

City Council
August 30, 2022

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas, on Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: David Hill, Mayor, Council Member Place 1
Chris Wright, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 3
Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2
Billie Wallace, Council Member Place 4
Travis Smith, Council Member Place 5

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager
Robert Brown, City Attorney
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor David Hill called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance

City Manager Michael Scott gave the invocation. Council Member Travis Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments

Barry Jacobs, 610 Kaufman, Waxahachie, Texas, spoke in opposition to rising taxes and requested City Council to decrease the rate to at least .61 cents to provide property tax relief to citizens.

Randy Donathan, 507 Farley, Waxahachie, Texas, spoke in opposition to rising tax appraisals and asked for a moratorium on growth in the City until there is adequate infrastructure. He recommended removing or reducing funding to new parks, sports complex, and salaries.

Mark Bielamowicz, 307 Seneca, Waxahachie, Texas, spoke in opposition to tax abatements due to direct conflicts with The Constitution.

Gary McKinney, 117 Acuba Lane, Waxahachie, Texas, spoke in opposition to the proposed property tax rate and asked for a reduction. Mr. McKinney expressed his concerns with growth in the City and the impact on infrastructure, especially streets and lack of thoroughfares.

Charles Whitaker, 214 Meagan Street, Waxahachie, Texas, spoke in opposition to the proposed tax rate.

5. Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2022-2023

Finance Director Chad Tustison reviewed the proposed tax rate at \$0.63000 per \$100 valuation, which is a three cent decrease from the current rate. He explained the rate provides for additional

funding for operating costs to keep pace with growth and to fund capital needs throughout the city. He explained \$0.40650 is for Operations and Maintenance (including Sims Library) and \$0.22350 is for Interest and Sinking. He noted the proposed rate exceeds the no-new-revenue rate of \$0.54083 but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate of \$0.63035.

Mayor Hill opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Those who spoke in opposition to the proposed \$0.63000 rate:

Ora Johnson, 203 S. Hill Street, Waxahachie, Texas
Johnny Bryant, 107 McKenzie, Waxahachie, Texas

There being no others to speak for or against the Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2022-2023, Mayor Hill closed the Public Hearing.

6. Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 and vote to set the date for adoption

Mr. Tustison presented the following FY 2023 proposed budget:

- General Fund \$60,088,570.00
- Waste Water Fund \$12,858,229.00
- Water Fund \$18,911,293.00
- Sokoll Fund \$6,719,809.00
- Waxahachie Community Development Corporation (WCDC) Fund \$6,749,250.00
- WCDC Debt Service Fund \$1,739,541.00
- General Debt Service Fund \$11,601,250.00
- Hotel/Motel Fund \$963,461.00
- Refuse Service Fund \$1,933,926.00
- Mid-Way Regional Airport Fund \$504,765.00
- Cemetery Fund \$309,734.00

Mr. Tustison explained the 9-month budget process begins in January with staff and departmental meetings. City Council held their first budget work shop in April where Council made recommendations to the proposed budget. After the second budget meeting in August, there were no additional changes to the budget. Mr. Tustison requested a vote to set the adoption date of the FY 23 tax rate and budget for Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Hill opened the Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.

There being no others to speak for or against the Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023, Mayor Hill closed the Public Hearing.

Action:

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright moved to set the date for adoption of the City of Waxahachie Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 and the Tax Rate at the City Council meeting of September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Patrick Souter seconded, the vote was as follows: Ayes: David Hill, Chris Wright, Patrick Souter, and Travis Smith. Noes: Billie Wallace.

The motion carried.

7. Comments by Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Manager

Council Member Travis Smith explained City Council is aware of the rising appraisals and with all the growth, the no new revenue rate is not sufficient; however, he is supportive of a lower tax rate. He reported City Council has been reviewing tangible relief options for tax payers. He explained tax rate caps are placed at the state level and encouraged citizens to contact their state representatives.

Council Member Billie Wallace explained the adoption date is set and she is not supportive of the proposed tax rate at \$.63000. She encouraged City Council to consider adopting a lower rate to provide relief to citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright expressed his dismay with the state representative issuing a general letter supporting the no new revenue rate. Mayor Pro Tem Wright explained City Council is listening to residents and discussing options to alleviate some of the tax burden on citizens. He encouraged citizens to attend the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee meetings that discuss future growth and the means to sustain new and existing infrastructure.

Council Member Patrick Souter explained he understands the burden of inflation on citizens and noted the City feels that burden as well. Mr. Souter echoed comments that City Council is reviewing ways to reduce the tax burden to citizens but noted growth and inflation have to be addressed.

Mayor David Hill explained the City Council will vote on the tax rate at the September 6th meeting considering the best interest of the City. He reported the tax rate has reduced over his 9-year tenure on City Council and the City must adjust to appraisals. Mayor Hill echoed sentiments that City Council is reviewing options to provide relief to citizens and thanked those in attendance.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary