

Mitchell Jordan, Mayor  
Sean Conner, Council District #1  
Ava Harmon, Council District #2  
James Smith, Council District #3  
Kenneth Davidson, Council District #4  
Angela Woodard, Council District #5  
Christopher Gibbs, Council District #6



Teresa Herrera, City Manager  
April Jackson, City Secretary  
Rezzin Pullum, City Attorney

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
June 13, 2025  
Special Meeting at 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Chambers  
504 N. Queen Street  
Palestine, Texas**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89268518679?pwd=vaCqPcLABKb16s20fDtWiX9NNyO1.1>

Meeting ID: 892 6851 8679  
Passcode: 148219

One tap mobile  
+13462487799,,89268518679#,,, \*148219# US

Note: when you are joining a Zoom meeting by phone, you can use your phone's dial pad to enter the commands \*6 for toggling mute/unmute and \*9 to "raise your hand." [Learn more here.](#)

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**SPECIAL MEETING**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any citizen wishing to speak during public comments regarding an item on or off the agenda may do so after completing the required Request to Speak form. All comments must be no more than five minutes in length. Any comments regarding items not on the posted agenda may not be discussed or responded to by the City Council. Members of the public may join via Zoom or in person.

*It is not the intention of the City of Palestine to provide a public forum for the embarrassment or demeaning of an individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Council to allow a member of the public to slur the performance, honesty, and/or integrity of any person or threaten any person. Accordingly, profane, insulting, or threatening language will not be read aloud at the meeting.*

**C. CONSIDER ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING RETURNS OF THE RUNOFF ELECTION HELD ON JUNE 7, 2025, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE CITY OF PALESTINE, TEXAS; DECLARING RESULTS OF THE ELECTION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. APRIL JACKSON, CITY SECRETARY**

**D. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIAL**

E.        **ADJOURNMENT**

***The Palestine City Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, 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), and §551.086 (Competitive Matters regarding Electric Utility).***

I certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the outdoor bulletin board at the main entrance to City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code on   **Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**



April Jackson, City Secretary

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) PERSONS IN NEED OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHALL, CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE VIA EMAIL AT [citysecretary@palestine-tx.org](mailto:citysecretary@palestine-tx.org) or 903-731-8414.



Agenda Date: June 13, 2025  
To: City Council  
From: April Jackson, City Secretary  
Agenda Item: Canvass of the Returns of the June 7, 2025, Runoff Election  
Date Submitted: 06/10/2025

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**SUMMARY:**

A General Election was held on May 3, 2025, to elect the following municipal officers: Mayor, District 2 Council Member, District 4 Council Member, and District 6 Council Member. None of the candidates, Sylvia Brown, Ava Harmon, or Daniel Nunez, received the required majority of votes. Since no candidate received a majority of the votes cast for the office, a runoff election was required. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for the office of District 2 Council Member were Sylvia Brown and Ava Harmon.

On May 12, 2025, City Council ordered a runoff election, per Ordinance No. O-20-25, to be held June 7, 2025, for the purpose of electing a District 2 Council Member. The results of the election are as follows:

Member of City Council District 2					
	Total	Percentage	Absentee	Early Voting	Election Day
Sylvia Brown	50	40%	2	29	19
Ava Harmon	75	60%	1	64	10

Ava Harmon is elected by receiving the most votes for the office of District 2 Council Member, with a term to expire in May 2027.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance canvassing the returns of the runoff election and declaring the results of the election.

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:**

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**Attachments**

Ordinance

**ORDINANCE NO. O- -25**

**AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING RETURNS OF A RUNOFF ELECTION HELD ON JUNE 7, 2025, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE CITY OF PALESTINE, TEXAS; DECLARING RESULTS OF THE ELECTION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Ordinance No. O-20-25 of the City of Palestine, Texas, adopted on the 12th day of May, 2025, a runoff election was duly held on the 7th day of June, 2025, for the purpose of electing a District 2 Council Member; and

**WHEREAS,** said election was held with the solemnities and formalities necessary to make it a valid election, with all notices having been posted in the manner and for the length of time required by law; and

**WHEREAS,** only duly qualified resident voters of District 2 of the City of Palestine voted at the Runoff Election held on the 7th day of June, 20235; and

**WHEREAS,** section 67.003(b) of the Texas Election Code, as amended, generally provides that each local canvassing authority shall not convene earlier than the third day after election day or not later than the 11th day after the election date for the purpose of canvassing the election results; and

**WHEREAS,** section 67.004(a) of the Texas Election Code, as amended, establishes the quorum level required to canvass election results; and

**WHEREAS,** a quorum of the City Council met on Friday, June 13, 2025, and duly canvassed the election returns of the Runoff Election.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALESTINE, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1**           The findings set forth above are incorporated into the body of this Ordinance as if fully set forth.

**SECTION 2**           That the City Council officially finds and determines a runoff election was duly ordered to be held in the City of Palestine, Texas, on the 7th day of June, 2025, for the purpose of electing a District 2 Council Member to two-year terms of office; that proper notice of said election was duly given; that proper election officers were duly appointed prior to said election; that said election returns have been made and delivered; and that the City Council has duly canvassed and accepts said returns all in accordance with the law.

**SECTION 3**           The City Council officially finds and determines that only qualified residents of District 2 of the City were allowed to vote at said election. The following votes were cast in said election, and the returns were made in accordance with the law:

Member of City Council District 2	Total	Percentage	Absentee	Early Voting	Election Day
Sylvia Brown	50	40%	2	29	19
Ava Harmon	75	60%	1	64	10
Totals	125	100%	3	93	29

#### SECTION 4

The Council finds that the results of the Runoff Election, as tabulated and canvassed, reflect the votes cast at those elections. Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Texas Local Government Code, Texas Election Code, and the City of Palestine, Texas Charter, the City Council officially finds and determines and declares the results of said election to be that:

- (1) District 2 Council Member: Ava Harmon is elected to a two-year term of office as District 2 Council Member by a majority vote of the qualified voters.

#### SECTION 5

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

#### SECTION 6

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage.

**PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Palestine, Texas, on the 13th day of June, 2025.

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MITCHELL  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
JORDAN

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
APRIL JACKSON  
CITY SECRETARY

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REZZIN PULLUM  
CITY ATTORNEY