

City Council
August 1, 2023

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie was held in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas, on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 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
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor David Hill called the meeting to order.

2. Discuss briefing sessions

City Manager Michael Scott asked for Council's direction to resume briefings prior to regular City Council meetings. He explained in order to live stream the briefings, they have to be held in a room with streaming equipment and at this time, the Council Chamber is the only option. Briefings can resume in the Council Conference Room; however, they will not be live streamed.

Mr. Scott explained with the upcoming temporary relocation of City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings to the Civic Center, briefings can be held prior to the regular meetings and live streamed; however, the briefings will need a designated start time. When the briefing concludes, the live stream will pause and then resume at the 7pm regular meeting time.

Council Member Travis Smith expressed his opposition to briefings that are not live streamed and encouraged Council Members to discuss and ask questions in the regular meetings.

Council Member Billie Wallace expressed her support for briefings so she can be better-informed when voting on issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright expressed his support for live streamed briefings and encouraged Council Members to have the same briefing discussions in the regular meeting for transparency.

Council Member Patrick Souter expressed his neutrality to resuming briefings noting he agrees with Council Member Wallace, but would like them live streamed.

Mayor Hill explained he is not opposed to briefings and noted he doesn't want any Council Member to feel uninformed.

It was the general consensus of a majority of City Council to resume briefings starting with the August 7th meeting in the City Council Conference Room.

3. Discuss City of Waxahachie Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Mr. Scott explained this is the second budget work session to review updated information based on Council discussions at the June budget meeting.

Finance Director Chad Tustison presented an update regarding the FY 2024 budget and reviewed the following items:

- FY 2024 Proposed Budget and FY 2024 General Fund by Function
- Property Tax Update (Certified Values)
- Impact to Homeowner and Itemization of Tax Bill for Homestead
 - Residence Homestead Tax Ceiling/Freeze and Local Homestead Exemption
- Sales Tax Projections and Revenue
- Expenditure/Appropriation Update
 - Payroll updates to reflect recent new hires
 - Department allocation of market study adjustments
 - Updated health insurance costs
 - Fire Inspector and vehicle
 - Church AED initiative
 - Additional 4% increase for Sims Library
- Fund Summary: General Fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund, and WCDC Fund
- Ad Valorem Levy Calculation
- Budget Next Steps
 - August 7th – Consider Proposed Tax Rate and Set Hearing Date
 - August 29th – Public Hearing on Budget and Tax Rate
 - September 5th – Budget and Tax Rate Adoption

Mr. Tustison stated the FY 2024 proposed budget totals \$122,000,000 (General Fund: \$58.1 M, Water and Wastewater Funds: \$37.6 M, and Restricted Funds: \$25.8 M.). FY 2024 property values increased approximately 15.3% from FY 2023. With the increased values, staff proposed a two-cent tax rate decrease, from \$0.6300 to \$0.6100. He reviewed the financial impact to a homeowner noting the City provides homestead exemptions equating to over \$900,000 in property tax relief. The proposed budget includes a 5% rate increase for wastewater, but no rate increases for water. After General Fund revenues and expenses, a surplus of \$3,354,087 will be returned to the fund, leaving a projected ending balance of \$25,856,679.

City Council discussed the proposed tax rate and there was no stated opposition. After thorough review, City Council expressed no opposition of the proposed budget as presented.

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

Council Member Smith requested educational information be provided to the public regarding the proposed budget and tax rate. Amy Borders, Communications and Marketing Director, stated staff can distribute information weekly leading up to the adoption of the budget and tax rate.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary