

City Council
March 16, 2020

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 on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: David Hill, Mayor
Mary Lou Shipley, Mayor Pro Tem
Chuck Beatty, Councilmember
Kevin Strength, Councilmember
Melissa Olson, Councilmember

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager
Tommy Ludwig, Assistant City Manager
Robert Brown, City Attorney
Lori Cartwright, 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

Mayor Hill gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments

None

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the City Council meeting of March 2, 2020
- b. Minutes of the City Council briefing of March 2, 2020
- c. Minutes of the City Council work session of March 2, 2020

Action:

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley moved to approve items a. through c. on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Melissa Olson seconded, All Ayes.

6. Introduce Honorary Councilmember

None

7. Present Proclamation proclaiming March 30 – April 3, 2020 as “Boys & Girls Club Week”

None

8. Recognition of Utility Department Team Members that received awards at the 2020 Texas Water Utilities Association Annual Training School

Director of Utilities David Bailey recognized the following employees: Mr. Kendall Borg, Assistant Director of Utilities, as the TWUA 2020 Exemplary Service and Association Leadership award recipient; Ms. Otilia (Tilly) Webb, Water Quality Technician, was presented the TWUA 2020 Operator of the year Award; and, Santiago Rodriguez, TWUA 25-year Club Inductee for 2020 year.

9. Public Hearing on a request by Don Merchant, DC Texas Construction LLC, for a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for Accessory Building (Residential), greater than or equal to 700 SF use within a Future Development zoning district located at 2855 FM 877 (Property ID 138966) – Owner: Soon & Earl Beverly (ZDC-000013-2020)

Mayor Hill opened the Public Hearing.

There being no others to speak for or against ZDC-000013-2020, Mayor Hill closed the Public Hearing.

10. Consider proposed Ordinance approving ZDC-000013-2020

ORDINANCE NO. 3178

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT (SUP) TO PERMIT A +700 SQUARE FOOT ACCESSORY STRUCTURE USE WITHIN A FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (FD) ZONING DISTRICT, LOCATED AT 2855 FM 877, BEING PROPERTY ID 138966, IN THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS, BEING LOT 4, BLOCK B OF PENN FARM RANCHETTES, AND ORDERING THE CHANGING OF THE ZONING MAP THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID CHANGE

Action:

Councilmember Kevin Strength moved to approve Ordinance No. 3178. Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley seconded, All Ayes.

11. Consider authorizing Ellis County to perform chip-sealing activities on Patrick and Longbranch Roads on behalf of the City

City Engineer James Gaertner reported the chip sealing activities would be approximately \$159,694.00. He stated on January 21, 2020, the City entered into an interlocal agreement with Ellis County allowing each entity to provide road maintenance and repair services for one another when mutually agreed upon. These services will be funded from the Public Works and Engineering Department's operation and maintenance budget.

Action:

Councilmember Kevin Strength moved to authorize Ellis County to perform chip-sealing activities on Patrick and Longbranch Roads on behalf of the City. Councilmember Chuck Beatty seconded, All Ayes.

12. Emergency Management updates and discussion

City of Waxahachie Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas Griffith recapped COVID-19. He reported it is a novel virus including fever, cough, and shortness of breath and people that are communicable have these symptoms. We are not in panic mode; however, we are planning and implementation as there are no cases in Ellis County. He stated to stay home when sick, wash hands, use hand sanitizer, avoid touching face, and clean service areas.

Mayor Hill announced at 7:40 p.m. City Council would convene into Executive Session to discuss Emergency Management.

Mayor Hill announced at 8:24 p.m. the City Council would reconvene.

City Attorney Robert Brown explained the process noting a prepared resolution will declare a disaster for 30 days. We have a prepared Resolution that declares a local state of disaster pursuant to state law, good for 30 days unless terminated by the Mayor. The resolution activates the City of Waxahachie's Emergency plan and authorizes the Mayor and those who we delegate powers to pursuant to the recommendations from Ellis County, Governor Abbott's Office and of course the federal government. We are going to limit the size of gatherings limited to 50 people and mandate the cancellations of gatherings. The Declaration will take effect March 17, 2020.

Action:

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley moved to consent to the Mayor to execute the City declaration of local state of disaster due to public health emergency as described by City Attorney Robert Brown and granting certain powers and authorities for a period of 30 days or terminated sooner by the Waxahachie City Council. Councilmember Chuck Beatty seconded, All Ayes.

City Manager Michael Scott stated City Council spoke to close the following facilities for the next eight (8) weeks effective March 17, 2020:

- Senior Center
- Civic Center
- Sports Complex
- Pavilions in Getzendaner Park including the Chautauqua facility
- Pushing out Municipal Court activities including show cause hearings, jury trials, and bench trials
- We are looking at ways to protect our city staff through staffing models

Mr. Brown stated it is a fluid situation and coming from the Mayor, City Council, to the City Manager. He stated it is a shared burden and we are to protect the health and wellness of the citizens.

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

Assistant City Manager Albert Lawrence thanked Ms. Amy Borders, Director of Communications and Marketing, first responders, and Mr. Thomas Griffith, Emergency Management, for providing a great service to our community.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley thanked city staff for their due diligence of handling the situation.

Council Members Kevin Strength, Chuck Beatty, and Melissa Olson echoed the same. Ms. Olson thanked those who received their awards tonight.

City Manager Michael Scott thanked Ms. Borders for her efforts. He stated taking these measures is not fun and we need to be mindful of the trying times.

Mayor David Hill stated he has the same sentiments noting we are in for a bit of a change. He thanked City Staff, Mr. Thomas Griffith, Fire Chief Boyd and Police Chief Goolsby.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright
City Secretary