

City Council Minutes
September 15, 2025
5:15 p.m.
Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The Tentative Millage and Budget Adoption Hearing of the Crestview City Council was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Mayor JB Whitten. Present: Council members present: Ryan Bullard, Brandon Frost, and Shannon Hayes. Also present: City Manager Jessica Leavins, City Clerk Maryanne Girard, and various staff members. Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Capps, Councilmember Dusty Allison and City Attorney Jonathan Holloway were excused.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor JB Whitten.

3. Open Policy Making and Legislative Session

Mayor JB Whitten declared a quorum was present.

4. Approve Agenda

Mayor JB Whitten called for action.

Motion by Councilmember Brandon Frost and seconded by Councilmember Shannon Hayes to approve the agenda, as presented.
Roll Call: Ayes: All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Public Hearings/Resolutions for Tentative Millage and Budget

5.1. Resolution 2025-17, Adopting the FY25/26 Tentative Millage Rate

Mayor JB Whitten introduced the resolutions for the tentative millage and tentative budget.

City Manager Jessica Leavins brought Resolution 2025-17, Adopting the FY25/26 Tentative Millage Rate forward to the City Council and asked the City Clerk to read the Resolution.

City Clerk Maryanne Girard stated the TRIM provides guidelines for each taxing authority levying millage that must be publicly read at the Hearing before the adoption: The taxing body is Crestview, the current year rolled-back rate: 6.6225, the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate is .36, and the amount of the millage rate to be levied is 6.6466.

City Clerk Maryanne Girard read Resolution 2025-17 by title: A Resolution of the City of Crestview, Florida, Adopting the Tentative Budget For the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025 and Ending September 30, 2026, and Providing For An Effective Date.

City Manager Jessica Leavins stated the City has 65 to 80 days from the date of setting the proposed millage to hold a public hearing on its adoption of the tentative millage rate as required by Florida Statute 200.065. The final adoption is set for September 22, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor JB Whitten called for comment from the Council and then the public.

Mrs. Jillian Harker came forward and went over items that she had heard at the budget meeting this past summer. She asked when the chairs at the Senior Center would be received; she requested that the cost of public records be lowered by ordinance; she voiced concern for the police force shortage per average state capita; she requested an update on the Fire department budget and increase in paramedic pay; she objected to the city funding the food trucks; she asked about the status of the bid for the Community Center air conditioning; she asked if city vehicles have tracking devices; she requested whether the city would consider removing the 16% fee on utilities; she asked whether the city is getting more nets at Foxwood, and whether the city had a plan for revenue if the property taxes are abolished.

Mayor JB Whitten asked that she send a copy of her requests, so he could review them.

Motion by Councilmember Ryan Bullard and seconded by Councilmember Brandon Frost to adopt Resolution 2025-17.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ryan Bullard, Shannon Hayes, Brandon Frost. All ayes. Motion carried.

5.2. Resolution 2025-18, Adopting the Tentative FY25/26 Budget

City Manager Jessica Leavins introduced Resolution 2025-18, Adopting the Tentative FY25/26 Budget to the City Council.

City Manager Jessica Leavins stated the proposed budget was provided to the Council and said the proposed FY2026 budget includes \$81,206,821 in revenues and appropriations. The TRIM provides a very specific timetable as set by Florida Statutes for the tentative budget adoption. If compliance with the specified timeframe is not met, the rollback rate of 6.6225 will apply, resulting in ad valorem tax collections equal to the prior year. She added the final adoption will be held on Monday, September 22nd at 5:15 p.m. She then asked the City Clerk to read Resolution 2025-18 by title.

City Clerk Maryanne Girard read Resolution 2025-18 by title: A Resolution of the City of Crestview, Florida, Adopting the Tentative Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026, and Providing for An Effective Date.

Mayor JB Whitten called for comment from the Council and from the public. In hearing none, he called for action.

Motion by Councilmember Brandon Frost and seconded by Councilmember Shannon Hayes to adopt Resolution 2025-18.
Roll Call: Ayes: Ryan Bullard, Shannon Hayes, Brandon Frost. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Comments from the Mayor and Council

Mayor JB Whitten called for comment from the Council.

Councilmember Shannon Hayes said we have a good budget and we are trying to lower our ad valorem tax. The goal is to keep Crestview safe with the amount of money allocated.

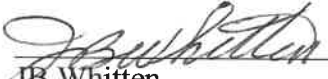
7. Comments from the Audience

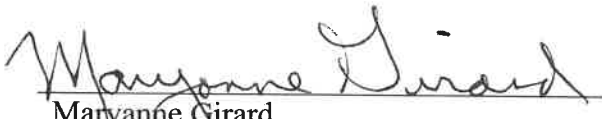
Mayor JB Whitten called for comment from the public.

8. Adjournment

In hearing none, Mayor JB Whitten adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Minutes approved this 22nd day of September 2025.


JB Whitten
Mayor


Maryanne Girard
City Clerk
Proper Notice having been duly given

