

**Town of Bayside  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2026**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Sharon Scott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Silent Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor Sharon Scott, Mayor Pro Tem David Vega and Councilmembers Place II Charmaine Briseno, Place III Sandra Haley, Place IV Daniel Molina, and Place V Steven Nix were present.

**3. Mayor's Comments**

**A. Second Appeal on Bulkhead Update**

Mayor Scott informed the Council the second appeal on the bulkhead has been approved, and we are going to get our money.

**B. CDBG Update**

Mayor Scott informed the Council they were supposed to start yesterday and have 180 days to complete the project. Ken Dalh had questions about the project. Mayor Pro Tem Vega informed him we are only talking about generators and transfer switches.

**4. Items by Citizens**

Jeanne Hjort signed up to speak on concerns of Council. She addressed the Council: I am here tonight for public transparency. I am not here with any ill intent or as I've heard out to get anyone. I have concerns over actions of some council members. Council members have a fiduciary duty to the public. Taking a trash can without permission or payment is a breach of that trust, and I would think illegal. Demanding special treatment should not be tolerated. One council member hand delivering another council member their packet with the agenda can be construed as an attempt to influence the other member outside of the public process. Private one on one or serial discussions can violate the Open Meetings Act. We had two committees fall apart because the committee members felt like Council was completely against them and anything they tried to do. Council is not supposed to act like a gang and one for all. They are supposed to be independent thinkers doing what is best for the Town not what's best for a friend, family member, or a group of supporters. This town has suffered two employees embezzling. When I spoke up that we should go cashless to try and prevent future embezzlement, I was first told by a council member that it was illegal but when looking into it more, I found that it isn't. I would hope Council would want to protect the Town from future embezzlement and counterfeit money but instead, I feel like I've angered some when trying to move forward. If Council is so worried about a few people having to get a checking account or pay a few dollars for a money order because that money is so precious, what about the enormous amount of money that was stolen from the Town? How is preventing that not the main concern for Council? It says in the Bible to check ourselves and hopefully I can enlighten someone here tonight to just check yourself. We all have to at times in our lives. Hopefully we have people in our lives that will hold us accountable when we get off our path. I know I do, and I'm grateful. We usually do not want to hear it or admit when we are wrong and get defensive and may want to retaliate but I'm just trying to shed some light on some

issues not anger anyone. I am asking you to keep friendships separate and to do what we voted for you to do and that's protect the Town not form a gang. Don't get behind bad behavior or another council member. Get in front of it, and stop it. We citizens expect our Council to act appropriately. We should all be for the Town and not for our own agendas. We will never change what we permit. Hopefully this Town and Council can come together, and we can all take pride in and protect our Town.

**5. Discuss/Consider/Act on approving minutes from the Workshop on December 2, 2025 and the Regular Meeting on December 9, 2025**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. Councilmember Haley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from workshop on December 2, 2025 and the regular meeting on December 9, 2025. Councilmember Briseno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Discuss/Consider/Act on approving paying new expenses/bills**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. There were no new expenses/bills.

**7. Discuss/Consider/Act on approving building permits, culvert permits, and permit extensions**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. The first permit was for a swimming pool at 714 Copano Bay Drive. The setbacks have been checked. Councilmember Nix moved to approve the permit. Councilmember Haley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second permit was for a fence permit at 714 Copano Bay Drive. Councilmember Haley made a motion to approve the fence permit for 714 Copano Bay Drive. Councilmember Briseno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The final permit was for a driveway culvert permit at 1516 Second Street. After a short discussion on the length of the culvert, Councilmember Haley made a motion to approve the driveway culvert permit at 1516 Second Street pending him signing with a signature instead of an electronic signature. Councilmember Briseno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. Discuss/Consider/Act on sharing a Public Information Officer with the Refugio County Sheriff's Department to meet new state requirements**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. Refugio County Sheriff Matt Tuttle informed Council he is doing research to see if the Sheriff's Department can do this. He has given it to the County Attorney and is waiting on his response. This is all brand new, and they do not have classes for it yet. He does have an officer that will be going to class in June if that class will work for the State. Councilmember Nix moved to table until we have further information from the Sheriff. Councilmember Haley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Discuss/Consider/Act on Ordering the May 2, 2026 General Election to Elect a Mayor and Councilmember Place II and Councilmember Place III**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. Councilmember Nix moved that we order the May 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election. Councilmember Briseno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. Discuss/Consider/Act on proposed Ordinance repealing Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Number 38E so as to not allow shipping containers within the Corporate Limits; repealing all ordinances in conflict; proving a severance clause; providing a penalty and providing for publication and an effective date**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. Councilmember Briseno informed Council she had made a motion the last time it was on the agenda to resend it. There was a short discussion on it having no restrictions. Councilmember Briseno made a motion to repeal the ordinance. Councilmember Molina seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. There was a discussion on naming it 38E Amendment C, effective date, and putting it on the next agenda to approve 38E Amendment C.

