

MINUTES
CITY OF WHITE DEER
June 19th, 2025

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Nick Ball, Crystal Fouquet, Ray Pipes, Dylan Ball, Lyn Owens, Summer Kelly

COUNCIL ABSENT:

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Catarina Stokes

GUESTS PRESENT: Tina Newman, Nelson Britten, Virginia Germany, Carolyn Wheeler, Dean Wheeler, Lisa Pelfrey, Ashley Montgomery, Phillip Hefner, Nicki Chavez, Eric Chavez, Amber Adams, Thomas Adams, Kyle Hefner, Tanya Stead, Jacob Clifton

1. Call the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. With a quorum present Mayor Nick Ball called the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag.
3. The invocation was given by Dylan Ball.
4. Approve the agenda for the meeting. Summer Kelly made the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting, seconded by Lyn Owens, all for, motion carried 5-0.
5. Approve the minutes for the previous meeting. Dylan Ball made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 5-0.
6. Public Comments. Dean Wheeler addressed council with 3 requests: (a) requested to change the Flag in front of city hall to a less tattered one (b) requested council meetings be live streamed (c) requested Hemphill County EMS give council more detailed reports.
7. Discuss and possible action for city homestead tax. Dylan Ball presented to council a proposal for a city homestead tax exemption. Ashley Montgomery from Carson CAD was available as well for questions and suggestions. Dylan proposed if city adopted a 10% tax exemption the city would have a reduction of \$41,896 in revenue. If the council chooses 15% it would result in a reduction of \$58,885 in revenue. Mayor Nick Ball, with council approval, recessed agenda item #7 momentarily. On return to agenda #7, Dylan Ball made the motion to approve the city homestead tax exemption at 10%, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 5-0.
8. Eric Chavez variance request – 705 Talley St. Mayor Nick Ball and Dylan Ball shared information from City of White Deer ordinances regarding mobile and manufactured

homes in residential zones. Mayor Ball noted that Chavez's initially received council approval in 2018, however too much time has lapsed, and another request was needed. Ray Pipes made the motion to approve the Eric Chavez variance request on 705 Talley St., seconded by Lyn Owens, all for, motion carried 5-0.

9. Virginia Germany variance request – 508 W 3rd Ave. Mayor Nick Ball let council know this variance request is for Virginia to have a “sweet shop” on her residential property. Virginia noted she wants to sell candies, snow cones and other sweets on her property and that she has a small mobile building she will be utilizing. Ray Pipes made the motion to table Virginia Germany's variance request at 508 W 3rd Ave until further information is gathered from City of White Deer's ordinances, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 5-0.
10. Discuss Plains Internet. Crystal Fouquet let the council know she talked with Cities of Claude and Panhandle and the cities do now allow space on their water tower to be leased. Crystal also spoke with TML legal about right-of-way rental fees, for Plains Internet, \$250.00 would be the annual maximum the city could receive. Plains Internet is willing to negotiate the current contract when allowable in 2026.
11. Discuss and action for returning lifeguard pay rates. Mayor Nick Ball shared with the council that current lifeguard pay is \$8/hour. Mayor Ball noted the current pool manager has requested the council consider a pay rate increase for returning lifeguards going forward. Summer Kelly made the motion to approve the pay rate increase of 50 cents for lifeguards returning consecutively each year (starting in 2026), Lyn Owens seconded the motion, all for, motion carried 5-0.
12. Discuss, review, and possible action on employee handbook. Mayor Nick Ball presented the council with possible changes to the current employee handbook and noted there is a lot that needs to be updated. Mayor Ball talked of the current pay roll process in regard to on-call, over-time, sick leave, vacation leave, and hours worked. Mayor Ball had a few proposals. (a) Mayor Ball shared what discussion he had with the full-time employees in regard to on-call pay out and what their suggestions were. The council requested to look more into on-call possibilities another time. (b) Mayor Ball suggested the verbiage that Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tempore) approve time sheets before payroll is processed; and is currently doing so. (c) Mayor Ball proposed that only hours worked will count toward overtime on payroll as it is consistent with FLSA (Fair Labor Standard Act) requirements. Changes to begin on Monday (June 23rd, 2025, payroll) (d) Mayor Ball also proposed that if an on-call employee calls out of work due to illness or other incapacity that another on-

call employee will assume the on-call responsibility instead. Summer Kelly made the motion to approve that only hours worked will count toward overtime on payroll as it is consistent with FLSA requirements to be added to the employee handbook beginning Monday (June 23rd, 2025, payroll), seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 5-0. Dylan Ball made the motion to approve if an on-call employee calls out of work due to illness or other incapacity that another on-call employee will assume the on-call responsibility instead to be added to the employee handbook, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 5-0.

13. Discuss Peddler's Ordinance No. 104. Catarina Stokes asked council if they would like to continue modifying Ordinance No. 104 or disapprove and start fresh with a "Food Truck Ordinance." Lyn Owens made the motion to disapprove Peddler's Ordinance No. 104, seconded by Ray Pipes, all for, motion carried 5-0.
14. Discuss water, sewer and trash rates. Dylan Ball proposed to the council to consider raising rates for out-of-city and commercial customers. Dylan noted White Deer charges much lower than other cities. Dylan shared an example of a rate increase of 1.5 times the current rate would bring in an estimated \$7,980.25 per month. Next, Dylan shared that a rate increase for those same customers 2 times the current rate would be bring in an estimated \$9,705.00 per month. Crystal Fouquet requested agenda item #14 be added to the next council meeting to be voted on.
15. Approve fire department interdepartmental fund transfer. Catarina Stokes, shared with council that WD Volunteer Fire Department requests an interdepartmental funds transfer from M&R Fire Truck expense line to the Vehicle Purchase expense line. Dylan Ball made the motion to approve the fire department interdepartmental fund transfer, seconded by Ray Pipes, all for, motion carried 5-0.
16. Accounts payable. Ray Pipes made the motion to approve the accounts payable for the month of June as presented, seconded by Summer Kelly, all for, motion carried 5-0.
17. Reports. (a) Utility. Mayor Nick Ball let the council know the utility laptop is not working right now, and there is no report at this time. (b) Code Enforcement. Mayor Ball noted the city does not currently have a code enforcer. (c) EMS report. Hemphill County EMS Director, Jacob Clifton, gave the EMS report. And let the council know he will gladly give a more detailed report going forward since the council has requested. (d) Fire Department report. Nelson Britten and Mayor Ball talked about the controlled burn that will be happening soon. (e) CDC report. No report given at this time. However, Mayor Ball let council know the next meeting will be on July 9th, 2025. (f) Council member comments.

No further comments from council members. (g) Mayor Comments. Mayor Nick Ball and Catarina Stokes let council know beginning September 1st, 2025, agenda 72 hours posting rule will be business days, no longer including weekends.

18. Set meeting date. Dylan Ball made the motion to set the next Council Meeting date for July 22nd, 2025, at 6 p.m., seconded by Summer Kelly, all for, motion carried 5-0.

19. Adjourn meeting at 9:23 p.m. There being no further business on the agenda, Dylan Ball made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lyn Owens, all for, motion carried 5-0, meeting adjourned.

Mayor Nick Ball

City Secretary Catarina Stokes