



Town Council Special Meeting Minutes May 05, 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 Joe Kalisek, Councilor Leona Wylie, Finance Administration Director Arnold Ramirez, Town Clerk Amberlee Olivas, Library Director Crystal Weigel, Police Chief Scott Connor, Public works Director Joe Garcia, Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo, Driver/Assistant Dana Stevens, Carlene Henderson, Mary Ann Valdez, Sara Kirkendall, Carl Tennison, Char Shafer, Jennifer King, DeeAnn Kimbro, Bobby Kimbro, Noralorene Olivas, Martina Olivas, Lisa Tupa, Linda Harton, Dennis Merrill, Janice Derrick, Miguel Olivas, Diane Ringman, Maurie Knudsen, Larry Mendenhall, Gayla Bess, Beverta Houston, Tilla Reyna, Lynn Medlin, Katie Medlin, Carol Watson, Police Sergeant Les Jimerson, Stevie Stroud, Carla Haggerton, Butch Haggerton, Donja Kirkpatrick, Betty Frazier, and Karen Bailon. Absent was Councilor Amber Hitchcock.

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

4. Approval/Disapproval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

5. Public Comments

DeAnn Kimbro – Informed the Council, Mayor, and public that the \$10,000 donated to the Tatum Senior Center was from her discretionary funds as a Lea County Commissioner.

Carlene Henderson – Expressed her time, feelings, and volunteer work with the Senior Center over the past 30+ years.

Beverta Houston- Spoke and reminded everyone that most Seniors only get to socialize while at the Senior Center.

Dennis Merrill- Dennis Merrill informed the Council he would be taking a step back after receiving threats of violence. He does not condone violence over politics ever.

6. Mayor, Councilor, and Department Head Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron – Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron requested that the Chief of Police, Scott Conner, give a bike safety course at the Tatum Schools. She informed the public of Alumni Weekend June 27th and June 28th.



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Councilor Leona Wylie – Councilor Leona Wylie thanked Iron J Services for the work at the little league.

Mayor Isabella Salazar- Mayor Salazar informed the public that early voting has started. Eddie Jaramillo Field looks good and great things are happening.

7. Action Items

A. Consideration and Approval of the payment of six \$1,000 checks to Tatum School Groups from the NM Clean and Beautiful Grant. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Jimmy Atkison moved to approve the payment of six \$1,000 checks to Tatum School Groups from NM Clean and Beautiful Grant. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration and Approval of Adjusting Operational Hours for the Tatum Senior Center and Staffing for After-Hour Activities. (Mayor Salazar)

No Motion was made.

8. Motion To Enter Into Closed Session

Pursuant to the New Mexico Open Meeting Act NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (H) Discuss limited personnel matters as authorized by Section 10-15-1 Subsection H-2:

A. Discussion of the Hiring of Karen Bailon for Tatum Animal Control/Code Enforcer, with the proposed start date of May 13, 2026.

At 6:35AM Jimmy Atkison moved to approve to enter closed session to discuss the hiring of Karen Bailon. Councilor Joe Kalisek seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

9. Motion To Return To Open Session-

At 6:52PM 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—Absent, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

10. Action On Closed Session Item-

Pursuant to the New Mexico Open Meeting Act NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (H) Discuss limited personnel matters as authorized by Section 10-15-1 Subsection H-2:

A. Vote and Approve the Hiring Karen Bailon for Tatum Animal Control/Code Enforcer, with the proposed start date of May 13, 2026.



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

11. Adjournment

At 6:52 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Read and Approved May 12th, 2026.

Isabella Salazar

Mayor, Isabella Salazar

Amberlee Olivas

Town Clerk, Amberlee Olivas