GARLAND

MINUTES

The Legislative & Public Affairs Committee of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 4:00 PM on August 17, 2026, in the Work Session Room at the William E. Dollar Municipal Building, 200 North Fifth Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Present:	Mayor Pro Tem Chris Ott, Chair
	Council Member Ed Moore
	Council Member Joe Thomas Jr.
	Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Carissa Dutton
Staff Present:	Ariel Traub, Managing Director of Legislative & Public Affairs
	Mike Betz, City Manager
	Brian England, City Attorney
	Matt Watson, Chief Financial Officer
	Carma Potter, Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Consider Approval of the April 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Council Member Ed Moore and seconded by Council Member Joe Thomas Jr. to approve the April 20, 2026 meeting minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Persons who desire to address the Committee on any item on the agenda are allowed three minutes to speak.

No public comments were received.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Introduction to the Legislative & Public Affairs Team

Managing Director, Ariel Traub, will introduce the Legislative & Public Affairs team and provide an overview of the team's roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Traub introduced the Legislative & Public Affairs team and provided an overview of staff roles and responsibilities. The team consists of Ms. Traub; Carma Potter, Policy and Outreach Coordinator; and Taylor Borer, Regulatory Affairs Director.

Ms. Traub noted that the team will work collaboratively during the upcoming legislative session, including preparation of the City's legislative newsletter.

b. Scoping Discussion to Explore Advocacy Changes to the Workers' Compensation System

This item was requested for referral to the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dutton and seconded by Councilmember Lucht at the June 15, 2026 Work Session.

The Committee discussed potential advocacy efforts related to the workers' compensation system for political subdivisions under Texas Labor Code Chapter 504. Discussion focused on delays in medical treatment,

administrative hurdles, return-to-work timelines, and the financial impacts of the current system on employees and municipalities.

The Committee discussed the need to identify specific policy changes while considering potential financial impacts on cities of varying sizes.

The Committee reached consensus for staff to conduct additional internal scoping and work with the Texas Municipal League (TML) and other cities to explore potential reforms. Staff will also consider language for the City's State Legislative Agenda supporting the health and general welfare of employees.

c. Scoping Discussion to Consider an Annual Intergovernmental Partnerships Program and Annual Intergovernmental Relations Calendar

This item was requested for referral to the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dutton and seconded by Mayor Hedrick at the July 6, 2026 Work Session.

The Committee discussed establishing a more structured approach to strengthening relationships with state, county, regional, utility, and other governmental partners.

The proposed program would provide opportunities for partner organizations to periodically attend Council Work Sessions to discuss their roles, current initiatives, Garland-specific issues, and opportunities for collaboration.

The Committee reached consensus to move forward with the initiative. Managing Director Traub will work with the City Manager's Office to develop a proposed list of partners, begin outreach, and coordinate a recurring calendar for presentations during Council Work Sessions.

4. ADJOURN

Chair Ott adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Submitted By:

Mayor Pro Tem Ott, Chair
Carma Potter, Secretary