

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WELLS
WELLS CITY HALL – WELLS, TEXAS
MONDAY, September 8, 2025
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tony McKnight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

a) ROLL CALL, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.

Members present at the Regular Meeting were Mayor Tony McKnight, Councilmembers Eva Alexander, Gordon Cole, Kayla White and Robert Kalka. Councilmembers Billie Petty was not in attendance.

Employees: Melanie Pounds, Roy Shanks and Harold Rapsilver.

b) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Mayor Tony McKnight gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

c) RECOGNITION OF VISITORS.

Mayor Tony McKnight welcomed the visitor and acknowledged the visitors signed up to speak. Visitor(s): Darlene Kirkland, Wells Volunteer Fire Department Members.

d) APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 11, 2025.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Kayla White made a second to approve the Regular Minutes for August 11, 2025, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

3. STRYKER – EAST TEXAS – DISCUSS AND ACTION EMS PURCHASE OF LUCAS DEVICE.

Casey Clark made a presentation to the council demonstrating the Stryker Device for the Wells EMS.

Councilmember Kayla White made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to purchase the refurbished Stryker Device with the payment plan option at total cost of \$31,828.39. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSS AND ACTION BASE RATE WATER RATE INCREASE FROM \$41.46 TO \$45.86; A \$4.40 INCREASE FOR MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AT THE WATER PLANT.

Mayor McKnight presented the council with a report showing why the water rates need to be increased. Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to increase the base rate of water to \$45.86 and leave the sewer base rate at \$24.44. Voting “AYE” Councilmember Cole and Kalka, voting “NAY” Councilmember Whie and Alexander. Councilmember Petty was not in attendance; Mayor McKnight broke the tie vote with a vote of “AYE.” The rate increase will start with the October usage billed on November 1, 2025. The motion carried.

5. REVIEW AND ACTION ADOPT 2025-2026 BUDGET.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to approve the 2025-2026 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW AND ACTION ADOPT 2025-2026 TAX RATE.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to adopt 2025 Tax rate \$0.380387 on each one hundred (\$100.00) dollar valuation on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the City of Wells. The motion carried unanimously.

7. REVIEW AND ACTION ADOPT 2025-2026 TAX ORDINANCE.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to adopt Tax Ordinance No 2025-9. The motion carried unanimously.

8. NOMINATE CHEROKEE COUNTY CAD BOARD MEMBER FOR 2026-2027. SEVEN VOTES ALLOCATED VOTES WILL BE CAST.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to nominate Jed Morris to be placed on the ballot for the Cherokee County CAD board member 2026-2027. The motion carried unanimously.

9. DEPARTMENT REPORTS - WATER/SEWER. POLICE, EMS/FIRE, CITY HALL

a) POLICE DEPARTMENT - Harold Rapsilver, Chief:

Chief Harold Rapsilver was not in attendance; the monthly report was given to the council.

Type of calls	Totals
Assisted Cherokee County	2
Assisted Texas DPS	1
Arrest Traffic/Warrant	1
Calls inside the city limits of	18
Traffic Stops	402
Citations Issued	497
Warnings Issued	49

b) WATER AND SEWER - Roy Shanks, Operator:

The Water plant and Sewer plant are both running well. There were two major water leaks repaired in the month of August. Spectrum Internet hit a water line across from the Dollar General.

c) VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMS - Fire Chief Assistant Chief Robert Kalka.

AUGUST 2025				TOTALS	
EMS REPORT	CALLS	TYPE OF CALL		26	Man-Hours
	4	2	City Limits		
		2	County		
	16	Man-Hours			
	10	Training Hours			
	CALLS	TYPE OF CALL		TOTALS	
VFD REPORT	9	4	City Limits	33	Man-Hours
		5	County		
	25	Man-Hours		300	Gallons of Water Used
	300	Gallons of Water Used			
	24	Training Hours			
	0	Gallons of Water Used			

d) CITY SECRETARY -Melanie Pounds:

AUGUST 2025	
16	Trash Cart left in ROW by customers
4	\$100.00 Non-Payment Fee applied to unpaid accounts
0	\$50.00 Partial Payment Fee applied to partial paid accounts
0	Accounts Disconnected for non-payment

10. CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER TEXAS GOV. CODE WHEN CALLED BY MAYOR.

Government Code items: (1) Legal - 551.071; (2) Personnel - 551.074; (3) Real Estate - 551.072.

The council did not go into executive session.

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS FOR APRIL 2025.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to approve the payment of the monthly bills. The motion carried unanimously.

12. REVIEW AUGUST BUDGET COMPARISON FOR GENERAL AND WATER & SEWER.

This is a discussion item only.

13. ADJOURN.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST