



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dormier called the Regular Council Meeting of the Ovilla City Council to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Ovilla Council Chamber Room, 105 S. Cockrell Hill Road Ovilla, TX 75154, with notice of the meeting duly posted. All members were in attendance constituting a quorum.

PRESENT:

Richard Dormier, Mayor

Kimberly Case, Place 1

Mayor Pro Tem Dean Oberg, Place 2

Doug Hunt, Place 4

David Griffin, Place 3

Sharon Jungman, Place 5

STAFF:

David Henley, City Manager

Michelle Lilley, City Secretary

Burton Barr, Finance Director

Talesha Marckwardt, Finance Clerk

James Kuykendall, Public Works Director

Joey Bennett, Chief of Police

Cory McLaurin, Fire Chief

II. INVOCATION – The invocation was led by Councilmember Case.

III. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledges were led by Councilmember Hunt.

IV. PRESENTATIONS, COMMENDATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Recognition of Firefighter-Paramedic Cesar Monsivais – Firefighter of the Year Award
- Recognition of Paramedic Specialist Bailey Ables – Paramedic of the Year Award
- Certificate of Achievement – Paramedic Specialist Ashley Tupper – Completion of fire academy, obtaining firefighter certification and passing OFD Firefighter testing.
- Academic Achievement Award – Finance Clerk Talesha Marckwardt – Earning Bachelor's Degree and Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree while employed by the City of Ovilla.

V. UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL BUSINESS

City Manager David Henley gave updates on the following items:

1. Christmas Luncheons
2. May 2, 2026 General Election

3. Community Progress and Achievements Newsletter
4. Annual Ovilla Service League Fundraiser/Dinner
5. Independent Audit
6. ADA Heritage Park Improvements
7. Roadway Marking Improvements
8. City of Ovilla and CWD X-Treme Green Event and Trash Off, April 11, 2026; 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
9. 2026 Ellis Appraisal District BOD Elections Results

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The following comments were made during the Citizen Comments portion of the meeting:

1. **Brenda Sanford, Red Oak ISD Superintendent** – 504 Shawnee Road, Red Oak, Texas, wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to the City of Ovilla for all its participation in the opening of Dr. Joy Shaw Middle School of Red Oak. She wanted to advise that the traffic issues that citizens were worried about went very smoothly and the school did not have any backups that went onto Westmoreland Road. The children were extremely excited to attend the new location and proud to be the first in the new school.
2. **Cynthia Walker** – 851 Davenport Drive, Waxahachie, Texas, wanted to introduce herself to the council and let them know she is excited to announce her candidacy for Judge of the new 504th District Court of Ellis County. The new 504th District Court will primarily handle criminal cases. She has served the State of Texas as a prosecutor for 25 years, and as the First Assistant in the Ellis County and District Attorney's Office. She advised she successfully has prosecuted many of the most violent criminals in our county. She stated she has, and always will, fight for justice for the victims of crime. Being a board-certified criminal attorney with over 200 jury trials and thousands of cases handled in the courtroom.
3. **Jennifer Zarate** – 285 Bearden Road, Waxahachie, Texas, introduced herself and let the council know she would be on the ballot in the upcoming Republican primary election in March. She stated that she believes the citizens of Ellis County deserve a clerk who is committed to modernizing services, safeguarding records, and treating every person with fairness and respect. With more than 30 years of legal experience working in one of the largest metropolitan court systems in the country, having both criminal and family law experience and substantive work in child protective services, child support, juvenile justice, and mental health.
4. **Dorninda Sims** – 3790 Bryson Lane, Midlothian, Texas, stated to the council that she is supporting Jennifer Zarate in the upcoming election. She is having a meet and greet at her home on January 18th for anyone who would like to meet with Jennifer Zarate and have a chance to be able to ask her questions and get to know her.
5. **Greg Mires** – 828 Cockrell Hill Road, Ovilla, Texas, stated he ran last year in the Ovilla elections and there were things and people who were not appropriate or professional and he hopes that it is much better this year with changes. In regard to code enforcement, he hopes things change as far as reaching out to the homeowner and allowing reasonable time to address an issue. He advised he was not afforded that opportunity in the past.
6. **Eric Newton** – 131 Claremont Drive, Ovilla, Texas, expressed his thanks to the city and to TxDOT for including the green turn arrow on the traffic light at 664 and Main. He also

mentioned the congestion at the intersection of 664 and Shiloh Road and asked for the possibility of a traffic light to be installed with the widening of 664.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items may be acted upon in one motion. No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by a Council Member, in which event those items will be pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration on the regular agenda during this meeting.

1. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting, December 8, 2025
2. Financial Transactions over \$5,000

Councilmember Hunt made a motion to approve as presented.
Mayor Pro Tem Oberg seconded the motion.

No oppositions, no abstentions.

VOTE: The motion carried: 5-0

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

1. **DISCUSSION/ACTION – Discuss and take possible action on Ordinance No. 011226-A, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVILLA, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 2026 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS, (PLACES 1, 3 AND 5) FOR EXPIRED TERMS BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF OVILLA; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO THE ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

DISCUSIÓN/ACCIÓN – Discutir y tomar la posible acción sobre la Ordenanza No. 011226-A, UNA ORDENANZA DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE OVILLA, TEXAS, AUTORIZANDO UNA ELECCIÓN GENERAL A LLEVARSE A CABO EL 2 DE MAYO DE 2026 CON EL OBJETIVO DE ELEGIR TRES MIEMBROS DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL (PLAZAS 1, 3 Y 5) POR PLAZOS EXPIRADOS POR LOS VOTANTES CALIFICADOS DE OVILLA; ESTABLECIENDO PROCEDIMIENTOS PARA LA ELECCIÓN; PROPORCIONANDO OTROS ASUNTOS INCIDENTALES Y RELACIONADOS CON LA ELECCIÓN; PROPORCIONANDO PARA PUBLICACIÓN; PROPORCIONANDO UNA CLÁUSULA DE SEPARABILIDAD; Y PROPORCIONANDO UNA FECHA DE ENTRADA EN VIGENCIA.

City Manager David Henley advised the council that election season was approaching, and the terms of Council Member Places 1, 3, and 5 will expire this year and are therefore scheduled for election. State law requires the City Council to order a general election to fill those positions. The uniform election date for this election was May 2, 2026. The accompanying ordinance formally calls the election and establishes the procedures for its conduct in accordance with the Texas Election Code. All required election details, including polling locations, voting times, and administrative provisions, are set forth within the ordinance and its attached exhibit.

Councilmember Jungman made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 011226-A as presented.

Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion.

No oppositions, no abstentions.

VOTE: The motion carried: 5-0

2. DISCUSSION – Discuss and receive City Council guidance and feedback regarding the City’s Code Compliance philosophy, enforcement practices, and enforcement priorities.

City Manager David Henley advised the Council that the purpose of this discussion is to inform the City Council of current code compliance efforts and ensure that staff’s approach to code compliance reflects the City Council’s expectations, balances fairness with accountability, and aligns with the community’s expressed desire for improved neighborhood standards.

Councilmembers expressed a preference for initially using a cooperative approach when addressing code concerns, including contacting the homeowner directly, knocking on the door, and consulting with the homeowner in an effort to resolve the issue. Mayor Domier and Councilmembers Hunt, Griffin, and Case all stated they felt that the Code Enforcement position should be assigned to a single individual as a full-time role to ensure consistent attention to code issues throughout the city. Councilmember Jungman stated that she also supported a city staff-led effort, encouraging proactive reporting of issues by staff and assistance with resolving violations when possible. Mayor Pro Tem Oberg noted that having a designated individual responsible for enforcing the City’s Code Compliance would help protect property values.

This item was for discussion only; no action was taken.

3. DISCUSSION/ACTION – Consideration of any item(s) pulled from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration and action.

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda. No action was taken.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mayor Dormier read the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 551 related to Executive Session and adjourned into closed session at 6:47 p.m.

Section 551.072. Deliberation regarding real property:

- Development on the east side of town
- Planned Development at Westmoreland Road and Ovilla Road

X. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – The City Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m. and took no action relative to Executive Session.

XI. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Dormier requested discussion of requesting a traffic light at the intersection of Shiloh Road and Ovilla Road.

Councilmember Case asked for an update on animal services in Ovilla, where the animals are kept and if there are any improvements that can be made.

- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Pro Tem Oberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion.

No oppositions, no abstentions.

There being no further business, Mayor Dormier adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

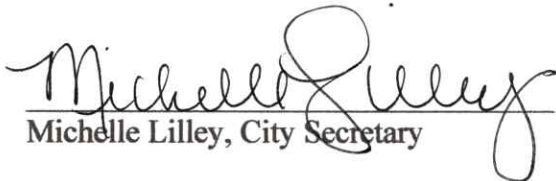
VOTE: The motion carried: 5-0



Richard Dormier, Mayor

APPROVED: February 9, 2026

ATTEST:



Michelle Lilley, City Secretary