

CITY OF BURTON

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Burton City Council at 5:30 p.m. was held on
Tuesday, May 13, 2026 in the Burton City Hall
at 12200 E. Mulberry Street Spur 125, Burton, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Karen Buck

Councilmember Paul McLaughlin, Tommie Gilmon, Jeff Eckhardt (until installation of Charly Ruemke), Councilmember Elect Charly Ruemke (upon installation), Councilmember Nathan Kalkhake, and Councilmember Macey Tidwell.

****Councilmember Jeff Eckhardt declined to take his seat as Councilmember at the beginning of the meeting before Councilmember Elect Charly Ruemke was sworn in during the meeting****

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Amanda Klehm, City Secretary

Rachel Belvin, Utilities Manager

Dustin Lozano, Utilities Contractor

Representatives of Burton ISD, AOKA Engineering, Reliance Architecture, and Texas A&M EcoFlow Engineer Students (BAEN 480).

Citizens Present: Greg Hayes, Lauren Epperson, Denise Withington, David Zajicek, Larry Winkelmann, Jeff Eckhardt, Berneake Gantt, Susie Tommaney, Alicia Shepherd, Joshua Blaschke (KWHI), David Camp, Victor Gil, Shane Bourgeois, Antonio Naylor, Ned Ross, Patricia Clyde, Mike Clyde, Texas A&M student engineers, and other interested citizens

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.

Citizen Presentations

- Susie Tommaney addressed Council regarding Burton ISD's fire suppression project, future growth, water availability, and the need for measured development within the city.
- Alicia Shepherd addressed Council regarding subdivision ordinance concerns, community involvement in decision making, engineering consultant services, property rights, and transparency in government.
- David Camp discussed sewer infrastructure issues affecting private property and requested continued cooperation between the City and affected property owners.

Discussion, Consideration and Action (Approve, Accept, Deny, Table or Take No Action) on:

1. Discuss and take action on a Resolution to Canvass the Returns of May 2, 2026 City of Burton City Council Election
Resolution No. 20260512 canvassing the election returns was approved upon a motion by Nathan Kalkhake, second by Paul McLaughlin. Motion carried unanimously.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.
2. Presentation and Issue Certificate of Election for Charly Ruemke
Mayor Buck thanked Councilmember Jeff Eckhardt for his service to the City of Burton as a Councilmember. Certificate of Election was presented to Charly Ruemke.
3. Oath of Office of newly elected official for Charly Ruemke
City Secretary Amanda Klehm administered the Oath of Office to Charly Ruemke.
4. Discuss and take action to order an automatic recount as required by the Texas Election Code due to a tie vote for the offices of City Council Position 2 and Position 5.
Automatic recount due to tie votes in Positions 2 and 5 was approved upon a motion by Paul McLaughlin, second by Nathan Kalkhake. Motion carried unanimously.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.
5. Discuss and take action to order a runoff election as required by the Texas Election Code due to a tie vote for the offices of City Council Position 2 and Position 5.
Runoff election was approved upon motion by Nathan Kalkhake, second by Tommie Gilmon. Motion carried unanimously.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.

Presentations

- 1- Burton ISD
Burton ISD presented information regarding the proposed fire suppression system.
- 2- Texas A&M Presentation – EcoFlow Engineers (BAEN 480)
Texas A&M EcoFlow Engineers presented the wastewater infrastructure assessment and recommendations.

Consent Agenda

The following items are considered routine by City Council may be acted upon in one motion. No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by the Mayor or Councilmember, in which event those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Minutes of April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting & April 28, 2026, Special Called Meeting
2. Financial Reports – Revenue, Expenditures
3. Mayor's Report
4. City Secretary's Report and Authorization to Attend Training Conference
5. Utility Reports – Utility Manager & Utility Contractor

Mayor Karen Buck, City Secretary Amanda Klehm, Utilities Manager Rachel Belvin, and Utilities Contractor Dustin Lozano provided reports regarding grants, infrastructure, utilities, banking, elections, and ongoing projects. Council approved Amanda Klehm's request to attend TML Small Town Conference Training in Bastrop on May 21-22, 2026. Full reports will be attached to the minutes. Minutes, financial reports, Mayor's report, City Secretary's report, training authorization, and utility reports were approved upon a motion by Paul McLaughlin, second by Macey Tidwell. Motion carried unanimously.

FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke

AGAINST: None

The motion passed.

Updates

1. General Land Office Contract #24-065-042-E534 – Water Well #5 **Water Well #5 update provided. Ribbon cutting will take place on July 14, 2026, at 10am.**
2. 2023-2024 TDA CDBG – Knittel Lift Station Improvement Project **Knittel Lift Station Improvement Project update provided.**
3. AOKA Engineering – Wastewater Review of City Infrastructure located on the Burton ISD Campus **AOKA Engineering wastewater review update provided.**

Discussion, Consideration and Action (Approve, Accept, Deny, Table or Take No Action) on:

1. Consideration and possible action on appointing a member of the City Council to serve in the role of Sargent-at-Arms for council meetings.
Paul McLaughlin was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms upon motion by Macey Tidwell, second by Nathan Kalkhake.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.
2. Consideration and possible action to appoint a City Council Member as Mayor Pro Tem to act in the absence of the mayor and perform duties as authorized by the City Charter and state law.
Nathan Kalkhake was appointed Mayor Pro Tem upon motion by Paul McLaughlin, second by Macey Tidwell.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.

3. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Texas Water Development Board for the Water System and Infrastructure Grant, and to authorize the mayor to execute all necessary documents, including the required Affidavit and Certificate.
Texas Water Development Board Water System and Infrastructure Grant application was approved upon motion by Charly Ruemke, second by Paul McLaughlin.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.
4. Consideration and possible action on approving a scope of services with AOKA Engineering to review the 2021 BISD Plans related to fire suppression requirements and to evaluate the City's water infrastructure capacity to support the proposed system.
AOKA Engineering scope of services was approved upon a motion by Paul McLaughlin, second by Macey Tidwell.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.
5. Consideration and possible action to approve Karen Buck, Nathan Kalkhake, Tommie Gilmon, Charly Ruemke, Paul McLaughlin, and Macey Tidwell as authorized signers on all bank accounts for the City of Burton held at Citizens State Bank.
Authorized bank signers were approved upon a motion by Tommie Gilmon, second by Paul McLaughlin.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.
6. Consideration and possible action to authorize Amanda Klehm to call and contact the bank regarding information on all bank accounts for the City of Burton held at Citizens State Bank.
Amanda Klehm was authorized to contact Citizens State Bank regarding City account information upon a motion by Tommie Gilmon, second by Nathan Kalkhake.
FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke
AGAINST: None
The motion passed.

Announcements:

- June 9, 2026, Regular Council Meeting
 - The June Regular Council Meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul McLaughlin and seconded by Nathan Kalkhake. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

FOR: Gilmon, Tidwell, McLaughlin, Kalkhake, Ruemke

AGAINST: None

The motion passed.

Karen Buck

Karen Buck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amanda Klehm

Amanda Klehm, City Secretary