

**CITY OF BURTON**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of the Burton City Council at 5:30 p.m. was held on  
**TUESDAY, March 10, 2026**, in the Burton City Hall  
at 12200 E. Mulberry Street Spur 125, Burton, Texas.

**Members Present:**

Mayor Karen Buck

Councilmember Jeff Eckhardt

Councilmember Macey Tidwell

Councilmember Paul McLaughlin

**Members Absent:** Councilmember Tommie Gilmon, Councilmember Nathan Kalkhake

**Others Present:** Rachel Belvin, Utility Manager, Joseph Hayes, City Attorney (Olson & Olson).

**Citizens Present:** David Zajicek (Burton Bulletin), Keith Wittington (Burton Bulletin), Ned Ross, Erica Stark, Robert Schultz, Lauren Ross, Susie Tommaney, Mark Reyes, Nick Irene (Banner Press), Josh Blaschke (KWHI)

**Mayor Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was established and all in attendance were led in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Public Hearing on the City's 2026-2027 Budgets (General & Wastewater)**

No presentations or comments given.

**Citizen Presentations**

Ned Ross, Erica Stark, Robert Schultz, Susie Tommaney

Ned Ross spoke about the false and misleading article in the Brenham Banner Press (a year ago in February 2025) and statements spread about him. He strongly denies being a real estate developer or having financial motives tied to land development and called for an end to rumors and false narratives being shared about him.

Erica Stark emphasized the importance of character, truth, and respect in small-town leadership. She stressed that local government decision should be fair and open-minded and reflect community trust and transparency.

Susie Tommaney asked where the city election would be held.

Robert Schultz did not speak.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- (1) **Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting & February 19, 2026 Special Called Meeting**
- (2) **Financial Reports-Revenue & Expenditures**
- (3) **Mayor's Report – Attached**
- (4) **City Secretary's Report – N/A**
- (5) **Utility Report – Attached.**

Corrections were made to the minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin and seconded by Councilmember Eckhardt to **ACCEPT** the consent agenda.

**FOR: Tidwell**  
**The motion passed.**

**AGAINST: None**

**UPDATES:**

1. **General Land Office Contract #24-065-042-E534 – Water Well #5 – Final walk thru** with C. Miller Drilling, BEFCO, electrical contractor, and city utility contractor. BEFCO following with punch list. City of Burton granted itself a sanitary easement. Second letter sent to adjacent property owner requesting sanitary easement; no response. Tentative date for ribbon cutting with GLO will be Tuesday, April 7 in the afternoon.

2. **2023-2024 TDA CDBG – Knittel Lift Station Improvement Project – No Update**

3. **Texas Target Communities**

**BAEN Students – Wastewater Line Mapping & Wastewater Line near Burton ISD**

\*Have presented the city with a more than 100 page report

\*Students and city staff continue to meet; students continue to wrap up mapping the wastewater lines. Students are also going to run the math on the wastewater line to see how much growth it can handle.

\*Students will present their final in April at A&M; meet with council in May.

**URPN Students – Urban Planning Class**

\*Mayor met with students here in town and at A&M; responded to student emails and questions.

\*Students presented their midterms on Wednesday, March 4 to stakeholders; listened and received feedback for their projects

\*Students will present their Final on Wednesday, April 22 from 2-4pm at American Legion Hall.

**PLAN – Applied Transportation Planning**

\*Mayor and TXDOT engineer worked with students

\*Students presented their midterms via Zoom to mayor; mayor to follow up with Mrs. Curry as many of student ideas include the school district

\*Students will present their Final on Wednesday, April 22 from 2-4pm at American Legion Hall

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE, ACCEPT, DENY, REMOVE OR TABLE ON:**

1. **The 2026-2027 City of Burton General & Water/Sewer Budgets & Ordinance 20260310 Establishing the Budgets for the Fiscal Year.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Eckhardt to **APPROVE** and seconded by Councilmember Tidwell.

**FOR: McLaughlin**  
**The motion passed.**

**AGAINST: NONE**

2. **The Washington County Appraisal District's Proposed Budget (This is not required by WCAD unless Council chooses to VETO the WCAD Proposed Budget.)**

A motion was made by Councilmember Tidwell to take **NO ACTION** and seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin.

