



Town Council Special Meeting Minutes August 24, 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, Councilor Mary Jiron, Councilor Leona Wylie, Councilor Joe Kalisek, Councilor Amber Hitchcock, Town Manager Arnold Ramirez, Police Chief Scott Conner, Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo, Public Works Director Joe Garcia, Town Clerk Amberlee Olivas, Public Library Director Crystal Weigel, Maintenance Team Member Clay Patman, Christina Wallace, Dana Lizardo, Roy Lizardo, Jerry Glenn, September Stockton, Adana Green, Jack Reynolds, Carl Tennison, Edward and Karen Ogburn, Janice Derrick, Lisa Tupa, Denise Null, Reid Bretz, Sherri Bretz, Woody Dunn, Ashley Sanchez, Nancy Oconner, and Stan Oconner.

3. **Approval/Disapproval of the Special Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2026 and Regular Meeting August 11, 2026**

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the special meeting minutes from August 10, 2026, and regular meeting minutes from August 11, 2026. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

4. **Department Updates**

None

5. **Financial Reports**

Town Manager Arnold Ramirez presented the transaction detail by account, the profit/loss and balance sheet for the month of July, and the expected grants to be received from LEPP, Fire State, and EMS. Mr. Ramirez stated he is publishing a notice in the Lovington Leader regarding the expected new water well for Tatum Park.

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

6. **Public Comments**

Christina Wallace –Christina Wallace spoke in opposition to the removal of a sergeant position. She felt it would be shameful to treat a veteran in this manner and remove his position.

Carl Tennison- Carl Tennison spoke in opposition to the Town's determination that it does not need a fourth officer.

Reid Bretz- Reid Bretz sought clarification on the proposed city annexation. He questioned whether there was a map of the annexation.



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Jerry Glenn- Jerry Glenn spoke in opposition to the proposed annexation. Mrs. Glenn stated she would have bought a house within city limits if she wanted to be within the city limits.

Adana Green- Adana Green questioned whether, if an annexation did occur, would Tatum actually see a difference and unfortunately not.

7. Mayor, Councilor, and Department Head Comments

None

8. Action Items

A: Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Amended County Housing MOU for Workforce Housing Development. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the amended county housing MOU for workforce housing development. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

B: Consideration, Approval and Adoption of Resolution No. 0012-2627 A Resolution To Be Placed November 3, 2026, General Election Ballot the Question of Whether the Town of Tatum Shall Impose a ¼ (0.25%) Local Economic Development Act Local Option Gross Receipt Tax, with Revenue Dedicated to Furthering or Implementing Economic Development Plans and Projects. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve and adopt Resolution No. 0012-2627. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

C: Consideration and Approval of Ordinance No. 0001-2627 Adopting A Local Economic Development Act Local Option Gross Receipt Tax. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve Ordinance No.0001-2627 Adopting a Local Economic Development Act Local Option Gross Receipt Tax. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—No, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—No, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

D: Consideration and Possible Approval to Allow the Town of Tatum to Sponsor and Fund the Required NMLEA Academy Training for an Eligible Tatum Police Officer/Cadet at the Age of 18 or Older. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Amber Hitchcock moved to approve the Town of Tatum to sponsor and fund the NMLEA Academy Training for eligible Tatum Police Officer/ Cadet at the age of 18 or older. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—No, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—No, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.



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9. Motion To Close Session

Pursuant to Section (10-15-1) NMSA 1978, Subsection H-2 Regarding Limited Personnel Matters:

Discussion in Closed Session:

A. Discussion of Hiring Damian Valdovinos for Tatum Maintenance Department with Proposed Start Date of September 10, 2026.

B. Discussion concerning the Proposed Restructuring of the Town of Tatum Police Department, Including the Organizational Structure, Duties, and Potential Elimination of the Sergeant Position.

At 6:15 p.m. Councilor Leona Wylie moved to enter closed session. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

10. Motion to Return Into Open Session

At 6:46 p.m. Councilor Leona Wylie moved to approve the return into open session. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

11. Action Taken from Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978, Subsection H-2 Regarding Limited Personnel Matters:

Discussion in Closed Session:

A. Vote and Approve the Hiring of Damian Valdovinos for Tatum Maintenance Department with Proposed Start Date of September 10, 2026.

Councilor Jimmy Atkison moved to approve the hiring of Damian Valdovinos for the Tatum Maintenance Department, with a proposed start date of September 10, 2026. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—No, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration and Approval of the Proposed Restructuring of the Town of Tatum Police Department, Including the Organizational Structure, Duties, and Potential Elimination of the Sergeant Position.

No motion made.

12. Adjournment



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Mayor Salazar adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Read and Approved September 8th, 2026.

Isabella Salazar

Mayor, Isabella Salazar

Amberlee Olivas

Town Clerk, Amberlee Olivas



Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Mayor Isabella Salazar called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Isabella Salazar, Councilor Jimmy Atkison, Councilor Mary Jiron, Councilor Leona Wylie, Councilor Joe Kalisek, Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo, Public Works Director Joe Garcia, Town Clerk Amberlee Olivas, Public Library Director Crystal Weigel, Library Clerk Kim White, Police Chief Scott Conner, Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer Karen Bailon, Jason Emerick, Trish Lambert, Betty Handy, James Taylor, and Lisa Tupa. Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent.

3. Approval/Disapproval of the Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2026 and Special Meeting August 6, 2026

Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve the meeting minutes from July 28, 2026, and August 6, 2026. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

4. Department Updates

Public Works Director Joe Garcia reported that he is continuing to monitor the water tower.

Library Director Crystal Weigel reported that there are lots of boxes for the Paloma Play Corner which should be put together on the 14th.

Senior Center Director Whitney Jaramillo would like to host a Senior Prom and a pool tournament. On September 23 and September 24, there will be a conference, and the first 1,000 seniors who sign up will attend for free.

Councilor Jimmy Atkison moved to approve the department updates. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

5. Financial Reports

Financial reports will be presented at the Special Meeting August 24.

6. Public Comments

James Taylor –James Taylor stated that an individual had reached out to him and asked why the Senior Center paving project was not given to a local business of Tatum. ¹

7. Mayor, Councilor, and Department Head Comments

¹ The procurement process was CES.



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Councilor Mary Jiron – Councilor Mary thanked the Public Works team, Joe Garcia and Clay Patman, for keeping up with the Town’s needs and thanked everyone in attendance.

Councilor Leona Wylie – Councilor Leona Wylie spoke about the curb on Highway 380 at the Allsup’s gas pumps. Councilor Wylie would like to see it removed as it limits access to the gas pumps.

Mayor Isabella Salazar – Mayor Isabella Salazar thanked everyone in attendance.

8. Discussion Items

A. Discussion on Spec Building. (Mayor Salazar)

Discussion included the possibility of putting the building up for sale to the public, but the Council preferred to continue leasing the building to Gnomad.

B. Discussion of Randolph Rumpy RV Park. (Mayor Salazar)

Discussion included abiding by and enforcing the three-free-night stay.

9. Action Items

A: Consideration and Approval of Adopting Resolution No. 0011-2627 Artificial Intelligence Governance and Acceptable Use Policy. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Leona Wylie moved to approve Resolution No. 0011-2627 Artificial Intelligence Governance and Acceptable Use Policy. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—No, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—No, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Mayor Isabella Salazar—Yes. Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

B: Consideration and Approval of MOU Infrastructure Agreement from Lea County in the Amount of \$245,000. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve the MOU Infrastructure Agreement from Lea County in the amount of \$245,000. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

C: Consideration and Approval of G.W.C Construction Inc. Estimate in the Amount of \$19,980.47 to Proceed with the Demolition and Cleanup of the Former Texaco Property Utilizing Lea County Infrastructure Funds. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve the estimate G.W.C Construction Inc. to proceed with the demolition and cleanup of the former Texaco property, utilizing the \$19,980.47 in Lea County Infrastructure Funds. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

D: Consideration and Approval to Accept Discretionary Funds from County Commissioner District One in the Amount of \$35,000 for Beautification Project. (Mayor Salazar)



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Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve the funds from DeeAnn Kimbro, County Commissioner District One, in the amount of \$35,000 for beautification project. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—No, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

E: Consideration and Approval of Accepting \$20,000 from State of New Mexico Intergovernmental Agreement No. 27-631-1111-00012 for the Tatum Food Pantry. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Jimmy Atkison moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement No. 27-631-1111-00012 for the Tatum Food Pantry. Councilor Joe Kalisek seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

F: Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 0013-2627 to Apply for the New Mexico Water Trust Board. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Joe Kalisek moved to approve Resolution No. 0013-2627 to apply for funding through the New Mexico Water Trust Board. Councilor Jimmy Atkison seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

G: Consideration and Approval of Cancelling Regular Meeting on August 25th, 2026. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve the cancellation of the regular meeting on August 25, 2026. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

10. Motion To Close Session

Pursuant to Section (10-15-1) NMSA 1978, Subsection H-2 Regarding Limited Personnel Matters:

Discussion in Closed Session:

A. Discussion of Personnel Matter Regarding the Police Department Organization Structure and Personnel.

At 6:37 p.m. Councilor Mary Jiron moved to enter closed session. Councilor Joe Kalisek seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

11. Motion to Return Into Open Session



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At 8:40 p.m. Councilor Joe Kalisek moved to approve the return into open session. 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, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Absent. The motion carried.

12. Action Taken from Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978, Subsection H-2 Regarding Limited Personnel Matters:

Discussion in Closed Session:

A. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Police Department Organizational Structure.

No Motion was made.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Jiron adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Read and Approved August 24th, 2026.

Isabella Salazar

Mayor, Isabella Salazar

Amberlee Olivas

Town Clerk, Amberlee Olivas



Town Council Special Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Mayor Isabella Salazar called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Isabella Salazar, Councilor Jimmy Atkison via Google Meet, Councilor Mary Jiron, Councilor, Amber Hitchcock via Google Meet, Councilor Leona Wylie, Councilor Joe Kalisek, Town Clerk Amberlee Olivas, Public Library Director Crystal Weigel, and Police Chief Scott Conner.

3. Action Item

A. Consideration and Approval of Notice of Intent to Amend the Existing Local LEDA Ordinance to add "H. A Retail Business To the List Under Qualifying Entity." (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Mary Jiron moved to approve the Notice of Intent to Amend the Existing Local LEDA Ordinance to add H. A Retail Business to the list of qualifying entity. Councilor Leona Wylie seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration and Approval of Publication of the Proposed LEDA LOGRT Ordinance. (Mayor Salazar)

Councilor Leona Wylie moved to approve the publication of the Proposed LEDA LOGRT Ordinance. Councilor Mary Jiron seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Jimmy Atkison—Yes, Councilor Mary Jiron—Yes, Councilor Amber Hitchcock—Yes, Councilor Joe Kalisek—Yes, Councilor Leona Wylie—Yes. The motion carried.

4. Adjournment

Mayor Isabella Salazar adjourned the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

Read and Approved August 24th, 2026.

Mayor, Isabella Salazar

Town Clerk, Amberlee Olivas