

**Stanford City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
Lincoln County Public Library Meeting Room
6:15 pm EST (5:15 pm CST)
September 10th, 2026**

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Pledge and Prayer

Mayor Jeremy Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:19pm, and welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Councilman Wilkinson opened the meeting with prayer.

II. Public Hearing on Tax Rate for 2026 Year

Mayor Johnson opened a fifteen-minute time frame set aside for public question and/or comment on the 2026 property tax rate. Citizen Max Hester, a resident of the city for twenty five plus years, expressed his appreciation to the city for the services that his tax dollars help provide.

III. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with the following members present: Eddie Carter, Ronnie Deatherage, Jason Hignite, Joe Tackett and Jerry Wilkinson. Absent was Bill Miracle. A quorum was recognized by Mayor Johnson. Also present were Fire Chief Scott Maples, Police Chief Zach Middleton, Mayoral Candidate and Detective Joe Gilliland, City Council Candidate Sadie Durham, Mayoral Candidate Nehemiah Wilkinson, City Attorney John Hackley and citizen Kenny Stamper and Max Hester.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Wilkinson (2nd by Councilman Hignite) to approve the minutes from the August 13th, 2026, City Council Meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

IV. Citizen's Comments

A request for donation to the Lincoln County Relay for Life was brought to the council by Kenny Stamper as well as an invitation to attend the Annual Tractor Ride in Honor of Mike Singleton and Dalton Miller. Motion was made by Councilman Carter (2nd by Councilman Tackett) to make a \$500 donation to the Lincoln County Relay for Life. All in favor, motion carried.

V. Council Comments

Councilman Deatherage read a statement concerning the increase in the property tax rate for the 2026 tax year. He stated that this year's rate of 11 cents per \$100 value will be lower than the 13 cent per \$100 rate just two years ago. He stated that he feels this is a responsible rate, necessary to provide funding to combat inflation on city services such as police cruisers, road salt and employee healthcare while ensuring that the vast majority of Stanford homeowners will see an actual drop or stabilization in their city tax bill compared to recent years.

Councilman Carter asked each council member what their thoughts were on the increase with the following responses: Councilman Carter stated that he feels it is necessary in the face of rising costs, Councilman Hignite agreed, Councilman Wilkinson stated that he feels our backs are against a wall and we have no other responsible choice, Councilman Tackett stated that in speaking with citizen's in our community they understand and are in favor of the 4% revenue increase.

VI. Possible 2nd Reading of Ordinance T2026 City of Stanford Tax Rates on Real and Personal Property
Motion was made by Councilman Tackett (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to have the 2nd reading of Ordinance T2026 setting both real and personal property rates at .11 cents per \$100. All in favor, motion carried. City Attorney Hackley made the 2nd reading.

Motion was made by Councilman Wilkinson (2nd by Councilman Tackett) to approve the 2nd reading and adopt the ordinance as written. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. Mayor's Information to Council

Mayor Johnson shared the following events and information:

-Patriot Day Parade will be 9/11 at 6pm. We have a responsibility to remember and honor the sacrifices of those who lost their lives.

-Meet the Candidates Opportunity on September 22 at 6:30pm at Lincoln County High School Auditorium.

VIII. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Tackett (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.



Jeremy Johnson, Mayor

10.9.26

Date:



Jone Allen, CKMC

10/9/2026

Date: