



## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS  
HELD AT CITY HALL, 710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET, DEER PARK, TEXAS ON JULY  
21, 2026 BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON  
SHERRY GARRISON  
TJ HAIGHT  
TOMMY GINN  
JUSTIN LEAGUE  
ERIC RIPLEY  
GEORGETTE FORD

MAYOR  
COUNCILWOMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILWOMAN

### OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

SARA COSTLOW  
JIM FOX  
ANGELA SMITH

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
CITY ATTORNEY  
CITY SECRETARY

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE - No comments were received from the public.

### WORKSHOP ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE STUDY PERFORMED BY NEWGEN STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS. - Assistant City Manager Sara Costlow opened the discussion regarding the City's water and wastewater rate study conducted by NewGen Strategies and Solutions. Ms. Costlow stated that Council previously authorized an agreement with NewGen to evaluate the City's utility rates. During the July 21, 2025, Council workshop, NewGen presented a five-year rate plan that included volumetric rates and meter-equivalency structure. Ms. Costlow explained that the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget includes the second year of the plan and requested Council's direction on whether to continue with the proposed structure.

Matthew Garrett, Managing Director with NewGen Strategies and Solutions, presented the updated study findings and recommended five-year rate plan. He explained that the proposed adjustments were necessary to maintain the utility system's financial stability, fund approximately \$56.2 million in planned capital improvements, and address projected annual operating-cost increases of approximately 3.5 percent through Fiscal Year 2031.

Mr. Garrett stated that maintaining current rates would not meet the City's financial targets and would result in an unsustainable reduction in reserves. The proposed rate plan includes continuing the phased implementation of meter-equivalent charges for commercial and nonresidential irrigation customers through Fiscal Year 2030. The plan also proposes annual water-rate increases of 2 percent beginning in Fiscal Year 2028 and annual wastewater-rate increases of 3.75 percent beginning in Fiscal Year 2027. The proposed adjustments are slightly lower than those projected in the previous year's rate study.

Under the proposed rates, the average residential bill, based on 5,000 gallons of monthly usage, is projected to increase by an average of 2.75 percent annually. The average commercial bill, based on 20,000 gallons of monthly usage, is projected to increase by an average of 5.94 percent annually through Fiscal Year 2031.

There were no questions from Council.

2. RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE AWARDS FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER. - Assistant City Manager Sara Costlow introduced the presenters for Support Staff and Team of the Quarter.

Deer Park Police Department Records Supervisor Kathy Cobb recognized Records Specialist Virginia "Gini" Kreiter as the Employee of the Quarter for Support Services.

Information Technology Director James Lewis recognized Cameron Schneider, Adam Gardner, Alex Mihauc, and Anthony Hollister of the Information Technology Department as the Team of the Quarter.

ADJOURN - Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary

APPROVED:

---

Jerry Mouton, Jr.  
Mayor