

City Council
September 1, 2020

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 on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:00 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
Lori Cartwright, City Secretary

Other Absent: Robert Brown, City Attorney

1. Call to Order

Mayor David Hill called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Public Comments

Ms. Kassie Pierce, 407 Muemee Road, Waxahachie, spoke of the Old Baylor Hospital and made suggestions on how to repurpose it. She asked City Council to entertain her proposal to utilize it to help the homeless youth after they age out of the foster care system.

Mr. Paul Christenson, 410 Williams Street, Waxahachie, stated Ms. Pierce's proposal on the Old Baylor Hospital needs to be looked at. He strongly opposed the tax increase during the COVID epidemic.

Mr. Scott Brooks, 134 Holly Street, Waxahachie, stated the city is being well managed and growing which requires conviction, patience and smarts. He stated he does not want anyone who attends City Council meetings and complains about this city to be thought of as representing the majority of people in the city. Mr. Brooks stated people who are sitting on city council or running for city council, should be honest. He stated as somebody who runs a local newspaper we are going to hold same speakers accountable for the negative comments made at every City Council meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Amend Resolution No. 1292 to extend the FM 813 closure from September 2, 2020 to September 9, 2020

Action:

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

6. Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2020-2021

Finance Director Chad Tustison reviewed the proposed tax rate at \$0.66000 being a 2-cent decrease. In summary, he reported the annual impact on an average home value of \$216,573 will increase \$37.00. Mr. Tustison stated for every \$1 spent 8.25 cents is collected for sales tax.

Mayor Hill opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Those who spoke against the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2020-2021:

Ms. Laura Johnson, 203 Southhill Drive, Waxahachie
Ms. Shannon Almond, 115 West Main Street, Waxahachie
Mr. Paul Christenson, 410 Williams Street, Waxahachie
Mr. Patrick Souter, 700 West Marvin Street, Waxahachie

There being no others to speak for or against the Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2020-2021, Mayor Hill closed the Public Hearing.

7. Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 and vote to set the date for adoption

Mr. Tustison reviewed the FY 2021 proposed budget noting the budget totals \$90.2 million that includes the following:

- General Fund - Day to day city operations funded by Property Tax, Sales Tax, and User Fees
- Water & Wastewater - Water & Wastewater funded by monthly water bills
- Restricted Funds – Revenues for specific purposes – WCDC, Debt Service, Hotel/Motel, Refuse, Cemetery

Mr. Tustison reviewed the FY 2021 General Fund Summary as follows:

• Revenues	\$45,479,165
• Core Expenses	\$39,618,757
• Service Enhancements (5-year plan)	\$ 5,748,801
• Proposed Budget	\$45,367,558
• Revenues less Expense	111,607
• Projected Ending Balance	\$22,031,060
• Days of Operation (Reserves)	196 days

Mayor Hill opened the Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

There being no others to speak for or against the Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, Mayor Hill closed the Public Hearing.

Action:

Councilmember Kevin Strength moved to set the date for adoption of the City of Waxahachie Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the City Council meeting of September 8, 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley seconded, All Ayes.

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

Councilmember Melissa Olson stated she did not have the opportunity to ask questions during the tax rate hearing. She presented scenarios if the tax rate were to decrease more.

Mayor David Hill stated the budget workshops are open public meetings and that is an opportunity for the public to see what a budget looks like and see how the proceedings work noting it is not done behind closed doors. He noted during the audit process the city is monitored closely by the regulators. Mayor Hill stated the Finance Department does a phenomenal job. He explained the debt rate is lower due to over the years of issuing bonds.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright
City Secretary