



**NOTICE OF TAX HEARING & CALLED MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 23, 2025
6:00 PM**

Ernie Burns
Mayor

Mark Heatwole
Mayor Pro-Tem

Samantha Smith
Council Member

Bill Dwyer
Council Member

Laura Duncan
Council Member

Mark Thompson
Council Member

Jeff Hudgens
City Manager

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given as required by Title 5, Chapter 551.041 of the Government Code that the Van City Council will meet in a Called Meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Van City Hall, 310 Chestnut St., Van, TX 75790. The items listed below are placed on the agenda for discussion and/or action.

The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at anytime during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matter listed below, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.087 (Economic Development).

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Tax rate hearing.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on an amendment to the FY25 budget.

B. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on the FY2026 EDC budget.

C. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on appropriations ordinance 09-23-2025-1 adopting the FY2026 budget for the City of Van.

D. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on ordinance 09-23-2025-2 adopting the tax rate for FY2026 for the City of Van.

E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on ordinance 09-23-2025-3 ratifying the rate revenue increase for FY2026.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Sec. 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.087, and Section 418.183(f) of the Texas Government Code (Texas Disaster Act). Refer to posted list attached hereto and incorporated here in.

VI. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION AND CONSIDER ACTION IF ANY


VII. **ADJOURN**

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above notice was posted on the bulletin board at Van City Hall, 310 Chestnut St., Van, Texas 75790 by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Sereca Huff-Huggins, City Secretary

NOTE: If, during the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Council will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E

 *Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this public meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services are requested to contact the Van City Hall 48 hours in advance, at (903)963-7216, and reasonable accommodations will be made for assistance.*

Amendment to FY25 Budget

Account Line	Description	Original Amount	Amended Amount
417-49210	Use of Fund Balance	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -
417-49500	Transfer in	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
500-44910	Use of Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
500-99-60830	Transfer Out	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00

The originally adopted budget intended for the \$300,000 to transfer directly from pooled cash into the 417 fund (For the Well #4 Project).

Per the auditor, the funds must take a path first from pooled cash into the utility fund, then out of the utility fund into the 417 fund. This is due to the fact that the amounts in pooled cash in this case are "owned" by the utility fund.

There is no change to the budgeted amount, only the path from pooled cash to the 417 fund.

Original Budget

Pooled Cash -> 417 fund

Ammended Budget

Pooled Cash -> 500 revenue -> 500 Transfer out -> 417 Transfer in

PROPOSED VAN EDC BUDGET FY25-26

REVENUES	FY2025-2026
Sales Tax Revenue	\$290,000.00
Interest Income	\$10,000.00
Rental Income - Movie House; 255 W Main St.	\$1,400.00
Total Revenues	\$301,400.00

SALARY

FICA	\$4,420.17
Insurance	\$12,140.40
Longevity	\$300.00
TMRS	\$4,271.00
Workers Comp Ins	\$300.00
Salaries	\$57,780.00
Salaries Administrative	\$3,120.00
Total Compensation & Benefits	\$82,331.57

EXPENSES

Association Dues	\$4,600.00
Facilities/City Hall (Shared Office Expenses)	\$6,700.00
Movie House Cleaning	\$2,000.00
Movie House Expenses (elec- internet-supplies)	\$4,800.00
Movie House Liability Insurance	\$2,805.00
Movie House Building & Grounds (Generator)	\$6,500.00
Meeting Expenses	\$500.00
Computer Software	\$9,300.00
IT Services (Shared Expense)	\$5,000.00
Software (Shared Expenses)	\$3,800.00
Website (Shared Expense)	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$1,000.00
Professional Services	\$7,000.00
Training/Conference	\$6,000.00
Travel/Lodging/Meals	\$4,000.00
Water Well (City)	\$50,000.00
Total Operations	\$115,005.00

PROMOTIONS

Advertising	\$2,000.00
Marketing	\$4,000.00
Oil Festival Prize Money	\$1,000.00
Promotional Events/Trade Shows	\$4,000.00
Total Promotions	\$11,000.00
TOTAL VEDC OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$208,336.57

PROJECT FUND FY25-26

Facade Grants	\$30,000.00
Parks & Recreation	\$10,000.00
Projects to be defined	\$53,063.43
Total Restricted Project Expenditures	\$93,063.43

Balance **\$0.00**

**CITY OF VAN
APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 09-23-2025-1**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD
BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30,
2026; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF
ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH**

WHEREAS, The Administration of the City of Van, Texas has submitted to the City Council a proposed budget of the revenues and expenses of said City for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, and which said the proposed budget has been compiled from detailed information obtained from several departments, divisions, and offices of the city, and,

WHEREAS, The City Council has received said Administration proposed budget, a copy of which proposed budget and all supporting schedules have been filed with the City Secretary of the City of Van, Texas, and said Council is of the opinion that the same should be approved and adopted and that a public hearing, before the City Council has been heretofore, September 4, 2025, held in accordance with Article 689a 13 R. C. S. of Texas, 1925, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VAN, TEXAS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The proposed budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Van, Texas for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, as submitted to the City Council by the Administration, and the same is in all things adopted and approved as the budget of all the current expenses as well as the fixed charges against said City for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026.

