

City Council
May 14, 2024

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held at the Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Meeting Rooms A and B, Waxahachie, Texas, on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Billie Wallace, Mayor, Council Member Place 4
Chris Wright, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 3
Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2
Travis Smith, Council Member Place 5
Tres Atkins, Council Member Place 1

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager
Terry Welch, 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

City Manager Michael Scott gave the invocation. Mayor Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Canvass and accept votes of City Council Election held on May 4, 2024

Mayor Hill canvassed the election returns of the City Council Election held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 as follows:

Place 1	David Hill	879
Place 1	Tres Atkins	1,591
Total Votes Cast:		2,470
Place 2	Patrick Souter	1,696
Total Votes Cast:		1,696
Place 3	Chris Wright	1,749
Total Votes Cast:		1,749

Action:

Travis Smith moved to accept the election returns of the City Council General Election held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 as presented. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and carried unanimously (5-0).

6. Administer Oath of Office to Council Member Place 1, Council Member Place 2, and Council Member Place 3

City Secretary Amber Villarreal administered the Oaths of Office to William “Tres” Atkins, Council Member Place 1, Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2, and Chris Wright, Council Member Place 3.

7. Organization of City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright expressed interest in serving as Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Travis Smith expressed interest in serving as Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Tres Atkins expressed no interest in serving as Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Billie Wallace expressed interest in serving as Mayor.

Council Member Patrick Souter expressed interest in serving as Mayor Pro Tem and voiced his support for Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright to serve as Mayor.

Action:

Patrick Souter moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to nominate Billie Wallace to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Chris Wright, Patrick Souter, and Travis Smith voting in opposition.

Action:

Patrick Souter moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Chris Wright moved to nominate himself to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Patrick Souter and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to nominate himself to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion died due to lack of second.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to nominate Billie Wallace to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Chris Wright, Patrick Souter, and Travis Smith voting in opposition.

Action:

Patrick Souter moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

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Travis Smith moved to nominate himself to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion died due to lack of second.

Action:

Patrick Souter moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to nominate Billie Wallace to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Chris Wright, Patrick Souter, and Travis Smith voting in opposition.

City Attorney Terry Welch explained City Council has the option to postpone the reorganization to the May 20, 2024 regular meeting.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Waxahachie. Motion died due to lack of second.

Action:

Chris Wright moved to nominate Patrick Souter to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Patrick Souter and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Billie Wallace moved to nominate Travis Smith to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins. Travis Smith declined the nomination.

Mayor Pro Tem Wright announced at 12:27 p.m. the City Council would convene into Executive Session for:

- a. Consultation with City Attorney to seek legal advice as permitted by Texas Government Code, Section 551.071

The meeting reconvened at 12:37 p.m. and no action was taken from Executive Session.

Council Members continued discussion on the responsibilities, duties, and expectations as Mayor.

Action:

Patrick Souter moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to nominate Billie Wallace to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Chris Wright, Patrick Souter, and Travis Smith voting in opposition.

Action:

Chris Wright moved to postpone the reorganization of City Council to the May 20, 2024 meeting. Motion was seconded by Patrick Souter and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Former Mayor Kevin Strength stated serving on City Council is a big sacrifice and asked Council Members to sacrifice to move forward.

Former Mayor Doug Barnes requested Council Members to come to an agreement and move forward to serve the citizens of Waxahachie.

Former Mayor David Hill echoed comments by Mr. Strength and Mr. Barnes and asked Council Members to come to a consensus.

Action:

Patrick Souter moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Billie Wallace, Travis Smith, and Tres Atkins voting in opposition.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to nominate Billie Wallace to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and failed by a 2-3 vote, with Chris Wright, Patrick Souter, and Travis Smith voting in opposition.

Action:

Billie Wallace moved to nominate Chris Wright to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (5-0).

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to nominate Billie Wallace to serve as Mayor of the City of Waxahachie. Motion was seconded by Billie Wallace and carried unanimously (5-0).

Mayor Pro Tem Wright thanked the former members for their wisdom.

Mayor Billie Wallace expressed her honor to serve Waxahachie and bring unity.

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

Deputy City Manager Albert Lawrence congratulated Tres Atkins, Billie Wallace, and Chris Wright. He thanked David Hill for his service to Waxahachie.

City Manager Michael Scott echoed Mr. Lawrence's comments.

Council Member Tres Atkins expressed his eagerness to get to work.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright noted there is no animosity and he wants what is best for Waxahachie.

Council Member Patrick Souter expressed his eagerness to work together. He also thanked David Hill for his service and thanked the former Mayors for their insight.

City Attorney Terry Welch noted he is looking forward to the year ahead.

Mayor Billie Wallace thanked those in attendance of the meeting.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary