

## **Notice Regarding Public Participation and City Council/City Staff Attendance**

Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) public health emergency, and in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble large groups of people, Governor Greg Abbott has granted a temporary suspension of certain rules that allows for (1) City Council members and city employees to participate in meetings via videoconference call or other remote electronic means without a physical quorum of council members being present at the site of the meeting; and (2) the use of videoconferencing and other remote means to allow the public to observe and/or hear the meeting.

In an effort to reduce the spread of the virus, for the April 23, 2020, 12:00 p.m. Emergency City Council meeting, *individuals will not be allowed to physically attend the meeting.* Individuals will be able to listen to the meeting via telephone conference call.

To listen to the meeting via telephone conference call, dial any of the following phone numbers:

(469) 309-4015

(888) 210-1560

**Enter Meeting ID (PIN): 137421**

**If you encounter any problems joining or participating in the meeting, please call our help line at (469) 309-4005 for assistance.**

A physical quorum of the City Council may not be present during the meeting as some members may choose to participate in the meeting remotely as permitted by Governor Abbott's suspension of various statutes that may be interpreted to require face-to-face interaction between members of the public and public officials.

# ***NOTICE OF AN EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING***

## **AGENDA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN for an EMERGENCY meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas to be held via teleconference, ***Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.***

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

1. Call to Order
2. Identification of a quorum (roll call)
3. Consideration of approval of a COVID-19 related Residential Relief Program
4. Adjourn

**The City Council reserves the right to go into Executive Session on any posted item.**

This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. Parking for mobility-impaired persons is available. Any request for sign interpretive services must be made forty-eight hours ahead of the meeting. To make arrangements, call the City Secretary at 469-309-4005 or (TDD) 1-800-RELAY TX

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) state of emergency and consistent with the Governor's Order regarding modifications to the Texas Open Meetings Act, and executive orders regarding the public, will not be admitted to the physical meeting location.



# Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Scott, City Manager

CC:

Date: April 21, 2020

Re: Residential Relief Program

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## **Background**

As everyone is keenly aware, we are experiencing unprecedented times that have brought with it much financial uncertainty for many. Last week City Council approved (4-1) a program to assist struggling small businesses maintain their workforce and navigate through this challenging time. This program is a targeted effort to help our *residents* with the financial challenges they may be facing.

## **Program Concept**

Through a combination of efforts, staff is suggesting a way of both putting monies back in our residents' pockets as well as providing some financial relief over the coming months. First, most of our Waxahachie citizens are also conscientious water bill payers each month. For those that are, the City will refund their water deposit funds and not require such a deposit to remain on file with the City. For most, this will equate to \$90 in the form of a check sent back to them. Those that have struggled with timely making their water bill payments would not be entitled to this benefit.

Second, a residential trash service monthly charge is \$15.32 (including tax). Staff recommends a three month relief plan that would reduce each residential trash

service fee to \$.01. This equates to a \$45.89 benefit to our 10,887 residential water customers.

In addition to these two programs, the City has already enacted residential relief efforts related to waiving late payment fees and suspending water disconnections for non-payment. These programs would continue as well.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The water bill deposit refund program will have little initial fiscal impact as it has always envisioned to one day return the deposit when the service is discontinued. However, there will likely be some fiscal impact as these deposits are utilized to offset a portion of the indebtedness when an account is in arrears.

The fiscal impact of the solid waste relief program is approximately \$166,680 per month. If Council adopted a three month reprieve from this expense, the total impact to the City is just over \$500,000. Staff recommends this expense be absorbed through the City's Refuse Fund.

### **Recommendation**

While staff acknowledges that the sum of these programs is not a tremendous amount of money, we believe it shows the City's desire to not only help our small businesses, but our citizens directly. Although early projections show a significant decrease will be realized in this year as well as next year's revenues, no one knows for certain the level of the impact. We continue to monitor sales tax and permitting activity and are making operational adjustments accordingly. We recommend the aforementioned program as a gesture of support to our citizenry.