

CITY COUNCIL:  
MAYOR ZINDA McDANIEL  
MAYOR PRO TEM LULA SMART  
COUNCIL MEMBER KECHIA HARRISON  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROBBY CHRISTIAN  
COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER COLE



CITY OFFICIALS:  
CITY MANAGER WILLIE BURNS  
INTERIM CITY CLERK HEIDI GARDNER  
ATTORNEY KARLA WALKER  
CHIEF OF POLICE LAWRENCE McGEE  
FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY GUARINO

QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday January 6, 2026  
6:30 PM

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Zinda McDaniel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Those present Councilmen Keicha Harrison, Robby Christian, and Christopher Cole. Also present were Calvin Troy, and Interim City Clerk Heidi Gardner.

**II. INVOCATION**

Mayor called on Pastor Tenary to give the invocation.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor McDaniel led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor welcomed Councilmen Robby Christion

**IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes were not approved, due to new Councilmembers just taking seats. Mayor stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Smart will look at them and approve because she was at the last meeting. They will be re-visited later.

**V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mayor McDaniel called for adoption of agenda. Councilman Harrison made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Christian, all in favor. Motion passed.

**VI. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM 2026**

Mayor elected to re-elect Lula Smart as Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor elected to exercise her rights according to the charter to appoint without a vote. Councilman Harrison stated that it will be re-visited.

**VII. MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor spoke about late fees for senior citizens. Stated that we are waiving the late fees for seniors. They are averaging an estimate of \$3,000.00 per year. Mayor added, we are moving forward with the audit. According to the city's CPA, Doree Henry, we are moving into 2020 and will be moving to 2021 shortly. The Mayor also made an announcement of the upcoming work session meeting on January 8, 2026. Announcement was made about

Representative John Lahood coming to talk about some things going on in our community, accounting firm, Doree Henry coming to talk about the audit, GMA representative Emily Davenport to talk about GMA, MGAG-Mike Hudson to talk about gas, ECG-Gary Ballard to talk about electric, Development Authority-Jerome Tucker to talk about the new things that we have going on in the city. Mayor also encouraged the citizens to attend the meeting. Mayor spoke about the forensic audit and stated that it was given over to the Sheriff's department, and they turned it over to another agency for investigation.

### **VIII. CITY MANAGERS REPORT**

Mr. Burns stated that he concurred with the Mayor and spoke about a pending check from FEMA in the amount of an estimated \$500,000.00

### **IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Amy Drew had a question regarding what the problem with was appointing the Mayor Pro-Tem and why was the audit turned over for investigation Councilman Harris responded. Mayor McDaniel stated that she was advised that she could not speak about it at this time. Brian Law from Brooks County High School spoke about an upcoming career fair on February 26, 2026 and passed out invites to share with the community that has a business that would like to attend. Brian also thanked Mr. Burns for attending their state review and representing the City and Brooks County. Mr. James Lawrence had questions about the current audit and if any audits have been submitted for 2018. The Mayor responded no and advised that none of the audits have been submitted until we have all of them completed. Mr. James also inquired if the records that have been reconciled up to 2020 subject to open records request. Attorney Walker responded to Mr. Lawrence's questions. Drew Wade spoke about concerns regarding ground upkeep. Mr. Burns responded and stated that the public works crews were currently working replacing street signs and cleaning out ditches throughout the city. A citizen thanked the city for putting speed bumps on her street. Emily Davenport from GMA introduced herself to the public and new council members

### **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

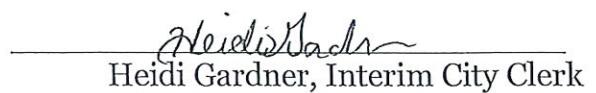
Time began 7:11pm Time End 8:05pm

Attorney Walker made an announcement that effective immediately, Mr. Burns was suspended with pay pending investigation and Calvin Troy was appointed as interim City Manager. The council voted to not appoint the other elected positions until interviews were conducted.

**XI. ADJOURN**



Zinda McDaniel, Mayor



Heidi Gardner, Interim City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: 2/4/26