

An emergency 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 Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.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 (phone)
Amber Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor David Hill called the meeting to order.

2. Identification of a quorum (roll call)

Assistant City Secretary Amber Villarreal did a roll call for Council Members in attendance: David Hill, Mary Lou Shipley, Chuck Beatty, Kevin Strength, and Melissa Olson were all present.

3. Invocation

4. 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.

5. Amend City Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency and take any necessary action

Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas Griffith provided an update of the latest information from the state. He noted he now has a staff of four aiding him during the week. He noted the City of Waxahachie is keeping track of all the positive cases in Ellis County and the map is available on the city's website. His department is also keeping track of all possible cases for first responders so that they are aware of possible cases when answering emergency house calls. He explained the number of confirmed cases in the county are skewed due to the lack of testing. He expressed his concerns with the safety for the nurses, doctors, first responders, and all those who are on the front line of defense for this virus. The medical field is asking for assistance with flattening the curve so they can prepare to treat patients. In order to do that, citizens need to practice social distancing and staying home if possible.

Action:

Councilmember Kevin Strength moved to approve the amended City Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency. Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley seconded, the vote was as follows: Ayes: David Hill, Mary Lou Shipley, Chuck Beatty, and Kevin Strength. Noes: Melissa Olson.

The motion carried.

6. Consider Inter-Local Cooperation Agreement between Ellis County and City of Waxahachie for rooms at Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center for First Responders infected with COVID-19

City Manager Michael Scott explained the proposed Inter-Local agreement with Ellis County would provide for rooms at Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center if they are exposed to the virus. He noted the city has a facility to use as a first option and this would only be utilized as a backup.

Councilmember Melissa Olson asked Fire Chief Ricky Boyd about his views on the agreement and he noted this is a great option for the city. He explained the city will only be charged if the facility is utilized. He also noted first responders are taking precautions when answering emergency calls.

Action:

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley moved to approve the Inter-Local Cooperation Agreement between Ellis County and City of Waxahachie for rooms at Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center for First Responders infected with COVID-19. Councilmember Melissa Olson seconded, All Ayes.

7. Consider proposed Ordinance ordering the General Election scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020, be postponed to Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Mr. Scott noted the Governor provided an Order allowing local jurisdictions to postpone their May general elections to November. It was noted that all other entities in Ellis County were postponing their elections until November.

ORDINANCE NO. 3179

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS, ORDERING THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020, BE POSTPONED TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020; MAKING FINDINGS RELATED THERETO; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Action:

Councilmember Kevin Strength moved to approve Ordinance No. 3179. Councilmember Melissa Olson seconded, All Ayes.

8. Adjourn

City Manager Michael Scott acknowledged Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas Griffith for all his work during this time.

Councilmember Kevin Strength thanked the city administration, the Mayor, and Mr. Griffith for all their time and efforts.

Councilmember Chuck Beatty noted this is a difficult time and an opportunity to pull together and stay safe.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley thanked everyone for their cooperation and City Management for their work.

Councilmember Melissa Olson thanked Mayor Hill and everyone for all their work during this time.

Mayor David Hill explained there are different reasons for the decisions that are made. He noted although sometimes difficult, his decisions are based on what he feels is best for the community. He explained it is important to show unity during this fight and the city is currently working with local businesses to take precautions to follow orders.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
Assistant City Secretary