

City Council
July 15, 2024

A Work Session 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 Monday, July 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

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

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billie Wallace called the meeting to order.

2. Discuss City of Waxahachie Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Chad Tustison, Senior Director of Finance, provided a budget update since the June 18th Work Session.

- Increased Homestead Exemption to 3.5% - \$315K revenue decrease
- April Sales Tax update
- Increased amount for Early Detection Cancer Screening to \$49.5K
- Lions Park ballfields split cost with WCDC to \$250K
- Updated cost of Animal Transport Trailer to \$60K
- Added Grants Coordinator position for \$100K
- Moved Park signage enhancement cost of \$275K to WCDC
- Other updates – payroll, June revenue

Mr. Tustison also explained the FY 2025 General Fund by Function (\$70.1 M), Tax Rate by component, and the General Fund Working Budget.

Council Members discussed the proposed Business Operations Coordinator positions for the Fire Department and Police Department. Police Chief Joe Wiser and Assistant Fire Chief Marcus Brown explained the need for the positions, the duties, and responsibilities.

After a lengthy discussion, it was the general consensus of City Council to support the two proposed Business Operations Coordinator positions for the Fire and Police Departments.

Council Members discussed the proposed Grant Writer position and it was the general consensus of City Council to contract the role on a contingency basis, as needed.

Council Members discussed practice field funding at Lions Park and it was noted the funding could potentially be moved to another park with support from the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation.

Council Members discussed prioritizing property tax relief for citizens and discussed funding options for the City. After a lengthy discussion, it was the general consensus of City Council to consider monitoring the City's impact from legislative changes, explore creative options to fund projects, and provide relief to homeowners by increasing the homestead exemption or decreasing the tax rate earlier. Council will provide direction to staff earlier in the budget process next year.

Lindsey Mearns, Senior Director of Human Resources & Civil Service, reviewed employee leave accruals. She explained the current process and accrual rates for vacation and sick leave. Ms. Mearns discussed the data from comparable cities in the DFW metroplex. The City of Waxahachie currently provides 96 hours of annual sick leave and vacation leave is tiered based on years of service. To stay competitive with the market, staff recommended increasing sick leave accruals from 96 hours annually to 120 hours annually. Staff also recommended increasing vacation leave accruals as follows, effective October 1, 2024:

Current Vacation Leave Accruals	
Years of Service	Days Per Year
0 - 4 years	10
5 years	11
6 years	12
7 years	13
8 years	14
9+ years	15

Proposed Vacation Leave Accruals	
Years of Service	Days Per Year
0 - 2.99 years	12
3 - 4.99 years	15
5 - 9.99 years	17
10 - 14.99 years	19
15 - 19.99 years	21
20+ years	23

It was the general consensus of City Council to consider increasing the sick leave and vacation accruals at the August 5th meeting as presented.

3. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary