



Meeting Minutes
City Council

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

5:00 PM

Council Chamber

PRE-MEETING WORK SESSION(S)

4:00 - 4:30 P.M. The City Council met in open work session to receive briefings from staff regarding the Second Century Budget Strategies and 2026 Tree Lighting event. No action was taken. Council Conference Room, 2nd floor, City Hall.

[26-051](#) Second Century Budget Strategies: Update and Strategy

[26-060](#) 2026 Tree Lighting Update

4:30 - 5:00 P.M. The City Council met in open work session to receive agenda item briefings from staff. No action was taken. Council Conference Room, 2nd floor, City Hall.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rollcall

Present: 4 - Mayor Tommy Stewart, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Aldredge, Councilmember Bob Myers and Councilmember Melissa Rieman

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Phillip Philbin

- A. INVOCATION: Councilmember Bob Myers
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Bob Myers / Scouts
- C. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL: Mayor Tommy Stewart
- D. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: City Manager Robbie Corder

Staff in attendance included City Attorney Rob Dillard, Director of Information Services Andy Atencio, City Secretary Christine Green, Special Projects Coordinator Amanda Hartwick, Community Information Officer Paige Ruedy, Fire Chief Randy Howell, Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish, Purchasing Manager Elizabeth Anderson, Director of Finance Tom Tvardzik, Assistant Chief of Police Travis Vavra, Director of Public Works Keegan Littrell, and Director of Human Resources Talia Gregory.

II. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

[26-059](#)

Proclamation: Celebration of Story Day

Mayor Pro Tem Aldredge read a proclamation proclaiming March 20, 2026 as Celebration of Story Day in University Park. Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications for the SMU English Department Alan Rose was present to accept the proclamation. SMU Professor Christopher Gonzales spoke about the importance and significance of storytelling in the community and society.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

[26-042](#)

Consider approval of an ordinance setting the 2026/FY2027 Over-65 and Disabled Homeowner exemption at \$785,000

City Manager Corder said that this ordinance sets the 2026 / FY2027 Over-65 and Disabled Homeowner homestead exemption at \$785,000. He said that since 2008, the City has provided an exemption of 25% of the value of the average single family home to homeowners who are over-65 or disabled. This year, the average single family home value was \$3.14 million.

He said that this exemption calculation was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Finance Advisory Committee at its February 19 meeting.

This ordinance was approved.

Enactment No: ORD No. 26-018

[26-058](#)

Consider an ordinance amending the sanitation franchises for 2026

City Manager Corder said that this ordinance amends the sanitation franchises for 2026. He said that we have a franchise agreement with every provider that collects, transports, and disposes of waste in University Park. He said that this adds Texas Recycling to the current list of 24 franchisees. He said that these franchisees submit 10% of their gross receipts to the City.

This ordinance was approved.

Enactment No: ORD No. 26-019

[26-055](#)

Consider approval of the minutes of the March 3, 2026 City Council meeting, with or without correction

The minutes were approved.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Aldredge, seconded by Councilmember Rieman, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Mayor Stewart, Mayor Pro Tem Aldredge, Councilmember Myers, and Councilmember Rieman

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Philbin

IV. MAIN AGENDA

[26-061](#)

Discuss paratransit service providers

City Manager Corder said that at a previous meeting, the City Council approved a resolution stating support for offering paratransit service in University Park.

Special Projects Coordinator Amanda Hartwick described paratransit services and said that staff researched several vendors who provide this service in preparation for the DART withdrawal election. She said that different vendors offered different pieces of the paratransit service.

Amanda said that the next steps are for the City Council to consider/approve a contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Aldredge thanked Amanda for her work in preparing this information.

Amanda introduced several representatives from Via, a paratransit services provider. Thomas De Ridder, Vinati Potash, and Aaron Guilbeau presented information about their services. Thomas said that the company provides a turnkey solution. Vinati described all the other area cities and companies they work with to provide transit. Thomas said that Via has the ability to launch in four weeks, and the launch will be supported by a local team embedded in the DFW transit landscape. He said that Via has a track record of successful service transition. They will provide paratransit from University Park to DART member cities for eligible riders, and convenient micro transit within University Park for the general public.

The group said that Via's experience operating ADA paratransit will ensure a seamless transition for the City's riders - on-demand micro transit for all, pre-scheduled paratransit for eligible riders, and full-service management of eligibility process.

Councilmember Rieman asked about key performance indicators for on-time rides. Aaron said the FTA guidelines define a 30-minute window as "on time". For on-demand rides, this is a function of what the demand is, and how many vehicles are available. He said that this is typically 12-15 minutes.

Councilmember Rieman asked where do vehicles go when not in use. Aaron said that Via finds a lot location. Councilmember Myers asked what are the ranges for cost-per-ride. Aaron said from rider standpoint, it's up to the City what they want to collect. He said that distance is the biggest cost driver. He said that \$40 - \$50 per ride is typical for paratransit. He said that \$15-\$20 is the cost for a general micro transit service. He said that ridership drives down the cost per ride.

Councilmember Rieman asked who decides the number of vehicles that are available. Thomas said that the City determines what it would like to allocate. A fleet of a few vehicles would probably be sufficient for this size City.

City Manager Corder said that this service could potentially work for SMU also

if they want to participate. He said that staff would like to bring a contract with
Via back to the City Council at the April 7 meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Mayor Stewart adjourned the meeting.

Considered and approved this 7th day of April, 2026:

Tommy Stewart, Mayor

ATTEST:

Christine Green, City Secretary