

City of Bogata

Called City Council Meeting & Budget Workshop

July 20, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

Bogata City Hall

128 N. Main Street

Bogata, Texas 75417

Council Members may participate by telephone or video conference and may speak and vote on all agenda item. This is in accordance with Texas open meeting act.

AGENDA

Called City Council Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Establish Quorum - Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
4. Public Forum

Members of the public may speak on items listed on this agenda.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Members of the public may speak on an agenda item during the public forum section of the meeting or at the time the agenda item is called for discussion by the Mayor. Speakers are allowed three (3) minutes per speaker, and the time cannot be saved, transferred, or assigned.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on non-agenda items may do so with a three (3) minute per speaker limit. Consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council members cannot discuss not respond to non-agenda presentations.

All speakers are expected to maintain a proper decorum when presenting and while in Council chambers. Threats, personal insults, vulgar or profane language is out of order and may result in forfeiture of remaining time and possible removal from the meeting.

Citizens wishing to comment must make the request in writing and deliver the requests to the City Secretary 10 minutes prior to the meeting.

V. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS- Pursuant to TEX GOVT CODE 551.041S(b) the Mayor and each City Council member may announce city events/community interest and request that items be placed on future City Council agendas.

Discuss and Possible Action

5. Ordinance No. 01-25 Amendment to Ordinance No. 26-02
6. Approve Minutes of July 6, 2026 Council Meeting.
7. Consideration of David Kays Pay During Medical Leave
8. Interview of Lasaro Birdwell for the Position of Chief of Police, with Consideration of Appointment.
9. Increase in Per Diem for Council Members Attending Training
10. Discuss the Future of the Bogata Police Department
11. Discussion and possible action regarding the vacancy in the Office of Mayor, including consideration of ordering a special election or continuing with the current Council until the next regular municipal election.
12. Adjourn Called City Council Meeting

Budget Workshop

Discuss and/or Take Action

1. Open Budget Workshop
2. Discuss Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
3. Adjourn Budget Workshop

Executive Session(s)

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The City does not routinely list Executive Session items. This provision has been added to the agenda with the intent of meeting all elements necessary to satisfy TEX GOVT CODE 551.144(c). The council may vote and/or act upon each of the items set out in this agenda. In addition, the City Council of the City of Bogata has the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney);

551.072 (Personnel Matters)551.076 (Deliberation regarding the deployment of security devices or the implementation of security policy; 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development negotiations).

X. ADJOURNMENT-

Attendance by Other Elected or Appointed Officials- NOTICE OF POTENTIAL QUORUM:

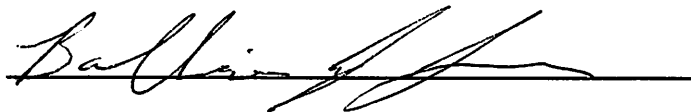
It is anticipated that members of City Council or other city board, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the other city boards, commissions and/or committees. Notice is hereby given that the meeting, to the extent required by law, is also notice as meeting of other boards, commissions and/or committees may participate in discussion on the same items listed on the agenda, which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless such item and action is specifically provided for on an agenda for that board, commission or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

This facility is wheelchair accessible, and accessible parking spaces are available. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall.

Certificate of Posting

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that this notice of meeting was posted on the front door at City Hall, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, and on the City's website, in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, at least 72 business hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

Posted this day of July 14, 2026 at 4:50 a.m./p.m.



City of Bogata

Called City Council Meeting and Budget Workshop Minutes

20 correction
Date: July 20, 2026

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Bogata Community Center, 206 2nd St. NW Bogata, Texas

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem Dakota Ross called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Council Members present:

- Aaron Lum
- Chris Kennedy
- Teresa Allison
- Melissa Kerby

A quorum was established.

3. Motion to Remove Portion of Agenda Item No. 9

Before proceeding with the agenda, Councilmember Teresa Allison made a motion to remove the portions of Agenda Item No. 9 pertaining to meals and hotel expenses. She stated that the Council had previously adopted a policy on February 2, 2026, providing that the same or a substantially similar agenda item could not be reconsidered for six months following Council action. She noted that reimbursement for automobile mileage had not previously been addressed and requested that only that portion remain for discussion.

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

Sustained from voting:

Aaron Lum

Chris Kennedy

Motion carried by unanimous.

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro tem offered the invocation.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Billy Owens addressed the Council regarding travel reimbursement and volunteer service.

Mr. Owens recommended that the City adopt the federal General Services Administration (GSA) per diem rates for travel expenses, explaining that the rates are adjusted for inflation and geographic cost differences. He also spoke about the value of volunteer service, noting that the nationally recognized estimated value of volunteer time for 2026 is **\$36.14 per hour**. Mr. Owens provided Council members with printed information regarding GSA per diem rates for reference.

No action was taken.

6. Ordinance No. 01-25 – Amendment to Water Service Ordinance 26-02

The Council considered Ordinance No. 01-25 amending the City's water service ordinance.

Discussion included:

- Removing language regarding temporary water service.
- Revisions concerning sanitation service requirements.
- The desire to have the ordinance reviewed by the City Attorney prior to adoption.

Council members agreed it would be appropriate for City Attorney Mr. Hamilton to review the proposed ordinance before any action was taken.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

To **table Ordinance No. 01-25** until the August meeting following legal review.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Minutes

The Council considered approval of the minutes from July 6, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.

A motion was made by: Councilwoman Allison

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

To approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Employee Medical Leave

The Council discussed a request concerning compensation for Public Works Director David Kays during his medical leave following surgery.

Discussion included:

- Mr. Kays has approximately 19 years of service in the City.
- Available paid time off under the City's current personnel policy.
- Whether additional paid leave should be granted.
- The absence of a formal policy governing extended medical leave.
- The need to develop written personnel policies addressing medical leave and related employee benefits.
- The need to obtain medical documentation identifying work restrictions and the anticipated return-to-work date before taking action.

Following discussion, a motion was made by councilwoman Allison to **table consideration of Mr. Kays compensation** until medical documentation is received from his physician. The Council indicated that a called meeting could be scheduled once the necessary documentation is available.

Second by: Councilman Lum

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Mileage Reimbursement for Training Travel

Following the earlier motion removing the portions of Agenda Item No. 9 related to meals and hotel expenses, the Council discussed mileage reimbursement for travel to approved training events and establishing a standard reimbursement rate going forward.

Discussion included:

- The current federal mileage reimbursement rate for 2026.
- The need for a written policy so the Council would not need to vote on mileage reimbursement each time training occurs.
- Whether the reimbursement rate should automatically follow the federal rate each year.
- Recent training expenses, including parking and hotel-related charges.

Council members discussed using the federal mileage rate for the remainder of the current calendar year and incorporating a permanent reimbursement policy into the City personnel handbook or other written policy document.

Motion by: Councilwoman Allison to adopt the .725 cents per mile for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion Regarding the Future of the Bogata Police Department

Mayor Pro-Tem stated that a full audit and investigation of the Police Department was underway and that, at the present time, the future status of the department has not yet been determined. The Mayor Pro-Tem explained that no decision had been made regarding whether the department would remain open, be temporarily closed, or be permanently closed.

Representatives conducting the review explained that an inspection of the Police Department facility would occur the following day to determine compliance with **Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Rule 211.16 – Minimum Standards**. The inspection would include review of:

- The physical police facility;
- The evidence room;
- Police vehicles; and
- Personnel/TCOLE files.

The representatives stated that, following the inspection, the City would receive written findings and a time period in which any deficiencies would need to be corrected in order to meet minimum standards.

Council members asked whether a City representative needed to be present during the inspection. The inspectors indicated that a City representative was required to remain present during the review, but the process was not intended to be secret, and information would be shared with the City.

No action was taken.

11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Vacancy in the Office of Mayor

The Council discussed the vacancy in the office of Mayor, including the options of ordering a special election or continuing with the current arrangement until the next regular municipal election. Mayor Pro Tem stated that the item had been placed on the agenda so that the Council's discussion and decision would be formally documented.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Allison to continue operating under the current arrangement, with the **Mayor Pro Tem presiding over City Council meetings and retained voting rights until the next regular municipal election in May 2027.**

Seconded by: Councilwoman Kerby

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Allison to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Seconded by: Councilman Kennedy

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Workshop – FY 2026–2027 Budget

The City Council entered a budget workshop at 7:38 p.m. to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget.

The City's financial consultant presented a preliminary budget prepared using available financial information from July 21, 2025, through July 20, 2026. She explained that several areas remain subject to revision, particularly those relating to law enforcement, municipal court operations, payroll allocations, insurance, equipment leases, and projected revenues.

Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- The uncertainty surrounding future Police Department and Municipal Court operations and the effect those decisions will have on the budget.
- Review of projected revenues compared to actual revenues received during the current fiscal year.
- The need to compare actual revenues and expenditures from prior fiscal years to develop more accurate projections for the upcoming budget.
- The status of the annual audit and its effect on future financial planning and tax rate considerations.
- Adjustments that will be needed for sanitation services, insurance premiums, equipment leases, vehicle maintenance, and other operating expenses.
- Allocation of equipment costs between the Water and Street Departments.
- Review of contract labor expenditures, including mosquito spraying services.
- Discussion regarding staffing needs within the Public Works Department and the importance of succession planning due to the anticipated future retirement of long-time employees.
- Review of payroll expenditures and departmental operating costs.

- Discussion of miscellaneous revenue, credit card expenditures from prior Police Department operations, and proper accounting classifications.
- The need to revise budget line items to accurately reflect actual departmental expenditures and current operational needs.

The Council also discussed the City's Fire Department contributions, including:

- Monthly contributions made by the City.
- The collection of voluntary fire department donations through customer utility bills.
- Transfers to the Fire Truck Savings Account.
- Future funding for fire apparatus purchases.
- Whether separate banking arrangements for Fire Department funds should be considered.

Throughout the workshop, Council members emphasized the need for additional revisions before adoption of the budget, including updated revenue projections, current expenditure reports, audit information, and more accurate allocation of departmental expenses.

No action was taken during the budget workshop.

13. Future Budget Workshop Scheduling

Council members discussed scheduling an additional budget workshop to continue reviewing the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget after additional financial information and revisions become available. Members discussed availability and coordinating future meeting dates. The next meeting will be August 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

No formal action was taken.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Kerby to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Seconded by: Councilman Lum

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Approved on August 3, 2026

Signature 