

**CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PLANNING SESSION
JULY 25-26, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Carrollton, Texas convened in a Special Planning Session on Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26, 2025 with the following members present: Mayor Steve Babick, Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Axberg, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Daisy Palomo, Councilmembers Richard Fleming, Nancy Cline, Jason Carpenter, Andrew Palacios, and Rowena Watters. Also present were City Manager Erin Rinehart, Assistant City Manager Chrystal Davis, Assistant City Manager Shannon Hicks, City Attorney Meredith Ladd and City Secretary Chloe Sawatzky.

**FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025
9:00 A.M. – CROSBY RECREATION CENTER – TRINITY ROOM**

1. Receive Information And Discuss Agenda.

Mayor Babick called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

2. Receive Staff Update On 2024-2025 Accomplishments.

City Manager Erin Rinehart presented a comprehensive summary of departmental accomplishments, highlighting a 29-page report. The Mayor and City Council expressed appreciation for the work completed, offering positive feedback and individual remarks.

3. Receive Presentation On Departmental Strategic Goals And Performance.

Krystle Boise, Strategic Services Director, reviewed the City's strategic planning platform, Cascade, and provided an overview of strategic business plans and progress related to managed competition. Councilmember Fleming inquired about how the effectiveness of these efforts is being measured.

4. Receive Update On Budget Forecast.

Chief Financial Officer Diana Vaughn presented the City's budget outlook, reviewing current and projected financial trends.

5. Receive Presentation On Addition To Base Requests From Various Departments.

An infrastructure update was given, showcasing the current state of streets and alleys throughout the City.

Staff presented Addition To Base (ATB) requests. Councilmembers engaged with questions throughout the discussion.

During the Parks Department ATB presentation, an update on the Parks Amenity Fund was given, and there was specific discussion around the TC Rice site.

6. Receive Update On 2026 Bond Election.

CFO Diana Vaughn provided an update on the planning and timelines for the upcoming 2026 bond election.

7. Receive Development Updates.

Ravi Shah, Executive Director of Development, presented current and upcoming development projects across the City, highlighting progress and opportunities in various districts.

8. Receive Presentation On 2040 Vision Plan And Discuss.

This item was moved to Saturday.

9. Discuss Public Forum.

City Attorney Meredith Ladd led a discussion on public forum practices and the legal framework for managing public speaking during Council meetings. It was emphasized that the City has no intent to limit public participation, and the discussion centered on maintaining professionalism and decorum, as Council meetings are considered official business sessions.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00pm following the final discussion. Day 2 resumed on Saturday with the remaining agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Babick convened the meeting at approximately 5:00pm.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025

8:30A.M. – CROSBY RECREATION CENTER – TRINITY ROOM

1. Receive Information And Discuss Previous Day's Results.

Facilitator Patrick Ibarra with the Mejorando Group welcomed everyone and reflected on the importance of the previous day's discussions. He provided an overview of the day's agenda and encouraged continued strategic dialogue.

Chloe Sawatzky, City Secretary, presented the 2040 Vision Plan, which was developed through extensive community engagement and citizen feedback. The plan outlines long-term strategic initiatives for the next 15 years. It was noted that the Vision Plan will be formally presented for City Council consideration at the next regular Council meeting.

2. Discuss Trends Impacting Roles of Government.

Patrick Ibarra led a group discussion on major trends shaping the evolving role of local government. Topics included artificial intelligence (AI), cost of living, job market diversification, housing trends, shifts in the business landscape, and the role of public education. Council discussed how these trends may influence policy, planning, and service delivery in the coming years.

3. Discuss Council's Goals And Vision.

The Council reaffirmed its overarching goals and vision, emphasizing the importance of continuity and alignment with community values. The conversation served to solidify shared direction among Council members moving forward.

4. Discuss Council Initiatives Relating To Citywide Vision And Planning Strategies.

Each Councilmember shared individual priorities and areas of interest:

- Mayor Pro Tem Axberg expressed interest in the City's strategic use of AI.
- Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Palomo emphasized the importance of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Councilmember Fleming discussed honoring the legacy of the historic Black cemetery.
- Councilmember Watters expressed a desire for increased engagement with small businesses.
- Councilmember Carpenter reaffirmed a strong focus on economic development.
- Councilmember Cline raised interest in the DART-owned train depot and concerns about drainage infrastructure.
- Councilmember Palacios emphasized the importance of continuing intentional master planning, innovation in core services, and a focus on public safety.

Councilmembers engaged in an open discussion around these initiatives. Mayor Babick voiced an interest in reviewing previously established Council priorities to assess their current relevance and applicability.

5. Review Next Steps And Share Final Thoughts.

Councilmembers provided positive feedback on the overall retreat experience, noting the productivity of the discussions and the value of taking time to reflect on both challenges and opportunities facing the City.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Babick adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00pm.

ATTEST:

Chloe Sawatzky, City Secretary

Steve Babick, Mayor