

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie was held at the Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Meeting Rooms C and D, Waxahachie, Texas on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Ricky Boyd, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billie Wallace called the meeting to order.

2. Review Budget Calendar

Senior Finance Director Tustison presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Calendar. He outlined the budget development process.

City Council discussed aligning the Budget Calendar with Council meeting dates to ensure adequate review time before any homestead exemption action required by June 30th. Staff outlined important upcoming dates, including an April 14th budget work session to discuss Capital Improvements, a late-June work session ahead of the June 30th homestead exemption deadline, and a return to Council on August 3rd after incorporating workshop feedback and updated revenue projections.

Council discussed adjusting the timing of the late-June workshop to allow more than one day between reviewing the draft budget and voting on any potential homestead exemption changes. Concerns were raised that reviewing the full draft budget immediately before an exemption vote would not provide sufficient time to understand the impact. It was also noted that holding meetings earlier in the process can reduce revenue certainty, as some key revenue data lags by several months.

Mr. Tustison explained staff will provide an update on the water and wastewater utility rate study at the April 14th meeting to support Council questions and direction ahead of fall rate-setting, which will align with the budget process. The City has already approved the study, and a consultant will review consumption patterns, tier structures, and capital improvement needs. The intent is to brief Council in April, with rate decisions considered later alongside the budget.

3. Discuss non-profit application process to request City funding

Mr. Tustison proposed implementing a standardized nonprofit application to ensure consistent organizational, budget, and funding request information is provided for Council review. The proposed Laserfiche-based form would collect details on the organization, including staffing and operating budget, as well as specifics on the funding request and intended use of City funds. The information would be compiled into a report format for Council consideration.

Council discussed the need to establish clearer controls and expectations around nonprofit funding, particularly in light of limited available funds and rapid growth in funding requests. Staff and Council discussed requiring supporting documents and financial information, clarifying that funding in one year does not guarantee future funding, exploring per-capita or other funding caps, and deciding whether to broadly publicize the opportunity or limit outreach until clearer controls and review processes are in place.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary