

City Council  
September 30, 2021

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, was held at Community National Bank & Trust of Texas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room, 1905 N. Hwy. 77, Waxahachie, TX 75165 on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Doug Barnes, Mayor, Council Member Place 2  
Billie Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 4  
David Hill, Council Member Place 1  
Melissa Olson, Council Member Place 3  
Travis Smith, Council Member Place 5

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager  
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager  
Shon Brooks, Executive Director of Development Services  
Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director Park & Leisure Services  
Richard Abernethy, Director of Administrative Services  
Terry Welch, City Attorney  
Jami Bonner, Assistant City Secretary

## **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Doug Barnes called the meeting to order.

## **2. Hear and discuss presentation of the Lake Parks Masterplan**

Consultant Michael Black, La Terra Studio, presented the Waxahachie Lake Parks Master Plan which included analysis and potential projects for Boat Dock Park, Jetty Park, and Spring Park.

Mr. Black explained the process for the steering committee and Park Board included evaluating each park and determining what we have now, what we keep, and what is the vision for the future. He shared mutual consensus was that each of the three parks were similar and it became a goal to give each park its own identity. Mr. Black presented potential improvements as follows:

- Boat Dock Park: keep existing restroom, revamping the playground, create a protective harbor for swimming, 30 spaces to provide boat entry and exit organization, create a beach atmosphere with protective board walk with pavilion over the water
- Jetty Park: add restroom, cabanas with private docks, large pier over the water,
- Spring Park: canoe/paddle board/non-motorized launch, large gathering open area, re-organize, add parking, possible fish habitat

A magnitude of probable cost was presented which indicated the probable cost to be between \$9 million and \$10 million for the three park projects.

Mr. Black stated the Park Board has approved the steering committee's Lake Parks Master Plan and the next step would be to include it on a future City Council agenda for adoption.

Mr. Michael Scott, City Manager, stated in the bonds issued this year, there was \$1.5 million in general park improvements. He explained due to the timing of the presented master plan and high priority for the lake parks, the general park improvements were left open for the next fiscal year. Mr. Scott noted that staff has indicated the top priority would be to improve parking.

Council Member Melissa Olson stated she agrees that parking is a high priority improvement; however, the remaining potential improvements should be voted on by the citizens.

Council Member David Hill asked if funding is included in the five year plan for parks. Mr. Scott replied that funding is limited, but there is funding annually for general parks improvements.

### **3. Discuss planning for and direction of City Charter revisions**

City Attorney Terry Welch explained that the current City Charter is silent on the process for amending the Charter other than to say it may be amended. After research, Mr. Welch shared what he found to be the standard process typically utilized by Home Rule cities.

Council Member Travis Smith recommended gathering community input on potential City Charter amendments. Mr. Scott responded that the City can disseminate a community input survey in the near future to gather data.

After discussion, it was the consensus not to move forward with amending the City Charter at this time.

### **4. Discuss policy for the naming of City facilities**

Council Member Travis Smith presented the opportunity to adopt a policy in regards to naming City facilities, streets, and/or parks that will provide transparency in regards to how the names are selected.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus to research, establish, and adopt policy and procedures for naming City facilities, streets, and/or parks.

### **5. Discuss limiting public comment times at City meetings**

Mayor Doug Barnes introduced the opportunity to limit public speaking comments to a determined time as allowed by the Open Meetings Act.

After discussion, it was the consensus to limit public speaking comments to five (5) minutes per person during each meeting.

### **6. Discuss security measures for City Hall**

Mr. Richard Abernethy, Director of Administrative Services, presented a recent safety assessment of City Hall conducted by Court Security Concepts, LLC. Mr. Abernethy noted the assessment was conducted onsite with a thorough walk through of City Hall, interviews with key staff and employees in various offices with a focus on the exterior, building, and individual office assessments.

**7. Discuss policies for golf carts on public streets**

Waxahachie Police Chief Wade Goolsby provided the State laws for operating golf carts on city streets and acknowledged the confusion when considering the law, various off highway vehicles, subdivisions, and off highway roads. Chief Goolsby stated his preference would be for the City Council to adopt a clear ordinance for the City of Waxahachie.

After discussion, it was the consensus to proceed with creating and voting on an ordinance in regards to golf carts on public streets at a future City Council meeting.

**8. Discuss options for spending of COVID Relief Funds**

Mr. Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager, presented proposed projects in which to allocate Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. He noted that the City of Waxahachie will receive a total of \$9,412,892. He stated the costs must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and incurred from March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2026.

After discussion, it was the consensus to prioritize the Jefferson Street lift station expansion (\$5.5M), fiber expansion for City SCADA network (\$1.5M), and public health expenses (\$125K). If any funds remain, they should go towards purchasing generators for Howard Road high service pumps stations.

**9. Discuss City Council initiatives**

Council Member Melissa Olson asked fellow Council members if there is interest in putting 2022 bonds up for vote. The consensus was large non-infrastructure projects may need to go out for election.

Council Member Travis Smith inquired fellow Council members' opinions on making a public statement in support of Ellis County's proclamation in regards to vaccines. After a brief discussion, the consensus was to not proceed with a statement from City of Waxahachie.

**10. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Bonner  
Assistant City Secretary