

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, Waxahachie, Texas, on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 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  
Robert Brown, City Attorney  
Amber Villarreal, 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**

Pastor Bruce Zimmerman, Waxahachie Bible Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public Comments**

Ira Tenpenny, 109 Rosa, Waxahachie, Texas, expressed concern with citizens not knowing the rules for brush pickup by Waste Connections. He asked for brush pickup information to be provided to the residents.

Rose Cameron, 221 Patrick, Waxahachie, Texas, agreed with the need to provide more information to citizens regarding brush pickup. Ms. Cameron requested City Council support and adopt an open space conservation plan to protect the earth and reduce the amount of concrete on vacant land.

Bruce Zimmerman, 2821 Howard Road, Waxahachie, Texas, expressed his appreciation for learning about the requirements needed to allow liquor sales in Waxahachie. He encouraged City Council to take a stand and not allow liquor stores in Waxahachie. Mr. Zimmerman thanked the citizens of the city of Waxahachie and the city of Red Oak for their contributions to assisting his sponsored family from Ukraine.

Alan Fox, 327 University, Waxahachie, Texas, spoke in support of two-year terms, a seven-member City Council, and eliminating runoffs. Mr. Fox spoke in opposition to pickleball courts and encouraged City Council to use that funding to improve and add more hike and bike trails or a skatepark. He spoke in opposition to allowing liquor stores in residential neighborhoods, but noted he does not have a problem with a liquor store being allowed on I35E.

Kevin Ivey, 1980 E. Highland Road, Waxahachie, Texas, encouraged citizens to vote in city elections and get involved.

## **5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the City Council meeting of January 17, 2023
- b. Minutes of the City Council briefing of January 17, 2023
- c. Minutes of the City Council work session of January 25, 2023
- d. Event application for Worship at the Park to be held March 25, 2023 at Railyard Park
- e. Event application for Navarro PTA 5k Run to be held April 29, 2023 at Getzendaner Park
- f. Authorize funding from Park Dedication Fees for appraisal services in the amount of \$3,800
- g. Supplemental appropriation for insurance reimbursement to the Parks Department budget in the amount of \$5,089.82

### **Action:**

*Council Member Billie Wallace moved to approve items a. through g. on the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright seconded, All Ayes.*

## **6. Introduce Honorary Councilmember**

Council Member Travis Smith introduced Jacob Ervin as the Honorary Council Member for February 2023. Mr. Ervin is the son of Greg and Paula and brother to Caleb and Joshua. Jacob is a sophomore at Waxahachie High who burst onto the scene at defensive tackle for the Indian football team. He recorded 40 tackles, 8 tackles-for-loss, 1 interception and blocked 3 kicks. He was named to the District 11-6A second team for his efforts, which is quite the feat considering there were over a dozen defensive seniors who signed Division-I letters of intent on National Signing Day, not including the dozen or so Division-I offensive linemen he competed against on every down. Off the field, Jacob is described as a servant leader throughout the community who opens car doors at local elementary schools and is a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. Jacob carries a 3.6 GPA and is a member of The Potter's House. Waxahachie's head football coach Shane Tolleson was quick to label Jacob as a leader on and off the field and applauded him for always being one of the first to step up to serve teammates, coaches, teachers, fellow students and the community.

## **7. Hear presentation on "Shop with a Cop"**

Bishop Aaron Blake Sr., Harvest Family Life Ministries, presented a presentation on "Shop with a Cop" noting the Police Department's participation the past six years is greatly appreciated. He explained 58 children were able to participate because of the partnership with the School District, community, and funding from businesses. Each child was given money to spend and a pair of shoes. Bishop Blake explained Harvest Family Life Ministries has helped those in need in our community.

Assistant Police Chief Dale Sigler stated the event is the most rewarding community event for officers. He thanked Bishop Blake, his family, staff, participating vendors, Sheriff's Office, Constable's Office, and Waxahachie Police Officer James Taylor for their collaboration on a successful event.

8. **Consider proposed Ordinance ordering an election to be held for the purpose of electing At-Large Council Members Places 4 and 5, providing for the filing of applications for official ballots for said elections; providing for a Joint Election Services Contract with Ellis County Elections Administration; designating the Elections Judge and providing for clerical personnel for said elections; designating the time and place of said elections; designating the polling location(s) for said elections; and providing for a run-off election, if needed**

**ORDINANCE NO. 3358**

**AN ORDINANCE ORDERING AN ELECTION TO BE HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER PLACES 4 AND 5; PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR OFFICIAL BALLOTS FOR SAID ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR A JOINT ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ELLIS COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION; DESIGNATING THE ELECTIONS JUDGE AND PROVIDING FOR CLERICAL PERSONNEL FOR SAID ELECTIONS; DESIGNATING THE TIME AND PLACE OF SAID ELECTION; DESIGNATING THE POLLING LOCATION(S) FOR SAID ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR A RUN-OFF ELECTION, IF NEEDED.**

**Action:**

*Council Member Billie Wallace moved to approve the Ordinance as presented and authorize the City Secretary and/or Mayor to execute the Joint Election Services Contract with Ellis County Elections Administration. Council Member Travis Smith seconded, All Ayes.*

9. **Consider supplemental appropriation for runway/taxiway re-striping and replacement of the self-service fuel island card reader at Mid-Way Regional Airport in the amount of \$69,201**

Richard Abernethy, Director of Administrative Services, requested approval of a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$69,201 from the Mid-Way Regional Airport working capital reserve balance for runway/taxi re-striping and replacement of self-service fuel island card reader at Mid-Way Regional Airport. Three quotes were obtained and Eagle Airport Marking Inc. had the lowest acceptable quote of \$42,098. He noted this project is only addressing the striping of the runway and taxiway to ensure safety for aircraft landing and taking off from the airport. A comprehensive re-striping of the entire pavement system will be addressed in the future rehabilitation project funding utilizing the TxDOT 90/10 grant program.

Mr. Abernethy explained the self-service fuel island care reader point of sale system has been failing and needs replacement. Three quotes were obtained and BGIS has the lowest acceptable quote of \$27,103 to install the new system, as well as provide five years of cloud storage, service, and support.

Mr. Abernethy stated the Mid-Way Regional Airport Board met on January 12, 2023 and approved moving forward with both requests. The City of Waxahachie has to approve the supplemental appropriation because they prepare and manage the airport budget/funds per the Joint Airport Agreement. Mr. Abernethy explained both projects qualify for the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) funds and the airport will receive a refund of 50% of the costs after submission to TxDOT.

Council Member Smith asked if the City of Midlothian is participating in funding and if City staff is able to restripe. Mr. Abernethy explained Midlothian is participating in funding and neither City has the equipment or expertise to restripe at the airport.

**Action:**

*Council Member Billie Wallace moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$69,201 from the Mid-Way Regional Airport working capital reserve balance for runway/taxiway re-striping and replacement of the self-service fuel island card reader at Mid-Way Regional Airport. Council Member Travis Smith seconded, All Ayes.*

**10. Consider proposed Ordinance approving a general homestead exemption in an amount equal to 1% of the appraised value of the residence homestead with a minimum exemption of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2023**

Chad Tustison, Senior Director of Finance, requested approval of an Ordinance approving a general homestead exemption in an amount equal to 1% of the appraised value of the residence homestead with a minimum of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2023. He explained the City has long recognized the need to provide tax relief and the City currently offers the following exemptions Over 65, Disabled Person, Tax Ceiling, Historical, and Disabled Veteran.

Mr. Tustison stated during the January 25, 2023 Work Session, City Council was presented information regarding the City's current offered exemptions, fiscal impact of a general homestead exemption, and proposed timeline for implementation. There was general consensus to prepare a 1% general homestead exemption Ordinance to present to Council for approval. He reported the estimated revenue loss to the General Fund is \$168,000 and \$92,000 in the Debt Service Fund. The estimated average savings to the homeowner is \$32 annually and will be applied automatically to those with an existing homestead exemption.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3359**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS, CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 30 TAXATION, TO INCLUDE A GENERAL RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR THE TAX YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023 IN THE AMOUNT EQUAL TO ONE PERCENT (1%) OF THE APPRAISED VALUE OF THE RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD WITH A MINIMUM EXEMPTION OF \$5,000; AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE IS PASSED WAS NOTICED AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.**

**Action:**

*Council Member Patrick Souter moved to adopt a one percent (1 %) general homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes with a minimum exemption of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2023. Council Member Travis Smith seconded, All Ayes.*

**11. Comments by Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Manager**

Council Member Travis Smith thanked Honorary Council Member Jacob Ervin, and his parents Greg and Paula, for their attendance. He stated the approval of the 1% homestead tax exemption is fantastic and he thanked City Manager Michael Scott, Senior Finance Director Chad Tustison and the finance department for their work.

Council Member Billie Wallace encouraged citizens to apply for eligible tax exemptions and noted City Council continues to explore ways to provide tax relief to citizens. Ms. Wallace thanked first responders for their work during the recent ice storm.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright stated it is an honor to have Jacob Ervin, and his parents, participate in the Honorary Council Member program. Mr. Wright acknowledged Waxahachie resident, Paul Box, currently competing in 7 marathons, in 7 continents, in 7 days. Mayor Pro Tem Wright thanked the Waxahachie Police Department and Bishop Blake for their work on the “Shop with a Cop” event. Mr. Wright informed citizens that briefings for the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council are eliminated to allow more transparency and open discussion during live streamed meetings.

Council Member Patrick Souter recognized Honorary Council Member Jacob Ervin as an outstanding young adult. Mr. Souter acknowledged the overwhelming opposition from citizens regarding liquor stores in Waxahachie. He expressed his support for two-year City Council terms and encouraged citizen participation in meetings and encouraged interested citizens to apply to serve on a City board/commission.

Jacob Ervin thanked City Council for allowing him to participate as an Honorary Council Member for February.

Mayor David Hill applauded the police and fire departments for their continued service in the community. He asked City Attorney Robert Brown to recap the process required to allow liquor sales in Waxahachie.

City Attorney Robert Brown explained the Texas legislature removed the power from cities to regulate liquor sales. He explained if an applicant submits the required documents and petition, verified by the City Secretary, the City Council has to order an election at the next uniform election date. A petition with at least 35% of the number of registered voters that voted in the last gubernatorial election is required for the City Council to order a local option election.

**12. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal, City Secretary