**11. Discuss/Consider/Act on approving Windstorm Policy Renewal Offer**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. The windstorm insurance is \$3,772.00 for the same coverage and same items. Councilmember Haley made a motion to accept the policy for our windstorm for the upcoming year. Councilmember Briseno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**12. Discuss/Consider/Act on exemptions for the upcoming tax year**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item and announced the exemptions from last year: 65+ \$6,000, Disabled Vet - \$5,000 to \$12,000. Councilmember Briseno made a motion to accept the exemptions for the upcoming tax year. Councilmember Haley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**13. Discuss/Consider/Act on nominating by resolution one person or persons to fill the vacancy that exists on the Refugio County Appraisal District Board of Directors**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item and announced there are two vacancies. She asked if anyone was interested in it. After a short discussion, Councilmember Nix moved to take no action. Councilmember Haley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**14. Discuss/Consider/Act on allowing Ray Rendon to proceed with moving a structure into the Town of Bayside**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. Mr. Rendon is wanting to bring a house in. The building inspector has looked at it and says it is structurally sound. A lot of paperwork still has to be done. There was a discussion on the \$5,000 security deposit required by ordinance. Councilmember Briseno made a motion to send to the attorney to see what we can and can't do. There was further discussion on what the deposit was for and our ordinance requiring it. Mayor Scott asked for a second. Mayor Pro Tem Vega seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**15. Discuss/Consider/Act on supervision of the water/sewer/maintenance employees**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. Mayor Pro Tem Vega informed Council he no longer wants to supervise the workers. He will still take care of water/sewer issues like leaks and manholes. He informed Council he would supervise them if you want to hire me as a supervisor. There was a lengthy discussion on water/sewer/maintenance employees needing direction, pot holes on Third Street, someone needing to take control of them, making a schedule for them, it not being a good idea to have two or three bosses over them, needing

one boss, them knowing everything, and if it has to be a councilmember or could it be a layman over them. Citizens present gave their ideas on what should be done. Council continued with a discussion on them doing what they want and knowing it all. Mayor Scott suggested a workshop with them because communication is a problem. Jeanne Hjort informed Council. They do what I need immediately. I've never had an issue. Citizens present remarked. If they aren't doing their job get rid of them, have one employee over the others, and put an ad in the paper. Mayor Scott asked for a motion. What does the Council want to do? Councilmember Haley made a motion that we have a workshop to define the rolls and responsibilities of the employees for our maintenance department. Councilmember Nix seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Scott asked the Council when they wanted to have it. It was decided to have it during the day when they are on duty - Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

#### **16. Discuss Policy for disconnection of water service**

Mayor Scott read the agenda item. There was a discussion on not getting a call before water is cut off for nonpayment, the water ordinance and utility application not requiring it, picking up the phone and calling, bill delivery, using an old tote at the park, a question and answer paper from TML on due process. Councilmember Briseno read from an email from TML, question asked was, "Is it required by law to send a disconnect notice before shutting off someone's water for non-payment?" The response was "Yes. The US Constitution demands that a customer must be given notice of the possibility of termination and the opportunity to contest the termination. Councilmember Briseno also stated the State to Texas requires the same notice." Discussion continued on what surrounding towns do, going by the ordinance and water application, and needing to put it in the water application and change the ordinance and that will solve the problem. Councilmember Briseno made a motion to put it on the workshop. Councilmember Nix seconded the motion. Mayor Scott informed them this is not an action item.

#### **17. Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Vega made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Nix seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie Cramer  
City Secretary