

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF DALWORTHINGTON GARDENS, TEXAS, CITY COUNCIL HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2600 ROOSEVELT DRIVE, DALWORTHINGTON GARDENS, TEXAS.**

*While the order of some agenda items may have been changed, the following represents all items discussed and acted upon by the City Council.*

**WORK SESSION AND/OR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bianco called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

**Members Present**

Laura Bianco, Mayor  
John King, Alderman, Place 1  
Steve Lafferty, Alderman, Place 2  
Cathy Stein, Alderman, Place 3  
Ed Motley, Mayor Pro Tem; Alderman, Place 4  
Paul Sweitzer, Alderman, Place 5

**Staff Present:**

Greg Petty, DPS Director/City Administrator  
Sandra Ma, City Secretary/Court Administrator  
Pam Dwyer, Finance Supervisor

**2. WORK SESSION**

**a. Discussion of plans for Dalworthington Gardens 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**

Mary Webster and Council Member Stein delivered a presentation outlining potential celebration, events, budget and dates: Friday evening, June 5, 2026, and Saturday afternoon, June 6, 2026,

**Work session on listed agenda items, if time permits.**

The following agenda items were discussed.

7b. Discussion of Ordinance No. 2025-16, budget amendments for FY 2025-2026

8a. Discussion and possible action on an application for a preliminary plat submitted by Karla and Gabriel Sechere for a tract of land recorded in instrument Number D224057658, Deed for Tarrant county, Texas in the Leonard Randall Survey, Abstract No. 1311, 1.5 acres of land located in the City of Dalworthington Gardens, Tarrant County, Texas and locally known as 3312 Sunset Lane.

8b. Discussion and possible action regarding Dalworthington Gardens 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

8c. Discussion and possible action for a nomination to fill a vacancy on TAD Board of Directors by Resolution No. 2025.21.

8d. Discussion and possible action to allow paper checks and electronic funds transfer (EFT) for paying vendors and contractors.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Any action may be deferred until the 7:00 p.m. Regular Session*

**a. Recess into Executive Session**

City Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

**i. Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, Attorney Consultation and 551.074, Personnel Matters, regarding the Finance Director.**

- b. Reconvene into Regular Session for discussion and possible action on:**
  - i. Personnel Matters regarding the Finance Director.**

City Council reconvened from Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

No Action Taken.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bianco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

#### **Members Present**

Laura Bianco, Mayor  
John King, Alderman, Place 1  
Steve Lafferty, Alderman, Place 2  
Cathy Stein, Alderman, Place 3  
Ed Motley, Mayor Pro Tem; Alderman, Place 4  
Paul Sweitzer, Alderman, Place 5

#### **Staff Present:**

Greg Petty, DPS Director/City Administrator  
Sandra Ma, City Secretary/Court Administrator  
Pam Dwyer, Finance Supervisor

### **2. INVOCATION, AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bianco gave invocation. Pledges were said.

### **3. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

The following items were presented.

- a. Santa Parade, Tuesday, December 23, 2025
- b. Historical Committee Meeting, Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
- c. Park Workday, Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Citizens who wish to speak to the City Council will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the presentation is on the agenda, the City staff and City Council members are prevented from discussing the subject and may respond only with statements of factual information or existing policy.**

None.

### **5. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Ed Motley: Merry Christmas to everybody. If you are traveling, travel safely and have a Happy New Year. For

everyone, mark your calendar for January 1 at 11:00 in the morning to watch Texas Tech football game. Also, while we are celebrating Jesus's birthday, he will also be celebrating his oldest son's birthday.

John King: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and Happy Birthday to Ed Motley's son.

Steve Lafferty: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. Be safe in your travels and don't drink and drive.

Paul Sweitzer: Happy Holidays to everybody and celebrate the holidays in your own style.

Cathy Stein: Ditto to the comments listed above.

Mayor Bianco: Merry Christmas to all. Congratulations to Key Elementary on its 50th anniversary. Pam Miller was celebrated really big, and Mayor Bianco is so proud of her for a job well done. For everyone who has decorated their house with lights, it looks awesome. Park Board, thank you. I thoroughly enjoyed the event. Regarding the Salvation Army Mayoral Red Kettle Challenge, they originally said we had won, but later found out that Mayor Evans had used last year's QR code. Out of the \$51,000 raised, DWG raised over \$21,000. She wanted to remind everybody that library card applications will be accepted during the last two weeks of January. Thank you to Lainie Reed for her generous gift of water to the City. Be careful, hold the people who are really close to you, squeeze them tight, and tell them that you love them not just at Christmas, but every day of the year.

## 6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

*Informational reports only; no action to be taken.*

- a. **Director of Public Safety/City Administrator Report**
- b. **Financial Reports**

Departmental Reports were presented.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

*All consent items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and vote.*

- a. **Approval of Resolution No. 2025-22, to conduct an annual review of the City Investment Policy, in accordance with Chapter 2256 of the Local Government Code, suggesting no changes to the existing policy.**
- b. **Approval of Ordinance No. 2025-16, approving budget amendments for FY 2025-2026**

A motion was made by Council Member Cathy Stein and seconded by Council Member Steve Lafferty to approve the consent agenda with the removal of 7b for discussion.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Members King, Lafferty, Motley, Stein and Sweitzer

Nays: None

After discussion, Council Member Cathy Stein directed staff to revisit budget amendments once there is a clearer understanding of the insurance impact and a distinction between budget adjustments and budget amendments.

No Action Taken.

## 9. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. **Discussion and possible action on an application for a preliminary plat submitted by Karla and Gabriel Sechere for a tract of land recorded in instrument Number D224057658, Deed for Tarrant County, Texas in**

**the Leonard Randall Survey, Abstract No. 1311, 1.5 acres of land located in the City of Dalworthington Gardens, Tarrant County, Texas and locally known as 3312 Sunset Lane**

- i. Conduct a public hearing**
- ii. Discussion and possible action**

**Background Information:**

An application for a Preliminary Plat was received Karla and Gabriel Sechere on 11/19/2025. Per city ordinance 10.02.004 Platting Required. No building permit shall be issued for the construction of improvement on any property not platted.

Plat application was forwarded to the City engineer for review.

The city has notified all property owners within 200 feet and included information on how to provide public comments at the planning and zoning meeting on December 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. as well as the City Council Meeting held on December 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. These meetings were also published in the Commercial Recorder.

Planning and Zoning met on December 11, 2025 and recommended approval of the preliminary plat.

Local Government Code, Chapter 212, states plats that satisfy all applicable regulations must be approved. The proposed plat, after review from the engineer, does satisfy all requirement of city ordinance. As such, staff recommends approval of this preliminary plat.

Mayor Bianco opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Applicant Gabriel Sechere gave a presentation.

Mayor Bianco closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ed Motley and seconded by Council Member John King to approve the preliminary plat for a tract of land recorded in instrument Number D224057658, Deed of Tarrant County, Texas in the Leonard Randall Survey, Abstract No. 1311, 1.5 acres of land located in the City of Dalworthington Gardens, Tarrant County, Texas, and locally known as 3312 Sunset Lane

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Members King, Lafferty, Motley, Stein and Sweitzer

Nays: None

**b. Discussion and possible action regarding Dalworthington Gardens 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**

Work session item.

Dates for DWG 90<sup>th</sup> celebration will be June 5, 2026 for a dinner and dance at Arlington Classics Academy and Saturday June 6, 2026 for events located around City Hall and in the Park. More information is to come. Watch the newsletter for more information. Official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday is June 1, but celebrating June 5 and 6 made the most sense to celebrate.

**c. Discussion and possible action for a nomination to fill a vacancy on TAD Board of Directors by Resolution No. 2025-21.**

**Background Information:**

Tarrant County Appraisal District announced a resignation of Board Member Alan Blaylock effective November 10, 2025. Mr. Blaylock’s term was originally set to end on December 31, 2027.

In accordance with section 6.0301(f) of the Texas Property Tax Code, the vacancy will be filled through the established appointment process. Each taxing unit is entitled to vote under Section 6.03 may nominate, by resolution, one candidate to fill the vacancy.

No action taken.

**d. Discussion and possible action to allow paper checks and electronic funds transfer (EFT) for paying vendors and contractors.**

Background Information: Switching from Paper Checks to EFT’s: Pro’s and Con’s

Pros

1. Faster Payments

Vendors receive funds 1-2 business days instead of waiting for checks to be printed, signed, mailed and deposited.

Helps avoid late payments and strengthens vendor relationships.

2. Lower Administrative Costs

Reduces spending on check stock, envelopes, postage and manual labor for printing and mailing.

Staff time is freed up for higher-value work instead of check preparation.

3. Better Financial Control and Transparency

EFT’s create a clear digital audit trail showing when and where the funds were transferred.

Easier to track and reconcile payments in financial systems.

4. Improved Security

Eliminates risks of lost, stolen, or altered checks.

Bank account information is transmitted securely through encrypted systems.

5. Supports Sustainability Goals

Decreases paper use, printing, and mail transport- aligning with green initiatives many cities promote.

6. Convenience During Emergencies

Electronic payments can be processed remotely which is valuable during weather events or office closures.

7. Vendor and Contractor Satisfaction

Quicker, more predictable payments increase trust with contractors and vendors.

Cons

1. Initial Setup and Transition Work

Requires collecting vendor banking details and updating the financial systems.

May need policy updates, staff training, and coordination with IT and Finance Departments.

2. Banking & Software Fees

Some banks charge per ACH/EFT transaction services. (Susser Bank charges \$0.15 a transaction vs. \$0.74 a stamp).

3. Cybersecurity Risks

Exposure to phishing or fraudulent bank change requests if internal controls are weak.

Requires strong approval processes and employee awareness training.

4. Vendor Participation

Not all vendors – especially small or local ones are comfortable sharing banking information.

Some may still request paper checks, creating a mixed system during transition.

5. Policy & Compliance Adjustments

Cities must comply with state/local finance laws and internal audit standards when changing payment methods.

Documentation and authorization workflows may need updating.

6. System Dependence

EFT's rely on stable internet and system access – any outage can delay payments.

Susser Bank response on using ACH (EFT) vs checks.

*Benefits of being an ACH Originator:*

Cost Efficiency

Lower processing costs: ACH transactions typically cost much less than printing, mailing, and handling paper checks. (Susser Bank charges \$.15 per ACH item) (already doing this with DWG)

Reduced administrative burden: No need for physical check stock, postage, or manual reconciliation.

Speed & Convenience

Faster settlement: ACH payments usually clear within 1–2 business days, whereas checks can take several days to mail and process.

No physical handling: Eliminates delays caused by lost or misdelivered checks.

Security

Reduced fraud risk: ACH transactions are electronic and encrypted, minimizing risks of check theft or forgery.

Better tracking: ACH provides detailed transaction records, making it easier to monitor and audit.

Predictability & Cash Flow Management

Scheduled payments: ACH allows you to set up recurring or future-dated payments, improving cash flow planning.

Immediate confirmation: You know when funds will be debited or credited, unlike checks that depend on mail and deposit timing.

*Benefits of being an ACH receiver:*

Faster Access to Funds

ACH deposits typically clear within 1–2 business days, while checks can take 5–7 days (mailing + deposit + clearing).

No waiting for mail delivery or bank holds on large checks.

Convenience

Funds go directly into your bank account—no need to visit a bank or use mobile deposit.

Eliminates the hassle of endorsing and depositing checks.

Security

ACH reduces risks of lost, stolen, or forged checks.

Transactions are encrypted and traceable, offering better fraud protection.

Predictability

ACH payments can be scheduled, so you know exactly when funds will arrive.

No uncertainty about mail delays or check clearance times.

Cost Savings

No fees for depositing checks (some banks charge for large volumes).

Saves time and resources—especially for businesses handling multiple payments.

Ashley Russell

*VP, Treasury Management Support*

Susser Bank

3030 Matlock Road | Arlington, Texas 76015

Another concern the council had was who will approve the ACH going out. Ashley (Susser) explained that they are equipped to allow as many approvers as we need. Their access can be restricted to how the City feels appropriate.

Costs of using checks:

1000) AP Checks - \$225.00 ( \$.23 per check)

Postage - \$.74 regular envelope.

The cost of mailing one check is \$.97

Employee costs: \$30.00 a check run, We do weekly check runs.

\$120.00 a month  
Printed checks by month:  
September – 108 \$104.76+\$120.00  
October – 83 \$ 80.51+\$120.00  
November – 79 \$76.63 +\$120.00  
December 66 (so far) \$64.02 + \$90.00  
Cheek process \$325.92 Employee \$ \$450.00 total \$775.92  
ACH \$50.40 Employee \$325.92 total \$376.32  
Savings of roughly \$400 a month.

No Action Taken.

**e. Discussion and possible action on 51<sup>st</sup> CDBG Project on Madrid Court.**

Background Information:

Staff submitted an application for 51<sup>st</sup> CDBG Project for Madrid Court to Tarrant County December 2024. Staff has requested an IPO for design from City Engineer – Kimley Horn for review and possible approval at next month's council meeting.

No Action Taken.

**f. Discussion and possible action regarding amendments to the FY 2025-2026 budget in amounts not to exceed \$10,000.00**

No action taken.

**9. TABLED ITEMS**

None

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**11. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.