

CITY COMMISSION MEETING — MINUTES

DATE: August 19, 2026

TIME: 7:01 p.m.

LOCATION: Starbase City Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present: Mayor Peden, Commissioner Buss, and Commissioner Wallace. Absent: none. A quorum was determined to be present.

City staff, including the City Administrator and Acting City Clerk, were also present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS

Six individuals addressed the Commission:

- Christine Ann C., Brownsville — lead librarian, Starbase Community Library — reported on the library's inaugural summer reading program.
- Becca Hinojosa, Brownsville, South Texas Environmental Justice Network — opposed the proposed C4 annexation and submitted a petition and landowner/counsel statements.
- Statement read into the record on behalf of Gerald Pedraza, Chicago (affected landowner) — opposed the annexation.
- Statement read into the record on behalf of Pedales, Altman, and Ice PC — urged greater public access, remote participation, and more public information on the annexation.
- Barb Buckner, property owner within the proposed C4 area — questioned the basis for annexation, services to be provided, potential conflicts of interest, and possible future use for private-property acquisition.
- Robin Gavriel — opposed Starbase and SpaceX actions regarding annexation and environmental matters.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Item D.1 – Minutes of the City Commission meeting held July 14, 2026

Jordan Buss made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes of the July 14, 2026 meeting. Lois Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Item E.1 – Public hearing on the proposed FY 2026-27 budget

The public hearing opened at 7:17 p.m. No speakers appeared, and the hearing closed at 7:17 p.m. No action was taken. (Budget adopted later in the evening as Item F.2.)

F. REGULAR SESSION

Item F.1 – Emergency Reserve and Emergency Expenditure Policy

Staff presented a reserve and expenditure policy establishing a minimum undesignated general fund balance of 20% of operating expenditures (33% target) and reserve categories for disaster emergency, revenue stabilization, and capital equipment replacement.

Lois Wallace made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-21 – the Emergency Reserve and Emergency Expenditure Policy – as presented. Jordan Buss seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0.

Item F.2 – Ordinance No. 2026-22 adopting the FY 2026-27 budget

Staff presented the proposed budget by category, based on the finalized county appraisal roll, covering administration, public safety, natural resources/beach conservation, community projects, and reserves.

Lois Wallace made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-22, the FY 2026-27 budget, as presented. Jordan Buss seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0.

Record Vote: Wallace – Aye; Buss – Aye; Peden – Aye

Lois Wallace made a motion to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the FY 2026-27 budget, per Local Government Code § 102.007. Jordan Buss seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0.

Record Vote: Buss – Aye; Wallace – Aye; Peden – Aye

Item F.3 – Proposed 2026 tax rate

Staff reported a no-new-revenue rate of \$0.775093/\$100 and a voter-approval rate of \$0.803732/\$100 based on the certified 2026 appraisal roll, and recommended proposing the rate at the voter-approval rate.

Jordan Buss made a motion to propose a 2026 tax rate of \$0.803732/\$100 (a 3.69% increase over the no-new-revenue rate), call a public hearing for September 4, 2026 at

7:00 p.m. at Starbase City Hall, at which the tax rate will also be voted on, and direct staff to publish notice as required by law. Lois Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0.

Record Vote: Buss – Aye; Wallace – Aye; Peden – Aye

Item F.4 – Resolution of verification and public hearing dates for the C4 annexation

Staff reported that the City Clerk verified the C4 annexation petition (approximately 7,133 acres) as signed by more than 50% of registered voters and more than 50% of landowners by area, satisfying Local Government Code § 43.0681.

Lois Wallace made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-22 declaring the petition results and setting the second public hearing for September 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. and the third and final public hearing for September 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., both at Starbase City Hall. Jordan Buss seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0.

G. COMMISSION / CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Item G.1 – Items of community interest

Commissioners recognized library staff for a successful summer reading program and thanked the volunteer fire department for its recent emergency response.

Item G.2 – Financial/budget update

The City Administrator presented a new financial dashboard for tracking budget categories and key performance indicators, reported approximately \$2.75 million in cash on hand, noted a final note payment of approximately \$1 million due in September, and stated that a budget amendment would be needed at the September meeting.

Item G.3 – Police department update

Staff reported progress toward TCOLE accreditation with a site visit scheduled for September 9, an anticipated chief swearing-in at a future meeting, active hiring for a sergeant, police administrator, and officers, and an accepted offer for the police administrator position with a September 1 start date.

Item G.4 – Boca Chica Beach update

Staff reported a successful July beach cleaning with reduced trash volume, ongoing weekly surf-rake and biweekly trash-pickup operations, and completion of erosion-study surveys showing preliminary evidence of beach erosion.

Item G.5 – Signed agreements / administrative update

The City Administrator noted continued use of AI and procurement tools, GIS mapping work, a payment to the library, a minor cloud-services cost increase, an added police training module, and an executed radio memorandum of understanding.

Item G.6 – Future agenda item requests

No discussion or action was taken on future agenda item requests.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Peden made a motion to adjourn. Jordan Buss seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keila Tuttle, Acting City Clerk

City of Starbase

Approved by the City Commission on: 9/4/2026
Signed by: _____



Signed by:



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Keila Tuttle, Acting City Clerk