**FOR: Eckhardt**

**AGAINST: NONE**

The motion passed.

**3. City Secretary Vacancy – Topics may include: Job Description; Bookkeeping; Pay & Benefits; Interview Process & Questions; Applications; Interview Scheduling; Appointment of Interim City Secretary.**

Mayor updated the Council on the process thus far – posting with Texas Municipal League; receiving one response; searching thru 300 resumes in the Resume Bank; contacting about 6 viable candidates in the local area. Conversation regarding interview questions and process was led by Councilmember Eckhardt. Interview committee was narrowed to Councilmembers Eckhardt and Tidwell with McLaughlin serving as alternate. City Attorney spoke about the need for the city to have an interim city secretary appointed. Former Councilmember Dale Schwartz was identified as a candidate. Mayor to follow up with Angela regarding how long she was willing to extend bookkeeping; Mayor also has a candidate in mind to do the city's bookkeeping. It was decided to try posting the less formal job description at TML. Mayor to re-post the position. One candidate who responded was from Ft Worth and looking for full time employment; Mayor to follow up with candidate.

**4. Alarm System for City Hall – Bid process & bid submission(s)**

Mayor shared the bid process; contacted 3 security companies. Received a bid from one; sent second email to other 2; no response from other 2 companies. Council reviewed the bid from Aggieland Smart Home Technologies.

A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin to **APPROVE** Option 3 (covering 2 windows, 2 doors, 3 panic buttons, 2 cameras) and paying for the equipment up front. Total cost of Option 3 is \$2415.40 with a \$29.95 monthly fee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Eckhardt.

**FOR: Tidwell**

**AGAINST: None**

The motion passed.

**5. City of Burton Feral & Program Spay & Neuter Program with Burton Veterinary Clinic**

The City of Burton has some very generous residents who are assisting with this program. Mayor has met with Dr. Schulte at Burton Vet Clinic about this program. Qualifying residents can apply for financial assistance to have their pets spayed/neutered on Feral Cat Friday. Residents trapping multiple feral animals may also qualify for assistance. Financial Assistance forms can be found at City Hall and at Burton Vet Clinic. ALL applicants must be verified residents before receiving approval for financial assistance.

A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin to **APPROVE** the process for the Spay and Neuter Program and seconded by Councilmember Eckhardt.

**FOR: Tidwell**

**AGAINST: None**

The motion passed.

**6. Resolution R20260310A authorizing the mayor to act as the city's executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the city's participation in the State of Texas 2026 Water Supply & Infrastructure Grant Program.**

This is a \$5 million grant that the Mayor is working on with BEFCO Engineering and Langford Grant Management for the "Fred Line", the same water line and water system improvements in the Texas Water Development Board PIF. This will allow her to proceed with the application when it opens.

A motion to **APPROVE** was made by Councilmember Tidwell and seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin.

**FOR: Eckhardt**

**AGAINST: NONE**

**The motion passed.**

**7. Resolution R20260310B authorizing the mayor to act as the city's executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the city's participation in the 2026 PIF Grant with the Texas Water Development Board.**

While the City of Burton, BEFCO and Langford have rolled forward the PIF application for 2026, the Mayor still had to email the Council for approval. This Resolution, like the one above, with authorize the Mayor to continue work on this \$5 million PIF.

A motion to **APPROVE** was made by Councilmember McLaughlin and seconded by Councilmember Tidwell.

**FOR: Eckhardt**

**AGAINST: None**

**The motion passed.**

**The Regular Council Meeting Adjourned at 6:58pm.**

**The Council reconvened into an Executive Session at 7:00pm.**

**The Council Reconvened into Regular Meeting at 7:32pm.**

A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin to **ADJOURN**; seconded by Councilmember Eckhardt.

**FOR: Tidwell**

**AGAINST: None**

**The motion passed.**

**Announcements:**

April 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

*Karen Buck*

Mayor Karen Buck

ATTEST:

*Dale Schwartz*

Acting City Secretary, Dale Schwartz

