Willows City Council
Regular Meeting
Action Minutes

October 13, 2026
Willows City Hall
4:30 PM – Closed Session
5:30 PM – Reception
6:00 PM – Regular Session

201 North Lassen Street
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041

City Council
Evan Hutson, Mayor
Richard Thomas, Vice Mayor
Gary Hansen, Council Member
Lorri Pride, Council Member
John Lowe, Council Member

City Manager
Marti Brown

City Clerk
Karleen Price

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 4:30 PM**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

   Councilmembers Present: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, and Councilmember Lowe
   Councilmembers Absent: None
4. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**
5. **CLOSED SESSION – 4:30 PM**

   a. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957)**
   Title: City Attorney

   Report Out: No reportable action was taken.

   b. **Conference With Legal Counsel - Initiation of Litigation (§ 54956.9(d)(4)) (one case)**

   Report Out: No reportable action was taken.
6. **RECEPTION – 5:30 PM**
   Interim City Manager Joe Gorton met with constituents.
7. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – 6:00 PM**

   City Manager Marti Brown introduced Interim City Manager Joe Gorton. Mr. Gorton made remarks.
8. **CEREMONIAL**

   a. **Proclamation:** National Farmer's Day – received by Kellie Burt, Glenn County Farm Bureau.

   b. **Proclamation:** National Wildlife Refuge Week – received by Michael Maurico.

   c. **Willows Rotary Club Congratulates the City of Willows on 140 Years of Incorporation**

   President David Vodden presented a commemorative plaque to the City Council.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT & CONSENT CALENDAR FORUM**

Public Comments
Public Comment #1: David Vodden

a. **Register Approval**
Action: Approved general checking, payroll, and direct deposit check registers.

b. **Minutes Approval**
Action: Approved the minutes of the September 22, 2026, City Council Meeting.

c. **Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) Designations**
Action: Adopted Resolution 45-2026 designating the City Manager and Finance Director as authorized City officials to order the deposit and withdrawal of funds from the City's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) account.

d. **City Council and Planning Commission Compensation**
Action: Introduced by title only and waived the full reading of the text of an ordinance amending Willows Municipal Code Sections 2.05.010 and 2.35.010 to increase monthly City Council compensation from $250 to $500 and monthly Planning Commission compensation from $50 to $100, beginning January 1, 2027; and directed staff to return the ordinance for consideration of adoption at the October 27, 2026, regular meeting.

e. **Glenn County Fire Mutual Aid Agreement**
Action: Approved the Mutual Aid Agreement for all Glenn County Fire Departments Emergency Response and authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute any and all documents necessary to implement the agreement on behalf of the City of Willows.

Motion to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Hansen/Councilmember Lowe
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None

10. **DISCUSSION & ACTION CALENDAR**

a. **New Park Project & Grant Application**

Public Comments
Public Comment #1: Michelle Knight

Action: Directed staff to continue preparing a Round 5 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) application for a northern Willows park and recreation center, evaluating acquisition of approximately two to three acres, as well as an existing park alternative; return to Council on October 27, 2026, with a City Engineer task order to complete preliminary engineering for the proposed project and funding from applicable Development

Impact Fees (DIF) and other sources for Council consideration; and return to Council before grant submission with the required Council authorizing resolution and any other documents that require Council approval.

Motion to approve the item as presented.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pride/Councilmember Hansen
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None

b. **Finance & Measure I Oversight Committee**
Action: Staff was directed to return at a future City Council meeting with a recommendation incorporating Council feedback, proposed amendments to the Committee's bylaws, and dates and times for semiannual special meetings involving the full City Council.

c. **2026 Executive & Mid-Management Benefits Summary & Handbook**

Public Comments
Public Comment #1: Michelle Knight

Motion to adopt the 2026 Executive and Mid-Management Benefits Summary & Handbook, with amendment to include remote work language and severance pay.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pride/Councilmember Hansen
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None

d. **2026 Personnel Rules**

Motion to adopt the 2026 Personnel Rules, with an amendment to include a clause requiring employees to obtain advance approval from the City Manager for outside employment.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pride/Councilmember Hansen
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None.

11. **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

a. **Council Correspondence**

Councilmembers received correspondence from Forrest Sprague.

b. **City Council Comments & Reports**

Councilmembers reported on various community events and meetings attended.

Councilmember Hansen reported the passing of a former employee, Kent Perks.

Mayor Hutson announced a Joint Rotary Club Social for Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Maxwell Inn Bar & Grill.

Mayor Hutson presented City Manager Marti Brown with an award commemorating her five years of service to the City of Willows.

c. **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Marti Brown delivered her final remarks to the City Council.

12. **ADJOURNMENT – 8:16 PM**

_____

Karleen Price, City Clerk