks in the City of Liberty in relation to the Texas Parks & Wildlife 2027 Local Park Grant. Council Member Seymour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

7. Discussion and possible action on LCDC's expenditure for the modifications to two end cap storage units in the T-Hangars.

Airport Manager, Mark Bush, presented to the LCDC the proposals for the T-Hangar End Cap Storage Units. The work will include:

Door Company Scope

- Remove the existing overhead door and increase the framed opening to 18'x12'
- Provide and install metal framing and trim
- Provide and install (1) 18' 2" X 12' 0" door wind rated
- Color to match the existing T hangers
- 2 inside slide locks
- Chain hoist
- Provide and install (1) door with a lever and deadbolt key
- Repair damaged siding building B with removed siding

Texas Elite Scope

- Relocate the electrical switch and Electrical conduit (Texas Elite)
- Replace conventional lighting with LED (Texas Elite)

Proposals Pricing:

Better Built Metal Buildings — Sectional door option \$14,000.00
Texas Elite Electrical — \$1,100 per storage area

It is recommended to select sectional doors rather than roll-up doors, as specified by Better Built Metal Buildings. The installation of the recommended new door along with the electrical work should not exceed \$15,100. This modification would be implemented for two T-hangars storage areas, resulting in a total estimated cost of \$30,200.

LCDC approved the expenditure of \$30,200 in the April 21, 2026, meeting.

Council Member Bell moved to approve the resolution approving the expenditure of funds by the Liberty Community Development Corporation for improvements to T-Hangar Storage Units at the Liberty Municipal Airport. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

B. Executive Session

At 6:43 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 8:33 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 creating the Lights in Liberty Board and appointing initial board members

Council Member Bell moved to approve the Lights in Liberty Board and appoint the following members of the board:

- 1. Debbie Dugger Term Expiring: 2 years
- 2. Margaret Gardzina Term Expiring: 2 years
- 3. Betty Runkle Term Expiring: 3 years
- 4. Memorie Meche Term Expiring: 3 years
- 5. Josie (Jo) Mearns Term Expiring: 3 years

Council Member Dennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

- 6. Consider a Resolution rescinding the Policy on Board and Commission Member Appointment and Eligibility adopted May 8, 2018

Council Member Bell moved to approve the resolution rescinding the Policy on Board and Commission Member Appointments and Eligibility adopted in 2018. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

- 7. Consider a Resolution regarding the Port of Liberty Budget.

Council Member Bell moved to approve the resolution approving the original Port of Liberty budget presented by the Port for this year. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7 to 0, with all members present voting in favor.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hebert adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

John Hebert, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary