



Town Council Special Meeting Minutes April 1, 2026

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Mayor Isabella Salazar called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Isabella Salazar, Councilor Jimmy Atkison, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron, Councilor Amber Hitchcock, Councilor Joe Kalisek, Councilor Leona Wylie, Library Director Crystal Weigel, Finance and Administration Director Arnold Ramirez, Town Clerk Amberlee Olivas, Police Chief Scott Conner, Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo, Director of Public Works Joe Garcia, Dennis Merrill, Carl Tennison, Juliana Olivas, Martina Olivas, Noralorene Olivas, Denise Null, Lisa Tupa, Ambulance Chief Lilia Orrantia, Sarah Puckett, Maintenance Member Jonathan Puckett, AC/CE Clay Patman, Trish Lambert, AP/MVD Clerk Ariel Fleetwood, Ben Fleetwood, Rex Fleetwood, Denise Marquez, Jesus Olivas, Aliana Salazar, and Woody Dunn.

3. Approval/Disapproval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron moved to approve the agenda. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

4. Approval/Disapproval of the Meeting Minutes from 03/10/2026

Councilor Jimmy Atkison moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2026. Councilor Amber Hitchcock seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes. The motion carried.

5. Financial Reports

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the financial report. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

6. Public Comments

Sarah Puckett – Filed a formal complaint against MVD Clerk Ariel Fleetwood.

7. Mayor, Councilor, and Department Head Comments

Councilor Amber Hitchcock informed the public that Besties Beverage with the Tatum Methodist Church is hosting an egg hunt for 1-5 year olds.

Councilor Joe Kalisek Councilor Joe reminded citizens that the condemned building must be hauled off. With the increase in winds, debris is flying into neighboring yards.

Councilor Leona Wylie thanked everyone in attendance for their time. Additionally, she thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers.



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Mayor Isabella Salazar thanked everyone in attendance. Mayor Salazar is excited for the little league baseball season. She hopes to see the construction done by the time season starts.

May 8th is the elected officials meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

8. Discussion Item-

A. Discussion and Review Ordinance No.0002-2526 Enacting and Pertaining to Off-Highway Motor Vehicles in the Town Limits of Tatum. (Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron)

Discussion included allowing those with registration and insurance, no ATVS, and the limitations.

9. Action Items

A. Review and Presentation of FY 25 Audit. (Auditor Willoughby)

The Town of Tatum is a healthy business with one audit finding.

B. Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 0025-2526 Approving the FY 2025 Audit Report. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve Resolution No. 0025-2526 approving the FY 2025 Audit Report. Councilor Joe Kalisek seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

C. Consideration and Approval of EMS Volunteers to attend EMS Region III Conference in Ruidoso April 26th thru May 3rd. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve EMS Volunteers to attend EMS Region III Conference in Ruidoso April 26th thru May 3rd. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

D. Consideration and Approval of Ordinance No. 0001-2526 adopting a Municipal Gross Receipts Tax of 0.6125 percent. (Mayor Salazar)

Public Comments: Dennis Merrill opposed the acceptance as the wording is confusing. Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve Ordinance No. 0001-2526 adopting a municipal gross receipts tax increase of 0.6125 percent. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—No, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—No, Councilor Joe Kalisek—No, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion did not carry.

E. Consideration and Approval of MOA between Lea County and the Town of Tatum for Updated Sewer System Utility Assessment. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the MOA between Lea County and the Town of Tatum for Updated Sewer System Utility Assessment. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes,



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Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

F. Consideration and Approval of Quote for Water Well Pump at Town of Tatum City Park. (Mayor Salazar)

No Motion Made

G. Consideration and Approval of Adding Rumble Strips at 4-way Stop on Intersection of Broadway St. and Main St. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the addition of rumble strips at 4-way stop. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

H. Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 0026-2526 Adopting Travel and Reimbursement Policy. (Mayor Salazar)

No Motion Made

I. Consideration and Approval of Remodel Quotes for Eddie Jaramillo League Concession Stand. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the quote. Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

10. Motion to Enter into Closed Session

Pursuant to the New Mexico Act, NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 (H), to discuss limited personnel matters as authorized:

A. Discussion of personnel matters regarding employee transfer for William Clay Patman from Code Enforcement to Maintenance Department.

At 7:27 pm, Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to enter closed session. Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

11. Return to Open Session

At 8:29 pm, Councilor Joe Kalisek moved to return to open session. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

12. Action on Closed Session Items



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A. Discussion of personnel matters regarding employee transfer for William Clay Patman from Code Enforcement to Maintenance Department.

Councilor Joe Kalisek moved to approve the transfer of William Clay Patman from code enforcement to maintenance department with a pay rate of \$16.50 with a 90 day probationary period. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Isabella Salazar adjourned the meeting at 08:32 p.m.

Read and Approved April 28, 2026.

Isabella Salazar

Mayor, Isabella Salazar

Amberlee Olivas

Town Clerk, Amberlee Olivas



Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes April 14, 2026

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Mayor Isabella Salazar called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Isabella Salazar, Councilor Jimmy Atkison, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron, Councilor Amber Hitchcock, Councilor Joe Kalisek, Councilor Leona Wylie, Finance and Administration Director Arnold Ramirez, Town Clerk Amberlee Olivas, Police Chief Scott Conner, Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo, Director of Public Works Joe Garcia, Dennis Merrill, Carl Tennison, Denise Null, and Eric Owens.

3. Approval/Disapproval of the Agenda

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the agenda adding the date of April 14, 2026. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

4. Approval/Disapproval of the Special Meeting Minutes from 04/01/2026

Councilor Leona Wylie moved to amend the minutes by adding a brief statement under the Public Comments section and by adding a summary of public comments to the agenda item regarding the consideration and approval of raising GRT. Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, and Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes. The motion carried.

5. Department Reports

Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo reported being ecstatic about the finished updates at the Senior Center and informed the public the County Treasurer will be at the Senior Center 04/16/2026 to accept tax payments.

Police Chief Scott Conner reported an estimated total of 500 traffic stops and stated the department responded to 105.7% more service calls. Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer Clay Patman is transferring to the Maintenance Team. Chief Conner was made aware of the public questioning the amount of stray dogs in town.

Public Works Director Joe Garcia informed everyone that the sewer line on 2nd Street near Green is being cleared. Some of the debris found in the line included bricks and large rocks. Joe was informed by the Mayor that the Tatum Schools really appreciate his dedication and availability.

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the department reports. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, and Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes. The motion carried.



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6. Public Comments

Carl Tennison – Informed everyone that the demolished property on Highway 380 is still blowing debris.

Dennis Merrill – Dennis thanked Councilor Leona Wylie for meeting with him. Dennis requested that the Council and Mayor provide more accurate statements. As part of the Library Board, Dennis invites all to the meeting on April 22nd at 4:30 P.M.

7. Mayor, Councilor, and Department Head Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron – The Senior Citizens do not like the cameras with audio recording. They feel like it's a violation of their rights.

Councilor Amber Hitchcock – Councilor Amber Hitchcock circled back to the on call pay for staff¹. She sought clarity on the proposed move of the Municipal Court to the Police Department. Councilor Amber spoke in opposition to the move, stating there was not enough adequate space.

Councilor Joe Kalisek – Councilor Joe Kalisek thanked the previous administration for a job well done, noting that the audit had only one finding. Councilor Joe also asked how many purchases falling below the \$5,000 threshold had not been brought to the Council's attention.

Mayor Isabella Salazar – Mayor Isabella Salazar thanked everyone in attendance and stated she is excited for the Little League baseball season. Garcia and Sons have started the project.

Mayor Salazar expects a baby sooner than the due date and thanked all the staff working towards her vision.

8. Action Items

A. Consideration and Approval of vendor SMA for the Development of the Town of Tatum Asset Management Plan in the Amount of \$49,664.00. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve vendor SMA for the development of the Town of Tatum Asset Management Plan in the amount of \$49,664.00. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 0027-2526 Adopting the Tatum Senior Center Facility Policy. (Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron)

Councilor Jimmy Atkison moved to approve Resolution No. 0027-2526 adopting Tatum Senior Center Facility Policy. Councilor Joe Kalisek seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

¹ The Town is awaiting a response from Town Attorney, Patrick McMahon.



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9. Adjournment

Mayor Isabella Salazar adjourned the meeting at 06:39 p.m.

Read and Approved April 28, 2026.

Isabella Salazar

Mayor, Isabella Salazar

Amberlee Olivas
Town Clerk, Amberlee Olivas