

City Council
August 7, 2018

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Council Conference Room at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Kevin Strength, Mayor
David Hill, Mayor Pro Tem
Chuck Beatty, Councilmember
Mary Lou Shipley, Councilmember
Melissa Olson, Councilmember

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager
Lori Cartwright, City Secretary
Amber Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kevin Strength called the meeting to order.

2. Discussion of City of Waxahachie 2018-2019 fiscal-year Budget

City Manager Michael Scott announced the goal of the budget workshop is to finalize the proposed FY 19 budget and address any concerns. He announced the revised budget includes changes made at the last budget workshop including renovations at the Chautauqua and landscaping at Oak Lawn Park. He noted staff will monitor maintenance at the cemetery and evaluate if additional personnel is needed.

Finance Director Charlie Harris presented a spreadsheet of the summary of changes from the first budget workshop for revenues and expenditures. The changes include proposed service enhancements, five year operating plan, and capital improvements plan. He noted approximately \$850,000 will be added to the fund balance with the proposed budget bringing the expected surplus reserves to \$3,673,500 on 9/30/19. He explained there are plenty of candidates where the fund balance can be used to pay for projects in cash to keep debt down. Mr. Harris reviewed the following funds: General, Hotel/Motel Tax, WCDC, WCDC Debt Service, General Debt Service, Water, Sokoll Joint Venture, Wastewater, and Refuse.

Councilmember Melissa Olson recommended lowering the tax rate one cent to help the citizens without affecting services. Mr. Scott explained the proposed budget presented is based upon the adoption of the current tax rate. Mayor Strength expressed his opposition noting the decrease would only save the average homeowner about \$25 a year on city taxes. The remaining Councilmembers expressed their opposition to lowering the tax rate so the city can continue maintenance and add infrastructure to keep up with city growth.

Mr. Scott thanked city staff for their hard work on the budget preparation especially Mr. Harris and his staff. He also thanked City Council for their support.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Amy Hedtke, 106 Vanderbilt, stated dollars and cents matter and asked council to get in touch with the citizens.

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

Councilmember Beatty thanked Finance Director Charlie Harris and city staff for their work on the budget.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilmember Chuck Beatty moved to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem David Hill seconded, All Ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
Assistant City Secretary