SECTION 2. That the Sum of \$3,583,300 for the payment of operating expenses and necessary transfers to other funds of the City Government as hereinafter itemized is hereby appropriated to GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Administration	\$ 467,107
City Council	\$ 25,900
Municipal Court	\$ 181,770
Police Department	\$1,077,078
Emergency Management	\$ 5,500
Fire Department	\$ 122,548
Streets	\$ 303,630
Parks	\$ 289,272
Library	\$ 67,895
Non-Departmental	\$ 1,042,600

SECTION 3. The Sum of \$1,792,832 is appropriated from revenues and balanced on hand and in the Water and Wastewater Department to operating, capital, and inter-fund transfers of the Water and Wastewater Department.

SECTION 4. The Sum of \$68,500 is appropriated from the Hotel-Motel Fund and ordered expended for the proposed outlined expenses in the Hotel-Motel Fund budget for the budget period.

SECTION 5. The Sum of \$937,000 is appropriated from the Interest and Sinking Fund for the purpose of paying the interest, principal, and exchange of the City's obligations and Certificates of Obligations coming due during the budget period.

SECTION 6. The Sum of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the Capital Water Projects Fund for the purpose of paying the interest, principal, and expenses in the Capital Water Projects Fund coming due during the budget period.

SECTION 7. The Sum of \$301,400 is appropriated from the Van Economic Development Corporation Fund and ordered expended for the proposed outlined expenses in the Van Economic Development Corporation Fund budget for the budget period.

SECTION 8. This Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the City Council and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Record of Vote		Not Present	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Ernest Burns	Mayor						
Samantha Smith	Place 1						
Mark Heatwole	Place 2						
Bill Dwyer	Place 3						
Laura Duncan	Place 4						
Mark Thompson	Place 5						

ADOPTED, AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, this 23 day of September 2025.

Ernest Burns, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sereca Huff-Huggins, City Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 09-23-2025-2

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF VAN, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VAN, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That there is hereby levied and there shall be collected for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Van, Texas and to provide Interest and Sinking Fund for the fiscal year 2026 upon all property, real, personal, and mixed, within the corporate limits of said City subject to taxation, a tax of **.7358000 (\$.7358000)** on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property, said tax being so levied and apportioned at 100% valuation for the specific purpose here set forth:

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS AND INTEREST AND SINKING THAN LAST YEAR'S RATE.

THE TAX RATE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE RAISED BY 0.87 PERCENT AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$0.00.

- (1) For maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund) **.40 cents (\$.40)** on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property, and
- (2) For the Interest and Sinking Fund **.3358 cents (\$.3358)** on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property to be apportioned as follows:

SECTION 2. All monies collected under this ordinance for the specific item there named, be, and same are hereby, appropriated and set apart for the specific purpose indicated in each item and that the Assessor and Collector of Taxes, the City Treasure, and City Secretary shall keep these accounts so as to readily and distinctly show the amount collected, the amounts expended, and the amount on hand at any time, belonging to such funds. It is hereby made the duty of the Tax Assessor and Collector of Taxes and every person that collects money for the City of Van, to deliver to the City Treasurer and the City Secretary at the time of depositing any monies a statement showing to what fund.

Such deposit should be made and from what source received. All receipts for the City not specifically apportioned by this ordinance are here made payable to the General Fund of the City of Van.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Record of Vote:

M&O Rate Vote		Not Present	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Ernest Burns	Mayor						
Samantha Smith	Place 1						
Mark Heatwole	Place 2						
Bill Dwyer	Place 3						
Laura Duncan	Place 4						
Mark Thompson	Place 5						

I& S Rate Vote		Not Present	Ay	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Ernest Burns	Mayor						
Samantha Smith	Place 1						
Mark Heatwole	Place 2						
Bill Dwyer	Place 3						
Laura Duncan	Place 4						
Mark Thompson	Place 5						

ADOPTED, AND APPROVED BY THE CITY, this 23 day of September 2025.

Ernest Burns, Mayor

Attest:

Sereca Huff-Huggins, City Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 09-23-2025-3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VAN, TEXAS RATIFYING THE PROPERTY INCREASE REFLECTED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET THAT WILL REQUIRE RAISING MORE REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET.

WHEREAS the City Council has, on this same date, and prior to its consideration and adoption of this Ordinance, adopted by separate Ordinance the Budget of the City of Van for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (hereinafter "FY 2026 Budget"); and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the Budget of the City of Van for Fiscal Year 2025 ("FY 2025 Budget"); and

WHEREAS, Section 102.007(c) Texas Local Government Code, provides that upon the adoption of a budget that will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year a separate vote of the governing body to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget, and that such vote is in addition to and separate from the vote to adopt the budget or to set the tax rate; and

WHEREAS to comply with Section 102.007(c) of the Texas Local Government Code, it is necessary for the City Council to take the actions accomplished and evidenced by this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VAN:

SECTION ONE. In compliance with the requirements of Section 102.007(c), Texas Local Government Code, the City Council of the City of Van does hereby in all things ratify the property tax increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget which will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

SECTION TWO. A copy of the "*Vote Results*" sheet for this Ordinance, reflecting the recorded vote of the City Council on this Ordinance, shall be attached to this Ordinance by the City Secretary, and shall constitute a part of this Ordinance for all purposes.

SECTION THREE. For this City Council to transact its business and approve the Fiscal Year 2026 budget in a timely manner, it is necessary for this ordinance to be acted upon and adopted immediately.

Record of Vote		Not Present	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Ernest Burns	Mayor						
Samantha Smith	Place 1						
Mark Heatwole	Place 2						
Bill Dwyer	Place 3						
Laura Duncan	Place 4						
Mark Thompson	Place 5						

ADOPTED, AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, this 23 day of September 2025.

Ernest Burns, Mayor

Attest:

Sereca Huff-Huggins, City Secretary