

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MULESHOE, TEXAS
Monday, August 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m. City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ellis; Mayor Pro-Tem Gary Parker; Council members Carpenter, Myers and Alarcon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Madison and Walter Lackey Jr., L&L Ministries; Dani Heathington; Travis and Kelli Copley; Troy Johnston; Alyssa Brownstead; Kirk Lewis; Raymond Toscano; Gil Rennels, Channel 6; Police Chief Benny Parker; Public Works Director Juan Flores; Street Superintendent Crystal Casto; City Manager Ramon Sanchez and City Secretary Tamara Cain

Mayor Ellis opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Prayer led by Council member Carpenter.

Troy Johnston provided public comment expressing concerns regarding Code Compliance and his belief that he was being unfairly targeted.

Dani Heathington provided public comment regarding community beautification and cleanup efforts and discussed the possibility of forming a committee to support these initiatives.

Kirk Lewis provided public comment addressing council to consider adopting the No New Revenue Rate for the 2027 tax rate.

AGENDA

1. Motion was made by Council member Carpenter and second by Mayor Pro-Tem Parker to approve the minutes of the July 13 2026, council meeting. Motion carried.
2. Request was made by Walter Lackey of L&L Ministries Inc. to grant an exception and/or grandfather in the placement of a storage container for human habitation within the city limits, for the City of Muleshoe to provide no further roadblocks, and to waive any permit fees that would be required associated with the placement of the container. Discussion was held by council. No action was taken.
3. Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Parker and second by Council member Myers to propose the 2027 tax rate of \$0.673093 per \$100 valuation which includes \$0.563692 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.109401 for Debt Services. Votes were, for: Mayor Ellis; Mayor Pro-Tem Parker; Council member Alarcon, Council member Carpenter and Council member Myers; against: none. Motion carried.

4. The date for the public hearing for the 2027 tax rate and the 2026-2027 budget was set for Monday, August 24, 2026 at 5:30 pm.
5. Council considered Ordinance O-561-0826 Authorizing the operation of Golf Carts, Utility Vehicles (UTV's), Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROV's) and other Off-Highway vehicles as permitted by state law on certain city streets. Chief Benny Parker spoke on the matter. Citizen Raymond Toscano spoke on the matter. No action was taken.
6. Motion was made by Mayor Ellis and second by Mayor Pro-Tem Parker to approve Ordinance O-560-0826 which involves a settlement by the West Texas cities with Atmos Energy regarding a rate case that was filed with the Public Utilities Commission. Atmos Energy requested \$13.3 million of additional revenues from cities, after negotiations between Atmos Energy and the West Texas Cities coalition. Atmos Energy agreed to a rate increase of \$10.8 million plus revenue related taxes within the cities. Effective date of October 1, 2026. The impact of this to an average residential customer's bill is an increase of approximately \$5.17 per month. Motion carried.
7. Motion made by Council member Carpenter and second by Mayor Ellis to approve the Official Ballot of Texas Health Benefits Pool Board of Trustees – Region 3 Election. Trustees voted on were Region 3 – Elena Quintanilla, City Manager of the Town of Ransom Canyon, Motion carried.
8. Motion was made by Council member Myers and second by Mayor Pro-Tem Parker to receive the Financial Statement for July 31, 2026. Motion carried.
9. Administrative reports included:
 - a. School Supplies & Summer Splashes event was held on July 27th at the Muleshoe Waterpark. School supplies were given to school-aged children, and they were also allowed to swim free of admission.
 - b. The last "Movie in the Park" for this season will be Thursday August 20th. We will be showing "La Bamba" for a date night theme.
 - c. The TML Annual Conference will be in San Antonio November 11th – 13th.
 - d. The Muleshoe Water Park will close for regular season hours on August 16th
10. Mayor and Council remarks included: None
11. At 7:54pm, Council convened a closed session in accordance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated Government, Section 551.074 Personnel Matters. Council reconvened in open session at 9:16pm.
12. Mayor Ellis adjourned the meeting at 9:17 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

Colt Ellis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tamara Cain, City Secretary