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City of Seguin

210 E. Gonzales Street
Seguin TX, 78155

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Mayor Dodgen called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Invocation - Bro. Scott Mitchell, Unlock the Bible Now Inc.

3. Pledge of Allegiance/Salute to the Texas Flag

4. Roll Call

Mayor Dodgen called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Excused: 2 - Councilmember David Eveld, and Councilmember Monica N. Carter

Present: 6 - Councilmember Joe Rea, Councilmember Jim Lievens, Councilmember John Carlsson, Councilmember Paul Gaytan, Councilmember Bill Keller, and Councilmember Jason Biesenbach

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Donna Dodgen

5. Hearing of Residents:

Pina Iuffredo, Risk Manager, informed City Council that the City has made a small, but powerful, improvement to Council Chambers. To help make the meetings more inclusive, the City has installed four listening devices that can be checked out and used by residents to aid with any hearing impairment. This technology is already installed at the Library and, when budgeting allows, it will be installed at the Coliseum and Utilities Operation Center.

Mayor Dodgen commented that they may have the same system at the Texas Theatre and it works well for them.

Councilmember Carlsson asked if the Police Department's Annual Report is available on the website and by digital copy. Chief Brady said that he will be doing a presentation on it and it will be posted on the City's website as well. Councilmember Carlsson thanked Chief for the report and hard work and said that the numbers reported are incredible.

Councilmember Lievens stated that he was happy to see former City Manager Doug Faseler at the meeting. He explained that when he was on City Council many years ago, he would complain about "Lake Hildago", a piece of property near Hueber Rd and FM 78 that would hold water, but was told nothing could be done about it because it was between TxDOT and Union Pacific. Councilmember Lievens said that Director of

Engineering and Capital Projects Melissa Reynolds created a plan to put a pipe and grate under the road and believes that it will fix the drainage problems.

Councilmember Biesenbach informed that Early Voting started today and will go until February 27th. He encouraged everyone to do their research before they vote so that they know for whom they are voting.

Mayor Dodgen informed that Action Item 8a is pulled from the agenda. She also commented that her cousin made hand sanitizer for the same Navajo Nation that Utilities will be assisting to bring power to their residences.

6. Presentation

a. [26-042](#) Recognition of Ricardo Cortes, Deputy City Manager, upon his retirement. - Donna Dodgen, Mayor

Mayor Dodgen informed that there was a reception for Deputy City Manager Rick Cortes prior to the City Council meeting, but this is the formal recognition of his retirement.

Mayor Dodgen read that Rick Cortes started with the City of Seguin as the Assistant City Manager. In 2020, he was promoted to Deputy City Manager. On February 28, 2026 he will retire with a total of 19 years and 5 months of service with the City of Seguin and over 40 years of public service. Mayor Dodgen congratulated Mr. Cortes and wished him a very happy retirement. She said that Mr. Cortes is an amazing man and has done great things for this City. His tenacity, and ability to look at the future helped the City not only save money, but make money during Snowvid. He is solution oriented and the next person who tries to fill his position has very big shoes to fill and will have to have his same qualities -- thoughtfulness, listening, and giving good ideas. She said that we may have had a stupid question, but Mr. Cortes did not make them feel stupid. She thanked him from the bottom of her heart for working with her, Jet, and Fonda when they first got onto City Council to make sure that they were part of the group.

Deputy City Manager Rick Cortes said that he learned over thirty years ago that it matters how you treat and manage people. You have to manage with your heart and try to make their lives easier. He thanked former City Manager Doug Faseler for hiring him and City Manager Steve Parker for working with him the last six years. Mr. Cortes stated that he thought about retiring two years ago, but Steve made it such a great place to work, he stayed. He said after thirty years, you would think you would know everything, but no. Doug and Steve were both mentors. He said that he would put this council in front of every council he has worked for, and Seguin has had a great city council for 19 years and that doesn't happen, so he is leaving on a high note. Lastly, he said that the City staff is fantastic and he has had a chance to work with many talented people. He said he could pick out the people that would rise to the top and do well in big and competitive cities. He thanked everyone and said it has been a fun ride.

City Manager Steve Parker proclaimed that Rick Cortes has played a huge part in building the trust with city council over the years. Mr. Parker said that Mr. Cortes is a great sounding board and there has been many times he has been at crossroads and Rick has given him a great idea. He told Mr. Cortes that this team values him and him leaving will leave a big hole to fill. He said that Mr. Cortes always has the best interest of the City in mind, is a tough negotiator and makes great deals for the City, and he appreciates the way Mr. Cortes thinks and how he is able to see the big picture of

Seguin.

This Recognition was presented

b. [26-052](#)

Presentation of Seguin Police Department's annual summary of operations, crime statistics, and community initiatives for the calendar year 2025. - Jason Brady, Police Chief

Police Chief Jason Brady said that it has been a pleasure to work with Deputy City Manager Rick Cortes. He also thanked City Council for the opportunity to humor him and allow him to report on the last year in review and brag on his staff and people who are incredible officers and civilian staff. Moving forward, he will provide this report annually. He read his message to the City, introduced his command staff, and gave an overview of the organizational chart. He also informed that females now account for 16% of the sworn force.

Chief Brady reminded that the Seguin Police Department received accreditation again this year from Texas Police Chiefs Association, putting them in the top 10% of agencies in the state. Also, he gave an overview of the department's community initiatives and highlighted their Daddy Daughter Dance as there is a correlation between crime and growing up without a father in your house.

Then, Chief Brady summarized some statistics from NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System) by division and highlighted accomplishments for each. He also thanked City Council for granting them the funds for automatic license plate readers and drones, stating that the technology upgrades have significantly improved the department's effectiveness. He said in the last year, they have been able to double the traffic division, which is an important part of the job because more people die from car accidents than homicide. He noted that most of the traffic violations are not committed by residents, but by people driving through Seguin.

Lastly, he informed that Seguin has an ISO Rating of 2, which helps to keep home insurance premiums lower, acknowledged the officers that received awards during this review year, and reiterated Seguin Police Department's commitment to provide professional, community-oriented service during this time of historic growth in our city.

Councilmember Carlsson said that Seguin Police Department is proactive, not reactive, and that he will always support what they are doing.

A copy of the report is available on the City's website.

c. [26-053](#)

Presentation of Seguin Electric Department's mutual aid and training mission to Light Up Navajo VII. - Timothy Howe, Director of Utilities

Utilities Director Tim Howe informed City Council of the unique mutual aid and training opportunity that will make a big difference to Seguin and the Electric Department. His team will be working to bring power to residents in the Navajo nation that have never had power before. Mr. Howe showed a video that better described what the team will be doing. The team members that will be representing Seguin this year are:

*AJ Martinez
Eli Santos
Alex Duarte
JR Cruise
Freddy King*

He thanked Multimedia Specialist Daniel Shogren and Public Information Officer Jennifer Sourdellia for putting the video together. He said he is very excited for this project not just from a training standpoint but also a humanitarian standpoint. He said in 2024, only 16 states were represented and only 44 utilities have participated. In Texas, only 3: Austin Energy, CPS, and now Seguin, Texas.

7. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Biesenbach, seconded by Councilmember Joe Rea, that the following Consent Agenda items be approved on the Consent Agenda.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Excused: 2 - Councilmember Eveld, and Councilmember Carter

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Dodgen

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Rea, Councilmember Lievens, Councilmember Carlsson, Councilmember Gaytan, Councilmember Keller, and Councilmember Biesenbach

- a. [26-058](#) Minutes of the February 3, 2026 City Council Meeting.
These Minutes were approved.
- b. [26-059](#) Check Report January 29, 2026 through February 10, 2026.
The Check Report was acknowledged.
- c. [26-040](#) Resolution Reaffirming Civil Rights Policies for the Texas Department of Agriculture- Community Development Block Grant CDV25-0428, to include the HUD Section 3 presentation. - Kate McCloud, Grants Administrator
This Resolution was approved.
Enactment No: 2026R-033
- d. [ZC 01-26 CC](#) Ordinance on second reading to consider a Zoning Change from Single-Family Residential (R-1) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) for the property located at the 15700 Blk of FM 725, Property IDs: 58174 & 58287, (ZC 01-26). - Pamela Centeno, Director of Planning and Codes
This Zoning Ordinance was adopted.
Enactment No: 2026-009
- e. [ZC 02-26 CC](#) Ordinance on second reading to consider a Zoning Change - from Agricultural Ranch (A-R) to Commercial (C) for the property located near the northeast corner of SH 46 and Rudeloff Rd., Property ID: 121704, (ZC 02-26). - Pamela Centeno, Director of Planning and Codes
This Zoning Ordinance was adopted.
Enactment No: 2026-010

8. Action Items - Discussion and Possible Motion to Approve

- a. [26-054](#) Resolution of the City Council of the City of Seguin, Texas to execute a right-of-way consent agreement with ExxonMobil for underground infrastructure in the Cordova Road Project; authorizing the City Manager to enter into a consent agreement with ExxonMobil; and declaring an effective date. - Melissa Reynolds, PE, MPA, CFM - Director of Engineering & Capital Projects

Mayor Dodgen announced that this agenda item was pulled from the agenda and will not be considered.

- b. [26-055](#) Authorize the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab 4-wheel drive from Sames Auto Group in the amount of \$53,632.28 and declare an effective date - Steven Purchase, Fleet Manager

Public Works Director Adam Rossing explained that the Utility Department is requesting to replace a 2011 F-150 with a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado. This purchase would be completed through the TIPS purchasing cooperative contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Biesenbach, seconded by Councilmember Keller, that this Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Excused: 2 - Councilmember Eveld, and Councilmember Carter

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Dodgen

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Rea, Councilmember Lievens, Councilmember Carlsson, Councilmember Gaytan, Councilmember Keller, and Councilmember Biesenbach

- c. [26-056](#) Authorize the purchase of one 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4WD Crew Cab Utility Bed Truck from Sames Auto Group in the amount of \$76,510.20 and declare an effective date - Steven Purchase, Fleet Manager

Public Works Director Adam Rossing said that this request is to replace a 2008 Ford E-250 Cargo Van with a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Crew Cab and would also be purchased through the TIPS purchasing cooperative contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Keller, seconded by Councilmember Rea, that this Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Excused: 2 - Councilmember Eveld, and Councilmember Carter

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Dodgen

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Rea, Councilmember Lievens, Councilmember Carlsson, Councilmember Gaytan, Councilmember Keller, and Councilmember Biesenbach

9. Closed Session

Mayor Dodgen convened into Closed Session at 6:42 P.M.

- a. [26-034](#) Section 551.071(2) (Consultation with Legal Counsel) and 551.072 (Deliberation regarding the Purchase and/or Value of Real Property) of the Texas Local Government Code regarding City owned property located on or near South Travis Street in Guadalupe County, Texas. Possible action may follow in Open Session.
- b. [26-041](#) Section 551.071(2) and 551.086 (Consultation with Attorney and Deliberation regarding Competitive Matters of a Public Power Utility) the Seguin City Council will convene into Closed Session regarding certain City utilities and/or arrangements with the wholesale providers for certain City utilities. Possible action may follow in Open Session. - Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

10. Reconvene into Open Session and Take Action on Closed Session Items if necessary

Mayor Dodgen reconvened into Open Session at 7:37 P.M.

- a. [26-073](#) Authorize the City Manager to execute a transaction confirmation for energy and capacity between the City of Seguin and City Public Service Board (CPS) of San Antonio related to the purchase and sale of energy and ancillary services as discussed in Closed Session. - Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

Councilmember Keller made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lievens, that this Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote.

Excused: 2 - Councilmember Eveld, and Councilmember Carter

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Dodgen

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Rea, Councilmember Lievens, Councilmember Carlsson, Councilmember Gaytan, Councilmember Keller, and Councilmember Biesenbach

11. Adjournment

Mayor Dodgen adjourned the meeting at 7:39 P.M.

Donna Dodgen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristin Mueller, City Secretary

