

# CITY COUNCIL RECAP



April 21, 2026

## **City Council Members:**

Lew White - Mayor, Brad Westmoreland - At-Large, Taylor Burge - At-Large, Juan Mendoza - District 1, John Castillo - District 2, John Lairsen District 3, Jeffry Michelson- District 4.

A proclamation recognizing Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month, the City and LEDC annual financial audit, the quarterly Lockhart Freedom Act and investment report, the FY 2026-2027 budget and tax calendar, a Hotel Occupancy Tax project extension, utility and electric infrastructure improvement projects, and a future Indoor Recreation Center were addressed at the April 21 City Council meeting.

## **Proclamation**

Mayor White presented a proclamation declaring April 2026 as Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month.



**City of Lockhart & Lockhart Economic Development Corporation's (LEDC) FY 2024-2025 Annual Financial Audit and Comprehensive Financial Report**

City Council received a presentation from BrooksWatson and Company, the City's independent external auditor, regarding the FY 2024-25 annual financial audit for both the City and the Lockhart Economic Development Corporation (LEDC). The firm issued an unmodified (clean) opinion, meaning the auditors found the financial statements to be accurate, complete, and prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, with no material misstatements identified.

The City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), a detailed report that includes audited financial statements, management analysis, and additional financial and statistical information beyond basic audit requirements, for FY 2024–25 will be submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to determine eligibility for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The City has been awarded this Certificate from the GFOA for six consecutive years.

#### **Lockhart Freedom Act**

City Council received the first quarterly report for 2026 related to implementation of the Lockhart Freedom Act. The report summarized Lockhart Police Department enforcement activity for low-level marijuana offenses, including arrest and citation totals, estimated personnel time, and demographic data. The quarterly reporting requirement supports transparency and ongoing evaluation of enforcement practices.

#### **Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2026 Investment Report**

Council accepted the Second Quarter Investment Report of Fiscal Year 2026, which provides a summary of the City's interest earnings from invested cash balances held in authorized local government investment pools in compliance with the Texas Public Funds Investment Act and the City's adopted Investment Policy.

#### **Preliminary Budget and Tax Calendar for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

Council accepted the Preliminary Budget and Tax Calendar for FY 2026-2027 to provide dedicated workshops for Council to review and discuss the City Manager's FY 2026-2027 Proposed Budget.

#### **Gaslight-Baker Theater HOT Funding Agreement Extension**

Council approved an agreement extending the completion deadline to September 30, 2026, for the Gaslight-Baker Theater's Fiscal Year 2025 Hotel Occupancy Tax-funded building restoration and repainting project.

#### **Utility Meter Reading Base Station Replacement**

Council approved the purchase of a new utility meter reading base station located at the Wichita Water Tower to improve reliability and efficiency for electric and water meter

readings. The replacement will restore consistent automated meter readings and reduce the need for staff to manually collect readings for several hundred utility accounts.

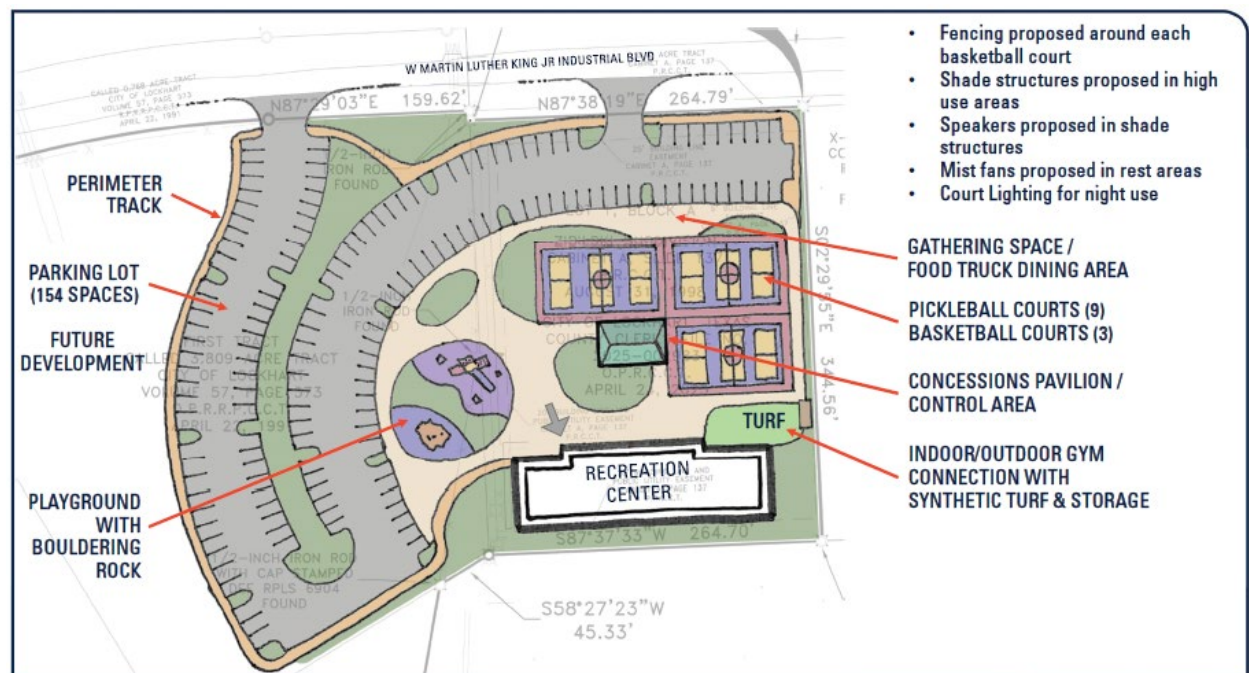
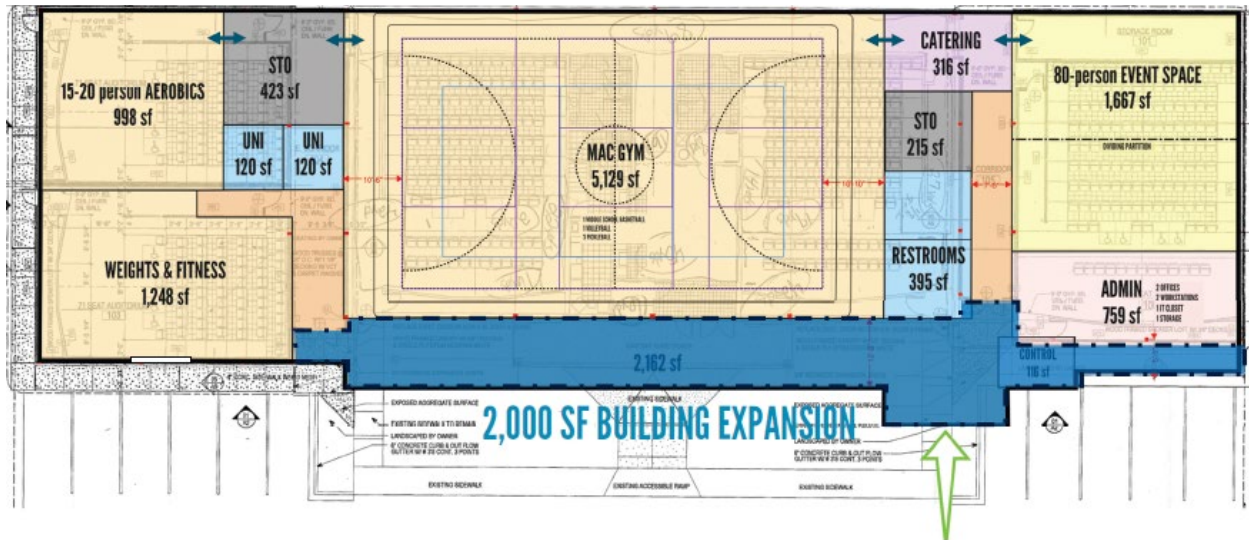
### **Project Ice House Phase 1 Electric System Improvements**

Council approved Phase 1 of Project Ice House, a high-voltage electric system rehabilitation project to upgrade existing overhead primary conductors on the LK20 feeder located east of US 183 between West China Street and FM 20. The project includes larger-capacity power lines and new equipment intended to improve electric system reliability and performance.

### **Indoor Recreation Center Feasibility Study and Theater Renovation Concept Approved**

Council received the results of the Indoor Recreation Center Feasibility Study and approved the theater renovation concept as the preferred path forward to provide a more immediate and flexible indoor recreation facility for the community, while preserving the opportunity for a larger multi-phase recreation center adjacent to the Aquatics Center in the future. The approved concept would convert the Old Town Movie Theater, located at 120 W MLK Jr Industrial Blvd, into a recreation and community facility designed to support indoor and outdoor programming, fitness activities, youth and adult recreation, and special events. The proposed facility would include approximately 13,800 square feet of indoor space with an estimated project cost of approximately \$12 million.

The feasibility study was prepared by Barker-Rinker-Seacat (BRS) and included community surveys, stakeholder workshops, and Steering Committee input gathered over several months. A total of 467 community responses were received, with approximately 84% indicating that an indoor recreation center is very important to the community. Funding for the project is anticipated through a future 2026 Certificate of Obligation issuance, with final design, construction documents, and bidding to return to City Council at a later date for consideration.



**THEATER RECREATION CENTER - CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN** halff

### City Manager's Report

#### Kiwanis 5K Stampede scheduled for April 25.

The 2026 Lockhart Kiwanis 5K Stampede and 1K Fun Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2026, at First Lockhart Baptist Church (315 W. Prairie Lea St., Lockhart, TX). The event features a fast, flat road course for runners and walkers, with the Kids Fun Run

starting at 7:40 AM and the 5K at 8:00 AM.

**Lockhart Cinco de Mayo event May 1 - 2.**

The 2026 Lockhart Cinco de Mayo celebration, hosted by the Greater Caldwell County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, features a two-day event in downtown Lockhart, TX, on Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2. Highlights include a 5K/10K run, live Tejano/country music, food vendors, and a community festival.

**LCRA Steps Forward volunteer program at Lions Park**

LCRA's 2026 Steps Forward Day took place on April 10, with over 750 employees completing more than 45 community improvement projects across Texas. As part of the program, LCRA volunteers and the Parks and Recreation Department Installed landscaping and split-rail fencing at Brock Cabin in Lions Park.

**Lockhart special election District 2**

Reminder: Election Day for the special runoff election administered by the Caldwell County Elections Administrator is May 2, 2026. The election is being held to fill the vacant District 2 seat on the Lockhart City Council following the constitutional resignation of Councilmember John Castillo.

ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACE 7:00 AM -7:00 PM

Lockhart ISD - Adam's Gym located at 419 Bois'D Arc St, Lockhart, TX

***ATTENTION:*** *This is a recap of the highlights of action taken at the April 21, 2026 Council meeting. The complete agenda can be found by visiting: [City of Lockhart, TX \(lockhart-tx.org\)](http://CityofLockhart,TX(lockhart-tx.org)).*

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