

City of Big Sandy

Big Sandy, Texas 75755

MINUTES TO MEETING

August 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

The City Council for the City of Big Sandy met in Regular Session on August 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the City of Big Sandy Heritage Center, 162 E. Gilmer Street, Big Sandy, Texas.

Call to Order: Mayor Baggett called the regular session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- a. **Invocation** – Lupe Gonzalez
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Dr. David Fonteno
- c. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Linda Baggett, Sally Allen, Trey Beahm, David Fonteno, Rex Rozell and Chase Sheeley.
- d. **STAFF PRESENT:** Chief of Police David Easterling, Officer Michael Isabell, City Administrator/City Secretary Laura Rex, Utility Clerk Sarah Strub and Public Works Director Rocky Ware.
- e. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Janet Beahm, Bernice Burson, Joanne Gonzalez, Lupe Gonzalez, Melissa Green, VFD Fire Chief Jeff Jones, Brenda Marks, Sherry Perry, Larry Strickland, George Strub, Kenneth Walton and VFD President Samuel Vanderford.

Public Comment: Joanne Gonzalez addressed the council regarding changing the December 17th, 2024 minutes.

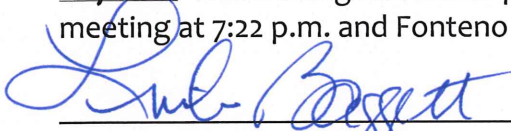
Community Events: Mayor Baggett reminded everyone of several upcoming events: the upcoming budget meetings and Honor Our Heroes program on September 7th.

Agenda Items:


1. **Vol. Fire Department: Monthly Report:** the monthly report, including notice of a change in dispatch from Gilmer Fire Department to Upshur County on September 30th, was presented by VFD President Samuel Vanderford.
2. **Medical expenses for VFD Firefighter Samuel Vanderford:** Beahm moved to approve a one-time payment of \$3,575 to OrthoLonestar for Samuel's medical expenses and Allen seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
3. **Texas Mutual Vol. Fireman's Insurance Services (VFIS) Quote:** Beahm moved to approve the purchase of accident and sickness insurance for up to 20 members of the volunteer fire department at a cost not to exceed \$5,257 with the Volunteer Fire Department being responsible for keeping the roster current with the company. Beahm amended the motion to increase the cost not to exceed \$5,757. Sheeley seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
4. **Fireworks for school events:** Sheeley moved to approve Summer McCartney's requests to shoot off fireworks at the October 8th, 2025 community pep rally, the October 10th, 2025 Homecoming game and the October 31st, 2025 senior night game and Fonteno seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell & Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
5. **Sewer Tap Permit: 105 Mure Street:** Fonteno moved to approve the sewer tap permit for Kenneth Walton at this address at a cost of \$4,785 and Beahm seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
6. **Police Department: Monthly Report:** Chief Easterling presented the monthly report.
7. **Public Works: Monthly Report:** Director Ware presented the monthly report.
8. **Civic Center: 612 N Tyler Street: Pews:** Fonteno moved to declare the pews located in the auditorium at the civic center as surplus property to be disposed of with or without remuneration and Beahm seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

9. **Letter of Engagement: Audit for fiscal year ending 09.30.2025:** Beahm moved to accept the letter of engagement for the audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 at a cost of \$12,000. Rozell seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
10. **Financial Reports for July 2025:** Allen moved to approve the financials as presented and Beahm seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell & Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
11. **Minutes for July 15th, 2025; July 25th, 2025 and August 5th, 2025 meetings:** Sheeley moved to approve the minutes for these 3 meetings as presented and Allen seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
12. **Resolution appointing Upshur County Tax Assessor to calculate the no-new revenue and voter approval tax rates as required by Texas Tax Code 26.04:** Fonteno moved to approve **Resolution #2025-019** designating Upshur County Tax Assessor Luana Howell to calculate the tax rates as required and Allen seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
13. **Resolution 9-1-1 Database Maintenance Contract with ETCOG:** Fonteno moved to approve **Resolution #2025-020** approving the 9-1-1 database maintenance contract with the East Texas Council of Governments from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 and Sheeley seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
14. **Resolution nominating up to five candidates to Upshur County Appraisal District Board of Directors:** Fonteno asked Ms. Rex to verify the nominating process. No action taken.
15. **Vote on proposed tax rate and set dates for public hearings for 2025-2026 tax rates and budget:** Beahm moved to propose a tax rate of \$.46 per \$100 valuation and Rozell seconded. The roll call vote: Sally Allen: Aye; Trey Beahm: Aye; David Fonteno: Aye; Rex Rozell: Aye; Chase Sheeley: Aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
 Rozell moved to set the public hearings for the 2025-2026 tax rate and budget for September 2nd, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and Allen seconded. Allen, Beahm, Fonteno, Rozell and Sheeley voted aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.
16. **Credit Card Processing Costs:** Administrator Rex provided an update on the city council's action from June to start charging a convenience fee for credit and debit card users.
17. **City Administrator Report:** Administrator Rex presented her monthly reports, including: reminders about upcoming hearings on September 2nd, 2025, required training for the elected officials and the next regular council meeting on September 16th.
18. **Mayor's Report & Updates:** Mayor Baggett gave updates and the dates of several community events, including a reminder for several upcoming community events including the annual train event at the Heritage Center on September 5th, Honor our Heroes on September 7th, and fall cleanup on September 27th and 28th.


Adjourn: There being no further posted business before this Council, Allen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. and Fonteno seconded.



 Linda C. Baggett, Mayor



 Laura M. Rex, City Secretary



 Date