

HEWITT TEXAS II

**MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP & SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
HEWITT CITY HALL – 200 PATRIOT COURT
May 24, 2021 – 6:15/7:00 PM**

Attendee Name	Title	Absent	Present	Arrived
Steve Fortenberry (presiding)	Mayor, Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michael S. Bancale	Mayor Pro Tem, At-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Fuller	Council Member, Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Potter	Council Member, Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wilbert "Walky" Wachtendorf	Council Member, Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Charles D. Turner	Council Member, Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Erica Bruce	Council Member, Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Staff present:

City Manager Bo Thomas
City Secretary Lydia Lopez
Fire Chief Lance Bracco
Police Chief Jim Devlin
Library Director Waynette Ditto
City Engineer Miles Whitney
Utilities Director Kevin Reinke
Utility Analyst Karen Sexton
City Attorney Mike Dixon (arrived at 6:49 PM)

Note: The meeting was live-streamed for view by the public on the City of Hewitt's website at <https://www.cityofhewitt.com/790/Hewitt-TX-TV>. Citizens could submit written comments to the City Secretary.

WORKSHOP – 6:15 PM

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the Workshop to order at 6:15 PM.
- 2. PRESENTATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE STUDY BY DAN V. JACKSON, VICE PRESIDENT, AND JASON GRAY, PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, WITH WILLDAN FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

Mr. Dan Jackson and Mr. Jason Gray presented the study that highlighted the city's water and wastewater rate background, customers and volumes, current and forecast cost of service, debt service, and rate plan proposals. City Manager Bo Thomas stated that this information was brought forward to aid the Council in planning for future demands of the city with regards to water and wastewater. Mr. Jackson advised that the Council could approve a single ordinance that would implement an incremental rate plan.

MOTION TO ADJOURN WORKSHOP

MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved to adjourn the Workshop at 6:57 PM.

SECOND: Council Member Bill Fuller

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Turner, Bruce, Bancale, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **HEAR VISITORS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO CITY BUSINESS.** Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is prohibited from discussing, responding, or acting on any comments or items that have not been properly posted on the agenda. **NOTE:** The public was offered the opportunity to submit written comments on items listed on the agenda or under the hear visitors. Mayor Steve Fortenberry inquired if any public comments were received. **City Secretary responded no public comment forms were submitted.**
4. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021.**
MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved approval of the minutes as presented but to allow for corrections.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.
5. **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND FUNDS TO REPAIR AND UPGRADE TWO OF THE CITY'S OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN SYSTEMS TO AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$19,762.** City Manager Bo Thomas presented.

MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved to authorize the City Manager to expend the funds to repair and upgrade two of the City’s Outdoor Warning Siren systems to American Communications in the total amount of \$19,762.

SECOND: Council Member Bill Fuller

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

6. **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SEWER LINE FOR MIDWAY ISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #7 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000.** City Manager Bo Thomas presented.

MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$28,000 to participate in the sewer line construction for Midway ISD elementary school #7.

SECOND: Council Member Charlie Turner

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

7. **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02 SUPPORTING THE CITY OF WACO’S APPLICATION TO TEXAS COMMISSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) FOR CERTIFICATION OF A MUNICIPAL SETTINGS DESIGNATION (MSD) FOR TIF ZONES 1, 2, AND 3 IN THE CITY OF WACO.** City Manager Bo Thomas presented. General discussion concerning the area of contamination (Brazos River Alluvium) and the types of contaminants. Council Member Erica Bruce requested for a copy of the list of contaminants.

MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved to approve **Resolution No. 2021-02.**

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

8. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.** City Manager Bo Thomas stated that Finance Director Lee Garcia previously sent the April Financial Statements for their review and asked if Council had any questions. No questions were asked. **No action required.**

9. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE 2021 WATER CONSERVATION & DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.** Utilities Director Kevin Reinke briefed the Council on the requirements to update the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan every five years, summarized the changes in the plan, and provided an opportunity for Council to ask any questions or comment. **No action was required.**

10. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING COUNCIL DIRECTION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026.** City Manager Bo Thomas stated this item was placed on the agenda to give Council the opportunity to provide direction to staff on the next steps for implementation. Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale expressed appreciation to staff for preparing and presenting plan. He stated that he would like to see the Council set priorities with regards to the safety and security of residents and city employees. Council Member Charlie Turner concurred with setting safety as priority and ask all to be mindful of the increase in property valuations when considering tax rate. Council Member Erica Bruce stated that she would like Department Heads to prioritize their requests and inform the Council if there are other external funding sources such as grants.

11. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR BUDGET PREPARATION.** City Manager Bo Thomas stated that staff was in the process of preparing budgets with a conservative approach and capital projects were either currently on the Capital Improvements List or would be part of the requests made in the strategic plan. Mr. Thomas noted that preliminary assessed valuations were in and property tax revenue had increased substantially; however, the valuations are still pending tax protests. He also briefed the Council on the process for tax calculations and how valuations impact tax rate.

12. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MEASURES, PROTOCOLS, AND MITIGATION EFFORTS.** City Manager Bo Thomas stated that the Open Meetings Act rules were still suspended per the Governor; however, staff had arranged the Council Chambers for a visual on how the room would be setup should Council decide to open the meetings to citizens with safety protocol regarding social distancing. Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale stated that his initial request to open the meetings was prior to the Governor's removal of masks requirement. He further stated that if the meetings still cannot be open safely, he would like staff to prepare a process to allow citizens to address the Council in person for public hearings on the budget and tax rate.
 - **Consideration and action on opening up the Council meetings to the public. No action taken.**

ADDENDUM AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council will convene into Executive Session in accordance with the following provisions: A closed meeting will be held pursuant to Section 551.087 of the Government Code so that the Council may deliberate regarding Economic Development – Project Black Box.

MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved to recess the Special Called Meeting and convene the Executive Session at 7:41 PM.

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to adjourn the Executive Session and convene the Special Called Meeting at 8:05 PM.

SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED

12. ADJOURN.

MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to adjourn the Special Called Meeting at 8:06 PM.

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bancale, Turner, Bruce, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

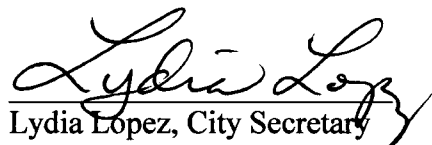
NAYES: None

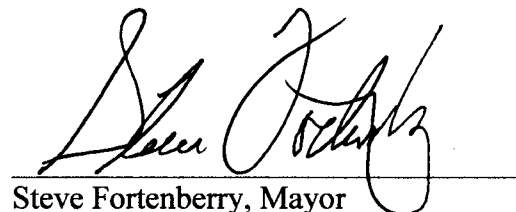
ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

Approved: June 7, 2021

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Steve Fortenberry, Mayor