



89° F

Partly Cloudy

[\(/weather-forecast/\)](#)

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

(/)

LOCAL NEWS FROM THE HEART OF PARKER COUNTY

(<https://communitynewsbanner.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?bannerid=59&zoneid=37&s=cfa8e992a34cd49c889c086d4eaccf502734ba83d6f12e039b23c7e8726&dest=https://www.texasbutane.com%2F>)



Weather brought to you by

[Home \(/\)](#) [NEWS \(/NEWS/\)](#) [EDUCATION \(/EDUCATION/\)](#) [STATE & REGION \(/STATE-AND-REGION/\)](#) [COMMUNITY LIFE \(/COMMUNITY/\)](#) [OBITUARIES \(/OBITS/\)](#)
[EVENTS \(/CALENDAR/\)](#) [SPORTS \(/SPORTS/\)](#) [WEB EXTRAS \(/PREMIUM/\)](#) [COMMENTARY \(/COMMENTARY/\)](#) [MARKETPLACE \(/MARKETPLACE/\)](#)

Willow Park: Home Rule talk continues

Applicants sought for commission

Posted Thursday, June 26, 2025 11:32 am

By **Rick Mauch** (<mailto:news@community-news.com>)
 The Community News



(<https://gamma.creativecirclecdn.com/communitynews/original/20250626-111525-f0a-Web-TCN-Willow%20Park.jpg>)

Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes addresses the audience as he explains the city's Enterprise Funds.

RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Don't miss a single giggle!

Click here to schedule a free hearing check with Kurt Chappell

chappell-hearing-aids.com
 817-263-1971

HEARING CARE CENTER

(<https://chappell-hearing-aids.com/>)

YOUR LOVED ONE DESERVES THE BEST CARE AT HOME.

Find expert care and peace of mind with Overture Home Care. Accepting LTC insurance, private pay and now accepting Veterans benefits!

Call today 817-887-9401 to request a complimentary at-home assessment.

OVERTURE HOME CARE

(<http://overturehomecare.com/>)

The next step to Willow Park possibly changing to a home rule city was taken at Tuesday's June 24 city council meeting. New Mayor Teresa Palmer came into office last month with this topic as one of the major items on her list.

The council approved authorizing city staff to post an application form on the city website, along with issuing a press release to The Community News, offering interested residents a chance to serve on a Home Rule Charter Commission.

“I’m excited. That’s what I ran on, to give the citizens their voice,” Palmer said. “I’m following through as fast as I can.”

If formed, the commission’s duties will include reviewing examples of charters from other cities before a proposed charter is created for Willow Park. They will also study and assess the costs of making the change to a home rule city.

If all moves forward the vote by citizens can be added to an upcoming ballot. Given the time frame, the most likely date would be May 2 of next year.

Advertisement



b25d-44bd-b949-7efeb8476834/Overture-Home-Care-LLC)

However, Marcy Galle, a former Willow Park council member and current legislative director with State Representative Mike Olcott, encouraged a push to put it to a vote on the upcoming Nov. 4 ballot.

“I just want it to be a quicker process, not a long drawn-out process,” said Galle, who added she is in favor of the change to home rule. “We don’t need to reinvent the wheel. We’re long overdue.”

All meetings of the commission will be recorded and posted on the city’s website.

A basic difference between general law, the current structure that has served Willow Park for years, and home rule is:

- General law – Has no charter and may only exercise those powers that are specifically granted by state law.
- Home rule – May do anything authorized by its charter (which is voted on by the citizens) that is not specifically prohibited or pre-empted by the state constitution or state/federal law. A charter is essentially the constitution of the city.

Home rule cities derive their power from the Texas constitution and possess the full power of self-government. They have the inherent power (not specifically granted by the state) to do just about anything that qualifies as a public purpose while not violating the constitution or state laws.

In a home rule city, the mayor can have more power than in general law, depending on the type of charter drawn up. The mayors of many home rule cities also vote at council meetings, along with having veto power and the ability to force reconsideration.



June 27, 2025
(/stories/june-27-2025,123970)

View this issue
(/stories/june-27-2025,123970)

Browse other issues
(/eeditions/)

(/stories/june-27-2025,123970)





GOUGH
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Brent A. Gough
President/Founding Partner, GWM
Financial Advisor, RJFS

Slaten W. Gough
Partner, GWM
Financial Advisor, RJFS

Proudly serving our clients since 1998

WWW.GOUGHWEALTHMANAGEMENT.COM
313 FM 1187 NORTH | ALEDO, TX 76008 | 817.631.0816

CRUISELINE & TRAVEL SERVICES, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. MINORITIES AND WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. CRUISELINE & TRAVEL SERVICES, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. MINORITIES AND WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. CRUISELINE & TRAVEL SERVICES, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. MINORITIES AND WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

([https://www.raymondjames.com/goughwealthmanagement?](https://www.raymondjames.com/goughwealthmanagement?utm_source=The%2520Community%2520News&utm_medium=banner)

[utm_source=The%2520Community%2520News&utm_medium=banner\)](https://www.raymondjames.com/goughwealthmanagement?utm_source=The%2520Community%2520News&utm_medium=banner)

Under the current system in Willow Park, the mayor can only vote to break a tie – which isn't often considering the council has five members. The mayor is a CEO and budget officer for the city.

Other things a switch to a home rule city would bring include the ability for citizens to remove officials through recall elections, allowing for the removal of council members for such things as absences and intentional violations of the charter, and term limits.

General law cities have no right of recall. They must file a petition in the district court and have a trial to remove officials.

However, home rule cities are subject to preemption. This is a higher level of government, such as the state legislature, eliminating or limiting the power of a lower level of government – something they have been increasingly doing with home rule cities.

At the July 8 meeting, the council is expected to address how the members of the commission will be chosen once all the applications are in. Palmer noted three possibilities: council, mayor, or citizens themselves.

Tops in District!

DISTRICT MVP BOYS
Austin Randriamahefa

DISTRICT MVP GIRLS
Allyson Weimer

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
TRAPPER DAVIS

MORITZ
Chevrolet • Chrysler • Jeep • KIA
Moritz Chevrolet • Chrysler • Jeep
Loop 820 & Hwy 580 (Camp Bowie West) • 817-696-2000
Moritz Kia • 8501 I-30 • 817-560-6000

(<https://www.moritzchevrolet.com/?>

utm_source=The%2520Community%2520News&utm_medium=banner)

Hydro vac upgrade

The council voted to approve the purchase of a hydro vac truck for the purpose of safely exposing utility lines during leak repairs and minimizing the risk of infrastructure damage.

The city's public works department has been using a hydro vac trailer for this work, but that trailer is 11 years old and starting to experience mechanical challenges.

"We got a lot of life out of it. It's an estimated \$40 to \$50 thousand to fix it — if they even have it," Willow Park Public Works Director Chase McBride said.

McBride said that switching to a truck-mounted system would streamline operations by reducing the number of equipment units required on-site. He said it would also better equip the department to respond to large-scale line breaks, such as a 12-inch main break on El Chico Trail recently that took about 11 hours to repair.

"It's a larger unit. It'll cut down on time," McBride said, describing it as "basically an enormous shop vac."

In addition, the proposed unit can function as a sewer machine or high-pressure hydro jetter (a piece of equipment that uses high-pressure water to clear blockages and debris from pipes and sewer lines).

The cost of the truck is a little more than \$365,000. City Manager Bryan Grimes said sufficient funds are available in the water reserves account.

Budget talk

Grimes led the first budget workshop of the summer as the city prepares to launch the Fiscal Year 25-26 budget. He addressed enterprise funds, which include water, wastewater, and drainage.

General funds, which include all other city departments, are scheduled to be discussed at the July 8 meeting.

Grimes said the plan is to have a preliminary budget on the city website by July 9, 60 days before the proposed adoption date of Sept. 9, with Sept. 10 as the proposed date to adopt the city tax rate.

"Twice as much as the state requires," he said of the preliminary posting and adoption.

The city's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Other upcoming dates connected to the budget include:

- July 22 – Another workshop if necessary.
- Aug. 8 – The last day to file the proposed budget with the city secretary.
- Aug. 22 – Set a tax rate and budget public hearing.

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

Capital Highlights:
Abbott vetoes THC ban, calls ... (/stories/capital-highlights-abbott-vetoes-thc-ban-calls-special-session,123626)

Annetta: Council approves accessory dwelling unit (/stories/annetta-council-approves-accessory-dwelling-unit,123632)

Capital Highlights:
Abbott calls latest session his ... (/stories/capital-highlights-abbott-calls-latest-session-his-best,123052)

Community meets with YMCA leaders (/stories/community-meets-with-ymca-leaders,123054)

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

 (http://facebook.com/epcnews)

 (http://twitter.com/yourtcn)

 (/browse.rss)

1015 Champions Dr., P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008 Phone: 817-441-7661 (tel:817-441-7661) Fax: 817-386-1521	Sections	Services	Our communities	
	News (/news/)	Events (/calendar/)	City of Aledo (/stories/city-of-aledo,2676)	
	Education (/education/)	Sports (/sports/)		
	State & Region (/state-and-region/)	Web extras (/premium/)		
	Community Life (/community/)	Commentary (/commentary/)		
	Obituaries (/obits/)	Marketplace (/marketplace/)		
		Change of address (/forms/change-address/)		
		Contact us (/contact-us/)		
		Delivery Issue (/forms/delivery-issue/)		
		Subscribe (/subscribe/)		
		Vacation Stop (/forms/vacation-stop/)		
		Privacy policy (/privacy-policy/)		
			The Annettas (/the-annettas,2714)	Brock (/stories/brock,2709)
			Hudson Oaks (/hudson-oaks,2720)	Millsap (stories/millsap,2725)
			Peaster (/stories/peaster,2727)	Springtown (/stories/springtown,2730)
			Weatherford (/stories/weatherford,2733)	Willow Park (/stories/willow-park,2736)