

City Council
July 7, 2025

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held at the Waxahachie Civic Center, Crape Myrtle Room, 2000 Civic Center Lane, on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Council Members: Billie Wallace, Mayor, Council Member Place 4
Patrick Souter, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 2
Tres Atkins, Council Member Place 1
Chris Wright, Council Member Place 3
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 2025-2026 Budget

City Manager Michael Scott stated that the purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 operating budget. He also noted that the Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2025–2026 were previously discussed during the April work session.

Senior Finance Director Chad Tustison presented the draft budget noting the certified tax roll and sales tax numbers are still pending. He explained the total preliminary working rate is calculated at .61 which is made up of general fund (maintenance and operations), debt service, and the library.

Mr. Tustison reviewed the following budget highlights for FY25:

- Working Budget & Priorities: Quality of Life, Personnel, Public Safety, Growth Management, & Infrastructure
- Working Budget & Financial Health
- Budget Development Process
- Working Budget: General Fund \$72.6 M, Water & Wastewater \$51.6 M, & Restricted Fund \$34.3 M
- General Fund by Function: General Government 9%, Support 7%, Culture & Recreation 9.4%, Public Works 11.5%, and Public Safety 58%
- City Property Tax Revenue
- Annual Appraisal Process
- Preliminary net taxable values
 - Tax Year 2024 Value \$6.51 Billion
 - Tax Year 2025 Value \$7.14 Billion
- Value of New Improvements to Fund Growth
- Exemptions & Rates – Comparison Cities
- Tax Rate by Component: General Fund 59%, Debt Service 38%, & Library 3%
- Maintenance & Operations Property Tax Revenue
- Sales tax allocation, projections, and revenue

- Revenue summary (Current property tax, sales tax, franchise fees, licenses & permits, charges for service, fines & forfeitures, miscellaneous, transfers in)
- General Fund Expenses
- Replacement requests \$1.8 million: emergency sirens, heart monitors & radios, vehicles & trailers (police, streets, public works, parks, and animal control), exercise equipment at Senior Center
- Capital requests \$2.5 million: private fiber expansion, Station 2 & 3 remodels, Penn Park concession stand, erosion control under viaduct, CIP Engineering-Streets, cemetery building improvements, Optimist Pool improvements
- Operating requests \$3.3 million: 6 police officers, 6 firefighters, axon technology improvements, funding contribution to The Heights, one (1) maintenance work, expansion of contract mowing, new website, economic development incentives

{City Council recessed at 9:55 a.m. and reconvened at 10:18 a.m.}

- Inflation & Budget Impact
- General Fund Working Budget \$72.6 million
- General Fund Service Enhancements
 - Public Safety \$3.7 million
 - Streets & Public Works \$2.0 million
 - Culture & Recreation \$966,000
 - General Government \$306,000
 - Support Services \$168,000
 - Citywide Support Services \$471,000

Mr. Scott clarified that funding for the charter election is not being recommended at this time and will be brought back to the City Council for approval once the propositions have been clearly identified. He noted, however, that plans to hold a charter election in May are still moving forward.

{City Council recessed at 11:16 a.m. and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.}

- Water working budget (Additional debt service, budget requests, proposed budget); proposed 4% rate increase
- Wastewater budget (Additional debt service, budget requests, proposed budget); proposed 4% rate increase
- Waxahachie Community Development Corporation (WCDC) budget
- Sokoll water fund
- Airport fund
- Hotel tax fund
- Cemetery fund

After further discussion, the following was the general consensus of City Council for staff to:

- Add a message board component to the new city website
- Add one (1) Code Enforcement full-time employee
- Add one (1) Health Inspector full-time employee

- Review funding options for Blocker 2 and prioritize funding in a future budget
- Add Safety-Sensitive Random Drug Testing Program
- Obtain more detail for The Heights additional \$125,000 on-going funding request
- Obtain more detail for The Optimist Pool funding request in the amount of \$58,000
- Provide water and sewer rates in comparison cities, including the City's rate increase history
- Review cemetery plot fees in comparison cities

{Travis Smith arrived at 12:46 p.m.}

Mr. Tustison presented the budget timeline and next steps:

- July 31st: City Council budget update at 8:30 a.m.
- August 4th: Consider property tax rate and authorize bond issuance
- August-September: Public notices & hold public hearings
- September 8th: Budget and tax rate adoption

3. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal,
City Secretary