

City Council
December 5, 2022

A regular 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 Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7:00 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: 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

Pastor Moses Akitwine, Heavenly Bridge Ministries, gave the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments

Waxahachie Police Officer Noelle Blain, and her shift of officers, expressed their gratitude to City Council for the Christmas bonus.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the City Council meeting of November 21, 2022
- b. Minutes of the City Council briefing of November 21, 2022
- c. Event application for The Heart of Revival to be held March 26-30, 2023 at Railyard Park
- d. Event application for Big Night in the City to be held April 29, 2023 at the Chautauqua
- e. Set City Council meetings of Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Action:

*Council Member Billie Wallace moved to approve items a. through e. on the Consent Agenda, noting the music for Item d. will stop by 11:00 p.m. Council Member Patrick Souter seconded, **All Ayes.***

6. Introduce Honorary Councilmember

Council Member Billie Wallace introduced Averii Hunter as the Honorary Councilmember for December and her mother, Wendy Johnson. Averii is a respectful and dedicated high school student with a demonstrated commitment to educational excellence, volunteerism, and plans to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas in Austin. Ms. Hunter is a senior at Life High School Waxahachie, ranked 8th out of 225 students in her class, academic honor roll, and in pursuit of Distinguished Level of Achievement in STEM. She is a recipient of the Lady Cougar of the Year Award, Life School Certificates of Achievement in Academics, Life School Certificate of Recognition: Critical Thinking, National Junior Honor Society Inductee, National Honor Society of Secondary Schools Inductee, National Honor Society of High School Scholars Inductee, and Congress of Future Medical Leaders Inductee. Her extracurricular activities include Texas Black Belt Academy-Camo Belt, Varsity Girls Golf-District 3 years, Mustang Mentor, and Mustang Sports Manager.

7. Consider approval of a three-year service contract with Unified ConneXions Inc. to provide the City with information technology managed services

Richard Abernethy, Executive Director of Administrative Services, reviewed Item 7 seeking approval of a three-year service contract with Unified ConneXions (UCX) Inc. to provide the City with information technology managed services for both the Police Department and City departments in the amount of \$924,768. He explained the contract will automatically renew for one-year terms unless the City or UCX provides 90 days advance notice prior to the end of the term. The total first year cost is \$296,400, the cost for years two and three will be \$314,184 each year, and the cost for any additional one-year terms will be negotiated at the time of the extension. This contract is being purchased through the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative.

Action:

Council Member Patrick Souter moved to approve a three-year service contract with Unified ConneXions, Inc. in the amount of \$924,768 to provide the City with information technology managed services and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary. Council Member Billie Wallace seconded, All Ayes.

8. Consider a construction bid award with LC Paving and Construction for the Bryson Street Water Main Rehab Project

David Bailey, Director of Utilities, reviewed Item 8 seeking approval of a construction bid award with LC Paving and Construction for the Bryson Street Water Main Rehab Project in the amount of \$1,065,989 and a \$53,000 (approximately 5%) construction contingency. He explained the project will replace the existing six (6) inch cast iron main with approximately 2300 linear feet of new eight (8) inch PVC water line within Bryson Street from W. Marvin to Sycamore. The project will include the new water main, fire hydrants, services, and street repair. He reported six competitive bids were received and LC Paving & Construction, LLC from Coolidge, Texas, was the lowest qualified bidder. City Staff and Engineer of Record reviewed the bids and references and recommended awarding the construction contract to LC Paving & Construction. Mr. Bailey noted the project is funded in the Utilities Capital Fund; however, the proposed bid award and construction contingency will be funded from the Water Fund and Water Bond Fund Savings.

Council Member Travis Smith asked if the City has worked with this vendor and Mr. Bailey noted the City of Waxahachie has not. Council Member Smith noted he spoke with a Commissioner in McClennan County and he did not have positive feedback regarding this vendor and noted they are not credited with the Better Business Bureau.

Mr. Bailey explained the City's engineering firm reviewed and contacted references from other cities and they received no negative feedback.

Council Member Wallace inquired about how the City oversees the project and Mr. Bailey explained City inspectors review the quality of work before deeming a project complete. He also noted there is a 2-year warranty on the project.

James Gaertner, Executive Director of Public Works and Engineering, explained City inspectors ensure all specifications are being followed and testing is done prior to connecting to the water system and prior to the project being deemed complete.

Council Member Smith expressed his support for due diligence noting his concern with the contractor's quality of work.

Council Member Patrick Souter inquired about checking references for comparable projects.

Mr. Bailey explained references were thoroughly evaluated for comparable projects completed by the contractor.

Deputy City Manager Albert Lawrence explained the City does not always recommend the lowest bid after thorough evaluation.

Action:

*Council Member Billie Wallace moved to approve a construction bid award to LC Paving & Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,065,989, as well as, a \$53,000 construction contingency, and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary. Council Member Patrick Souter seconded, **All Ayes.***

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

Council Member Billie Wallace thanked City employees for all their hard work in making the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting a successful event.

Deputy City Manager Albert Lawrence echoed Council Member Wallace's sentiments noting it is a team effort and the commitment from staff is very much appreciated.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright thanked Averii Hunter for her attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Wright thanked staff for working late after the parade to clean up. Mr. Wright encouraged the public to contact City Council directly with complaints or concerns as opposed to posting in groups on social media. He thanked staff for responding to and addressing a traffic concern on Thanksgiving weekend.

Council Member Patrick Souter welcomed Averii Hunter and recognized her accomplishments. Council Member Souter echoed positive comments regarding staff and parade efforts. Mr. Souter explained he requested the music conclude by 11:00 p.m. for the Big Night in the City event to be held April 29, 2023 at the Chautauqua so not to disturb residents in the area. He thanked the Police Officers for their attendance at the meeting and expressed his appreciation to first responders.

City Attorney Robert Brown thanked Averii Hunter and her mother for their attendance at the Council meeting.

Averii Hunter thanked Council Member Billie Wallace and City Council for allowing her to participate as Honorary Council Member.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary