

Known duly elected mayors of the City of Hutto from 1911 to present

By Mike Fowler
Updated June 26, 2025

What we do know about the mayors of Hutto at least starts in the beginning with the 1911 incorporation of the City of Hutto and our first mayor, Willis D. Holman. There are many unaccounted for records, missing photographs, forgotten facts, many blanks to be filled in, and a number of questions that may never be answered about the past with more than a century of mayors elected to serve our city. It has been said that one city secretary burned the earlier city records in the 1950's as he was not happy with the newly elected mayor and new city secretary. Reclaiming one's history ... when lost, stolen, or strayed can simply be overwhelming.

Back in 2001 to 2004, while I was mayor, I did my best to personally complete a small historical preservation project for the city... and we did. At the time I wrote: "The purpose of this project is to provide a level of visible history about the Hutto community and its heritage within city hall." I researched and wrote the captioning on all of the maps and photographs that I had reproduced on canvas and provided to then Assistant City Manager Joni Clarke for framing and installation. The project consisted of pictures of then known mayors, installation of the old Farmer's & Merchants State Bank teller cage in the then new city hall on Front Street, preservation of the 1911 incorporation map of Hutto, photos of the previous city halls, and dozens of Hutto historic and related photos along with the 1954 map of the City of Hutto, all reproduced on canvas. Collectively, they really looked good!

I am now expanding upon this research and continued research to provide our community with more information on the mayors of Hutto and a series of other community history projects. I intend to do more and richer research into our past. I also hope to also strongly encourage all of our city staff to take ownership of their particular history in order to better understand their own specific areas of interest and to have concerned individuals dwell into our past histories. Researching and documenting our city management, city clerks/secretaries, law enforcement, our public works, parks, and other areas of our community and its government are very important if we are to preserve our history. So far of the local entities, the Hutto Police Department and Hutto Fire Rescue have done the best job with assistance of preserving their interesting histories.

Below are photographs, names and information about 23 known duly elected mayors of the City of Hutto. This is by no means a complete list of mayors of Hutto and a number of mayors and their photographs are not included herein as they are currently not in my possession. Partial hints are out there via the Texas State Library and Archives, *the Portal to Texas History*, the Texas Secretary of State official records, the Williamson County Historical Commission, local area newspaper archives, obituaries, *find a grave*, genealogy sites, and other creative sources. I am hopeful that through further research much more information and in some cases more and better pictures will emerge and become available on all of the duly elected mayors of Hutto. I also have some additional knowledge, information and pictures that are not included herein.



Photo credit: Holman family collection

Willis Dandridge Holman

1911 to

Willis Holman was a stockman and cotton buyer. Willis D. Holman was the first elected mayor of the City of Hutto in 1911 after its incorporation. The city clerk at the time of incorporation was C. E. Lockett. Willis D. Holman was also postmaster of Hutto from January 15, 1916 until June of 1924. Willis Holman was born of German paternal heritage on July 17, 1859 and he died on January 21, 1943. Willis Holman is buried beside his wife, Polly Annis Holman, in the family plot in Hutto Cemetery. Holman and his wife had three children: Annabel Holman Johnson, Jim Higgins Holman, and Alta L. Holman Holland.

Photo credit: None

Travis Johnson

1916 to 1920

Travis Johnson of Swedish heritage was the mayor of Hutto from 1916 to 1920. As verified by Charles E. "Charlie" Hanstrom

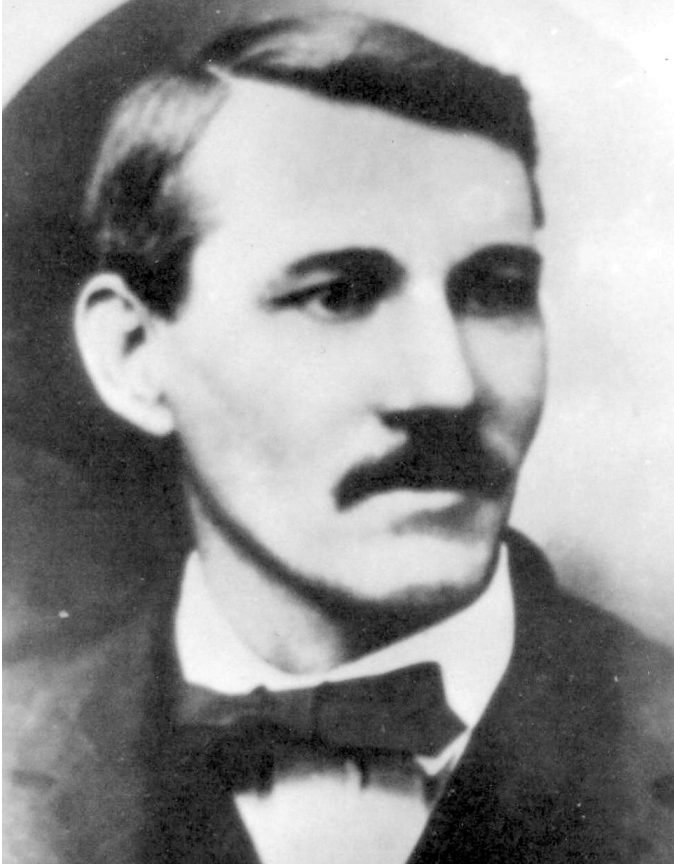


Photo credit: Flinn family collection

Thomas Henry Flinn

Served from 1920 to 1923

Thomas Henry Flinn was born on February 4, 1865. Thomas Flinn was a farmer, businessman, newspaperman, printer, teacher and part owner with his brother, George, in a Hutto Drugstore. Most of his life he was afflicted with poor health. Thomas H. Flinn was married to Eldora Mae Kimmons, who was six years younger than him and they had two sons. Thomas H. Flinn was also elected and served as the Williamson County Clerk from December 1, 1903 until he retired in 1912 after completing four full terms. Thomas H. Flinn actually filed and signed the documents for the incorporation of the City of Hutto on April 29, 1911 in his official capacity of Williamson County Clerk. Thomas H. Flinn was also a long-time member of the Hutto Methodist Church. Thomas H. Flinn served as mayor of the City of Hutto from 1920 to 1923 when he moved to Austin. Flinn died on October 22, 1930 at age 65 and is buried in Hutto Cemetery. His obituary stated: "Mr. Flinn was popular with the people wherever he lived, and was a keen business man and made an outstanding success in life."



Photo credit: Courtesy Hugh S. Davenport Sr. collection

Sidney T. "Sid" Miller
Served in the late 1920's

Sidney T. "Sid" Miller was a business owner on East Street with Miller Brothers, a men's store and grocery store and while mayor lived at 105 West Live Oak Street with his wife, Mae in their craftsman style home. This home that then belonged to Lee Tallier, an area law enforcement officer, burned to the ground in the early 1980's. Sidney Miller was born in 1890 and died in 1952; Mae was born in 1891 to Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hutto, a grandson of the namesake of the city. Lillie "Mae" Hutto Miller died in 1970 and she is buried by her husband in the Hutto Cemetery.



Photo credit: Courtesy Hugh S. Davenport Sr. collection

Charles “Pete” Johnson

Served in the 1930’s

Charles “Pete” Johnson was a grocery store co-owner with another partner named Johnson, although they were not related. Charles “Pete” Johnson was later in the insurance business. During one period, an alligator lived in the basement of their grocery store.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Herbert Eugene "Gene" Gainer
Served beginning circa 1937

Herbert Eugene "Gene" Gainer served as mayor beginning circa 1937. H. E. "Gene" Gainer was born on December 13, 1885 and upon death in 1978 was buried beside his wife, Ethel Johnson Gainer, in the Hutto Cemetery. The Gainers had two daughters and two sons.

Photo credit: None

John Albert Highsmith

Served as mayor in the early 1940's

John Albert Highsmith, born on September 3, 1897, graduated from Hutto High School in 1916 and later was a Hutto feed mill owner. John Albert was a grandson of Captain Henry Albert Highsmith Sr., born in Bastrop in 1843 and died in Hutto in 1930, who had been a Texas Ranger, fought in the Civil War and was involved in the capture and death of outlaw Sam Bass. John Albert Highsmith was married to Johnnie Pearl Prewit Highsmith. John Albert Highsmith died on April 24, 1958 at age 60 and he and his wife are buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Georgetown, Texas.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Roy L. Anderson

Served from 1948 to 1954

Roy L. Anderson was an IGA (Independent Grocers Alliance) grocery store owner then located 109 East Street in Hutto. The telephone number was 7. Roy Anderson was born on September 13, 1900 and died on January 20, 1976 and is buried at the Palm Valley Lutheran Cemetery next to his wife, Mamie. While Roy Anderson was mayor, he and his wife, Mamie, lived at 401 East Street. Theodore Pearson was his city clerk during this time and according to several sources burned the old historic city records.



Photo credit: Holman family collection

Jim Higgins Holman

Served from April 1954 to April 1958

Jim H. Holman was a principal in a farming partnership and was the son of the first mayor of the City of Hutto, Willis D. Holman. During a school assembly as a young student in 1927, Jim Holman is said to have made a motion to name the school mascot ... the hippo. Jim Higgins Holman graduated from Hutto High School in 1931. While mayor, Jim Holman assisted in the acquisition of the Hutto water works from the Hanstrom family and with installation of the first sewer system for Hutto spearheaded by Hutto I.S.D. Superintendent Noel Grisham. Jim Holman was born on May 27, 1914; he died on December 2, 1971 and is buried in Hutto Cemetery. While mayor, Holman lived at 303 Main Street. Buddy "Elgene" Holmstrom was city clerk at this time. Willis D. Holman and Jim H. Holman are the only father and son to have been elected as mayors of Hutto.



Photo credit: Newspaper article in the Alamo archives

John W. “Pap” Moore

April 8, 1958 to April 1960

John W. “Pap” Moore was the last railroad depot agent in Hutto. While mayor, John W. “Pap” Moore lived at 107 West Street, not far from where the third and final railroad depot was then located. Marie Nelson Blackman began her service as his city secretary/clerk in 1959 when Pap Moore was mayor.

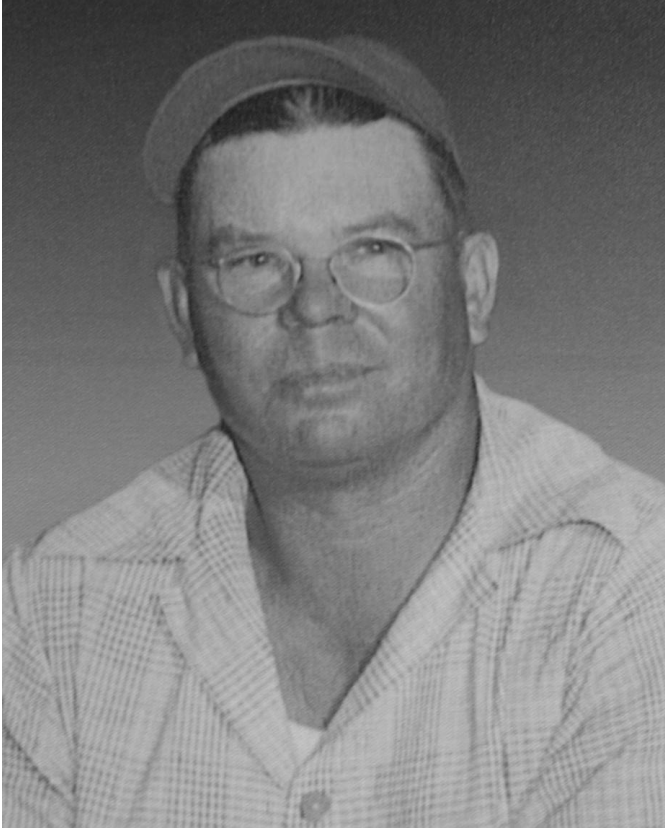


Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Jack Blackman

April 1960 to December 1960

Jack Blackman, born in 1900 was a local businessman as a garage/service station owner and an avid baseball player/coach. Jack Blackman died while in office in December of 1960 and is buried in Hutto Cemetery. While mayor, Jack Blackman and his wife, Elsie Maude *Nelson* Blackman lived at 205 FM 1660 South.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Carl Stern

April 12, 1961 to April 7, 1970

Carl Stern was born on July 19, 1922 to Charles and Lydia Stern. Carl had no middle name. Carl was a life-long resident of Hutto. During World War II he served his country in the United States Army Air Corp. While stationed in Illinois, Carl met Lois Zehner, and after exchanging letters for several months they were married on October 22, 1949. Carl worked as an engineer at television station KTBC for nearly 40 years. In addition to his job in Austin, almost every evening Carl would come home and work into the night, and on weekends, repairing televisions and radios as a side-job. Carl was a very meticulous and quiet man, but when he spoke people listened recognizing his wisdom and enjoying his humor. He was a devoted member of Hutto Lutheran Church. He served on the church council, was church financial secretary for many years, made sure the clock was wound for each service, and rang the bell for church services and other special occasions. Carl gave much of his time to the City of Hutto serving for 41 years as mayor, a member of the city council and Chief Financial Advisor. Carl Stern continued to serve Hutto in a variety of ways until his death on September 17, 2006 and is buried at Hutto Lutheran Cemetery. While mayor, Carl and his wife Lois lived at 403 East Street. They had four children, Mary Ann, Bob, Dan, and John.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Edmund G. "Ed" Schmidt

April 7, 1970 to May 1990

Edmund Schmidt served in the United States Army during World War II. Edmund and his wife Julia owned and operated a grocery store and custom meat market. Edmund Schmidt was the longest serving mayor of the City of Hutto and was undefeated during his city service. Ed and Julia lived at 305 Taylor Street during his service as mayor. Marie Nelson Blackman served as city secretary/clerk until 1972. Mert Hackett, a retired California Fire Chief, served as city secretary/clerk from 1972 to 1978 and Mary Mager served for seventeen years as city secretary from 1978 to 1995. After many more years of additional service to his community, Edmund Schmidt died on February 21, 2011 at 89 and is buried next to his wife, Julia at Hutto Lutheran Cemetery. The Schmidt's had two sons, Dennis and David, and two daughters, Jennifer and Corliss.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Jeffery Bruce “Jeff” Phillips

May 1990 to May 1994

Jeff Phillips served as an enlisted airman in the United States Air Force. While mayor, Jeff Phillips operated a landscape business and later a small grocery store/meat market at 101 East Street. Mayor Phillips served two terms. Mayor Phillips helped with an East Street improvement project, bridge and street improvements on Mager Lane, and assisted with the acquisition of the old Taylor Banc Savings building that was later utilized as city hall. Jeff Phillips had a beard the entire time he was mayor. While mayor, Jeff and wife, Deborah Phillips and their daughter lived at 608 FM 1660 North.

Picture of Mike Yuhr on file with the City of Hutto

Michael Eugene “Mike” Yuhr May 1994 to May 1996

While mayor, Mike Yuhr was a State of Texas employee with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and served one term as Mayor of the City of Hutto. While mayor, Mike and his wife, Jackie, resided at 109 East Street in historic downtown Hutto. Michael “Mike” Eugene Yuhr was born in Houston, Texas on September 8, 1949 and died in Seton Hospital on February 19, 2015 at age 65 after suffering from cardiac arrest. Mike was 65 years old. On the evening of February 19, 2015, he passed away at Seton Hospital in Round Rock, Texas. Mike spent much of his childhood living in various parts of the United States as the son of an Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. In 1967, Mike graduated from Dell City High School in Oklahoma and then matriculated to the University of Oklahoma where he spent a year studying. Mike spent many years in Houston, Texas working for the City of Houston. Mike eventually moved to Hutto, Texas after Mike obtained a position working for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

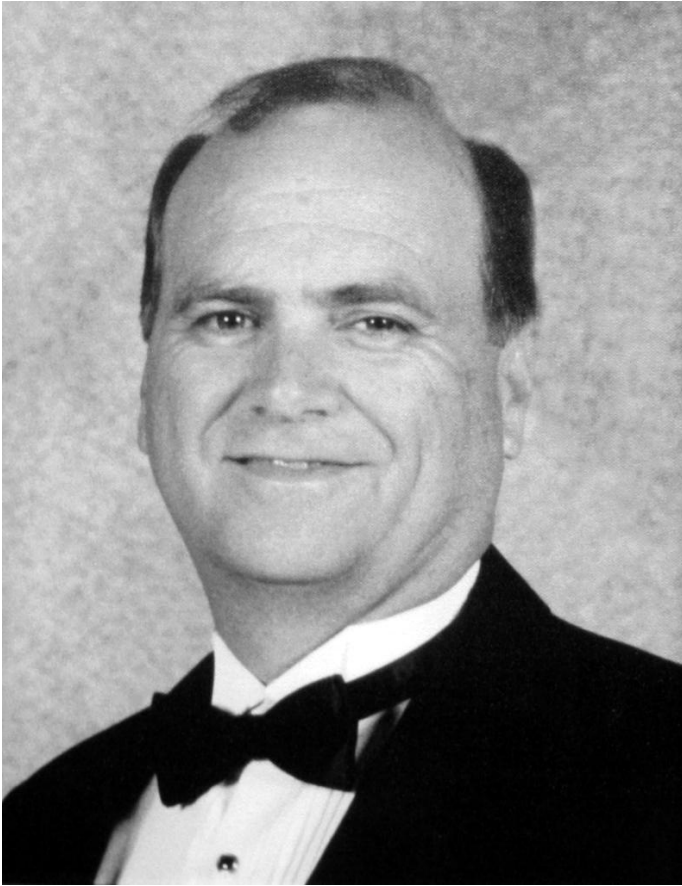


Photo credit: Courtesy of Glen Pierce collection

Glen Dale “Glen” Pierce

May 1996 to January 2001

While mayor, Glen Pierce was owner of a local manufacturing business, PICO. Mayor Pierce resigned in his third term due to health and family concerns after breaking his back in a jet ski accident on the Texas coast. Mayor Pierce was involved in improving Mager Lane via intergovernmental agreement with Williamson County, numerous annexations and helping to bring Covert Autoplex into the city limits. While mayor, Glen Pierce and wife, Jacki, their son Jimmy and daughter Jennifer lived at 208 East Live Oak Street.



Photo credit: Mike Fowler personal collection

Robert Michael “Mike” Fowler January 2001 to May 2004

While mayor, Mike Fowler was a State of Texas employee with the Texas Department of Transportation in legislative affairs and a licensed real estate broker. He was first appointed as mayor in January 2001 by the City Council, elected in May 2001 to fill an unexpired term and reelected in May 2002 and served until his term end in May 2004. Mike Fowler was known as being a pro Hutto, pro growth and pro hippo mayor. During his terms, Mayor Fowler helped with an “old town” street improvement project, building of three new water towers and securing a long term water source, bringing State Highway 130 to Hutto, building a new city hall on Front Street, and dedicating Fritz Park, the first park in Hutto. Mike has spent the majority of his adult life attempting to make Hutto a better place to live. Mike and Donna were and are long-time members of Hutto Lutheran Church. While mayor, Mike Fowler and his wife, Donna, and their two children, Emily and Luke, lived at 108 West Live Oak Street and still do.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Michael Alex “Mike” Ackerman

May 2004 to May 2006

While mayor, Mike Ackerman was a City of Round Rock employee. Mike Ackerman was elected unopposed and served one term as mayor. Elected at age 27, Mike Ackerman is the youngest mayor known to have been elected to this office. Mayor Ackerman made very strong, albeit unsuccessful, efforts to bring H.E.B. to Hutto. He also was involved in the hiring of a new city manager, police chief and finance manager. While mayor, Mike Ackerman and his wife, Maren, their two sons Mickie and Major, lived at 304 Willowbrook Drive.

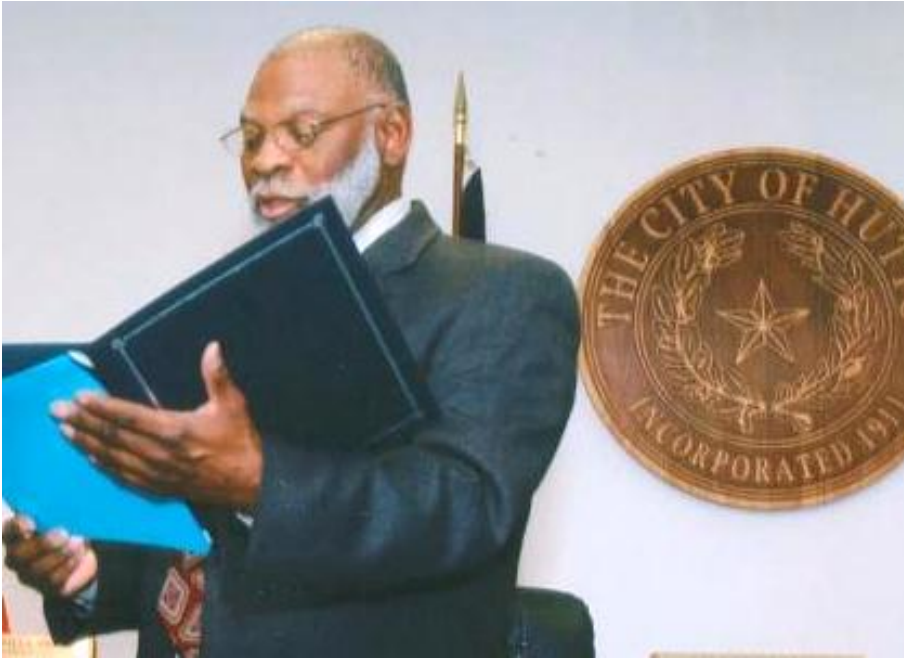


Photo credit: Courtesy of Mike Fowler collection

Kenneth Lee “Ken” Love

May 2006 to May 2009

Ken Love was a retired United States Air Force Officer and while mayor worked as the security officer for St. Stephens school in Austin. Some accomplishments while mayor were his strong support of city public library, adoption of parks, trails and open spaces master plan; awarded grant funds for the development of Hutto Lake Park; city bond rating upgraded; new city website developed; started city curbside recycling program and creation of the City of Hutto Organizational Development Plan. Mayor Love resigned due to health issues after suffering a heart attack and undergoing quadruple bypass surgery. Ken Love was the first Black and first Muslim mayor of the City of Hutto. While mayor, Ken Love and his wife Patricia “Pat” lived at 122 Edison Street.



Photo Credit: City of Hutto

David “David” Felix Begier

May 2009 to March 2011

David Felix Begier was born on June 7, 1941 and on March 3, 2011, Mayor Begier died while in office from complications related to heart bypass surgery. He is buried at St. John’s Cemetery in Georgetown. David Begier served in the United States Air Force. David was a retired information technology Manager for Quintus Corporation and also had worked for Texas Instruments in Austin. David was initially elected as mayor in May of 2009, filling the unexpired seat of Mayor Ken Love. David Begier was again elected as mayor in May of 2010 for a full three-year term. He was single at the time of his death. While mayor, David Begier lived at 112 Brooke Street.



Photo Credit: City of Hutto

Deborah D. “Debbie” Holland
March 2011 to May of 2017

While mayor, Debbie Holland was also the office manager in a family psychotherapy practice. She is the first female mayor of the City of Hutto. While mayor, bonds for construction of capital projects such as Hutto Family YMCA, Mager Lane, FM 1660 S sidewalk project were issued. Also implemented single stream recycling, ordered and distributed 6,000 recycling carts to citizens and Constructed Hutto entry-way sign using Governor’s Achievement Award grant funding awarded to Keep Hutto Beautiful Commission. City completed Wastewater Master Plan and Public Library’s Master Plan. The Holland’s have two daughters. While mayor, Debbie Holland and her husband, Charles, lived at 104 Hutto Street and still do.



Doug Gaul (Stock photograph)

Douglas L. “Doug” Gaul

May of 2017 to November 5, 2020

Doug Gaul was a former Hutto Independent School District board member and past President of the School Board. Doug Gaul served for three and a half years as mayor of the City of Hutto until his resignation on November 5, 2020. Former mayor Doug Gaul is a local Farmers insurance agent with 25 years of insurance experience and was a long-time resident of Hutto. Doug Gaul was born on August 20, 1962. Mayor Gaul’s accomplishments that he assisted with were as follows: Completed construction of new City Hall, started construction of Co-op development, acquired land for Adam Orgain Park, construction of Amphitheater at Adam Orgain Park, completed upgrades and improvements to Hutto Community Park, approved and completed upgrades to the baseball and football field at Fritz park, approved industrial park in City of Hutto, and purchased water system.



Photo Credit: City of Hutto

Mike Snyder **May 2021 to present**

Mike Snyder, the current Mayor of Hutto has lived in Hutto since 2017, was elected to the City Council in May 2019 and to his position as Mayor in March 2021, and again in May of 2025. His election platform focused on integrity, transparency, ethics, and putting the Hutto community first in City decision making. Since studying economics and business management at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Mayor Snyder established a successful career as a real estate developer. He worked his way up in the QuikTrip convenience store company, serving as QuikTrip's Austin-area real estate manager since 2017. His strengths that serve him well both at work and in municipal leadership include relationship building, contract negotiations, financial analysis, data modeling, and strategic planning. (Information from the City of Hutto website.)



Photograph taken on February 26, 2006 of five of the past Mayors of Hutto. Shown left to right are: Mike Fowler (Mayor from 2001 to 2004 with a total of twenty-five years of elected service to the City of Hutto); Carl Stern (Mayor from 1961 to 1970, also was a Councilman and the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Hutto who provided over forty years of total service to the City of Hutto); Ed Schmidt (Mayor from 1970 to 1990, longest serving Mayor in the history of Hutto who also served an additional nine years as a City Councilman); Mike Ackerman (Mayor from 2004 to 2006) and Ken Love (Mayor 2006 to 2009 and was the first Black Mayor of the City of Hutto). This picture was taken in the Hutto Lutheran Church fellowship hall following the dedication of the State of Texas Historical Marker program by Donna Fowler for the Hutto Lutheran Cemetery. (Photograph courtesy of Mike Fowler Collection)

From one source I have also heard that it is possible that a Hutto man named Eulenfeld may have also served as mayor of Hutto and probable that other people were also duly elected as mayor. More information can be found through the obituaries and genealogies of all deceased mayors if these records exist. As previously stated, there are hints are out there via the Texas State Library and Archives, *the Portal to Texas History*, the Texas Secretary of State official records, the Williamson County Historical Commission, local area newspaper archives, obituaries, *Find A Grave*, genealogy sites, and other creative sources. Have fun time unearthing the other mayors of Hutto! I am confident that more information, accomplishments, pictures and even more names of unknown City of Hutto mayors serving in our past will be found. Should you have any documentation on Hutto's history please contact me as I'd love to review it.



About the Author:

Mike Fowler is a local historian and an author of The Capitol Story: Statehouse in Texas, Hutto Lutheran Church: A Century of Community Faith, Images of America: Hutto, and other books and publications. Mike is also a retired State of Texas employee with twenty-five years' service who also elected and served for twenty-five years as Councilman and Mayor of the City of Hutto. Mike is known as the pro-growth "Hippo Mayor" who secured long-term water and purchased the Co-op site for the City of Hutto among many other pro-Hutto accomplishments. Selected by the Hutto Chamber of Commerce as "Hutto Citizen of the Year" in 2006-2007. He is a strong advocate for Hutto Old Town (HOT) and our entire community. Mike is also a licensed real estate broker and owns TEX US Real Estate and has a degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2025 Mike Fowler was voted by the community via iHutto as the "Best Hutto Citizen". Mike can be reached by e-mail at mikefowlertexas@gmail.com or call him at 512-736-2000. This is original research by Mike Fowler and the information, illustrations, and photographs herein are for business, and public use provided that the information and materials are properly credited to all of the cited sources. Also be certain to properly credit these and any additional sources referenced in the above material.