

City of Alamo

City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 8, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Alamo City Hall – Council Chamber

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Mayor Pamela Lee** at **6:01 p.m.**

2. Invocation

Invocation was given by **City Manager Jeffery Floyd**.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all in attendance.

4. Roll Call / In Attendance

- Mayor Pamela Lee
- City Manager Jeff Floyd
- City Attorney Perry Avery
- City Clerk Dana Burkhalter
- Council Member Dondrea Geter
- Council Member Patricia Woodard
- Council Member Laura Brownley
- Council Member Bobby Cox
- Council Member Steve Jones
- Council Member Geoffrey Villegas

5. Swearing-In of Newly Elected Council Member

City Attorney Perry Avery administered the oath of office to **Angelia Wright**, newly elected Council Member.

6. Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2025

Council Member **Steve Jones** raised concerns regarding discrepancies between the original draft minutes, and the version presented for approval, specifically noting an incorrect vote total.

The City Clerk clarified that the detailed draft is for internal reference and that the Council votes on the summarized official minutes. Council Member Jones stated the correct number of votes was **278**, not **275**, and emphasized the importance of factual accuracy.

Following discussion, a motion was made by **Council Member Cox** to approve the minutes with the correction of **278 votes**, seconded by **Council Member Woodard**.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Agenda – December 8, 2025

Motion made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Villegas**.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Approval of Finance Report – November 2025

Motion made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Jones**.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Public Participation

Marvin Howard

Mr. Howard, a long-time resident of Wheeler County, expressed disagreement with the assertion that low voter turnout indicates citizen disengagement. He stated that citizens feel decisions are made without their input, citing a lack of promised community meetings. He requested transparency regarding financial data, specifically the cost of maintaining the Police Department, and emphasized that public safety should remain the primary objective of law enforcement.

Nancy Long

Ms. Long supported the call for community involvement meetings and stated concern about the lack of presented financial comparisons between the City Police Department and Sheriff's Office services. She shared concerns based on previous experience with delayed law enforcement response times.

Karen Sapir

Ms. Sapir expressed frustration with how the Police Department discussion was handled, stating it felt abrupt and disrespectful to citizens who were told the issue was not imminent.

Palmer Bess

Mr. Bess stated that citizen attendance demonstrates care for the city and disagreed with the suggestion that residents are disengaged.

Jimmy Wells

Mr. Wells expressed support for consolidation efforts if they result in cost savings and suggested city taxes might decrease.

Marvin Howard (Follow-up)

Mr. Howard clarified that city taxes would still be paid, questioning the actual savings.

Annie Bess

Ms. Bess questioned police staffing numbers presented in reports. The City Clerk clarified the figures represented total employees over a year, not simultaneous staffing.

Council Discussion with Sheriff's Office

Council Members questioned coverage, staffing requirements, and costs associated with Sheriff's Office services. It was stated that four full-time officers would be required to cover the city adequately.

Lynette Price

Ms. Price emphasized that the issue is public protection rather than finances and encouraged citizens to attend meetings and hold leadership accountable.

Mayor Lee closed Public Participation.

10. Old Business

Police Department

Council Member **Woodard** expressed concerns regarding the potential forfeiture of a **\$246,000 federal grant**, the impact on future grant eligibility, disposal of federally funded equipment, and

employee considerations. She stated she was surprised by the previous month's vote to begin the process of dissolving the Police Department.

Motion: Council Member Woodard moved to take no action regarding the Alamo Police Department until the grant expiration on **October 31, 2026**, with reconsideration on **November 1, 2026**.

Second: Council Member Dondrea Geter

Vote:

- Approved: Woodard, Brownley
- Opposed: Cox, Jones, Villegas
- **Mayor Lee broke the tie in favor**

Motion carried.

Additional discussion followed regarding grant usage, staffing challenges, and administrative clarification from the City Manager and City Attorney.

11. Approval of Millage Rate

The millage rate was adjusted from **8.177 to 8.173**.

Motion was made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Brownley**.
Motion carried unanimously.

12. Policy Adoption – 2 CFR 200.302 (Grant Allowable Expenses)

Motion made by **Council Member Villegas**, seconded by **Council Member Brownley**.
Effective January 1, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Approval of 2026 Checking Signatories

Motion made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Villegas**.
Motion carried unanimously.

14. Approval of 2026 Holiday Schedule

Motion made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Brownley**.
Motion carried unanimously.

15. Approval of 2026 Council Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by **Council Member Brownley**, seconded by **Council Member Woodard**.
Motion carried unanimously.

16. Purchase of Administrative Computers

Motion made by **Council Member Woodard** to purchase new computers using SPLOST funds,
seconded by **Council Member Villegas**.
Motion carried unanimously.

17. Transfer of Funds – Eastside Park

Motion made by **Council Member Brownley** to transfer **\$100,000** from General Funds,
seconded by **Council Member Geter**.
Motion carried unanimously.

18. Executive Session

Motion made by **Council Member Villegas** to enter Executive Session at **7:00 p.m.**, seconded
by **Council Member Jones**.
Approved unanimously.

Motion made to return to Regular Session at **7:13 p.m.**, seconded by **Council Member Villegas**.
Approved unanimously.

Action from Executive Session

Motion to compensate **Jamie Ricks** an additional **\$2.00 per hour** for hours worked as Acting
Chief from **November 30, 2024 – July 23, 2025**.
Motion made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Brownley**.

- Approved: Woodard, Brownley, Villegas, Geter

- Opposed: Cox, Jones

Motion carried.

19. New Committees for 2026

Motion for the Mayor and City Manager to establish committees for the 2026–2028 term made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Geter**.
Motion carried (Jones and Cox opposed).

20. Committee Reports

None.

21. Department Reports

- City Manager Report – Attached
- Police Report – Attached
- Fire Report – Attached
- Mayor’s Report – Attached

Council Comments

Council Member Woodard complimented the city’s Christmas decorations and thanked Council Member Cox for his service.

Charles James Lee, President of the Wheeler County NAACP, addressed remarks made earlier, stating concern regarding comments related to the newly elected Council Member.

22. Adjournment

Motion made by **Council Member Woodard**, seconded by **Council Member Villegas**.
Meeting adjourned by Mayor Lee at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by:

Pamela Lee

Presiding Officer

Attested by:

Dana Burkholder

City Clerk

Seal:

