

City Council
August 25, 2026

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 August 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Council Members Absent: Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2

Others Present: Ricky Boyd, City Manager
Shon Brooks, Assistant City Manager
Terry Welch, City Attorney
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billie Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

2. Discuss and review options for opening lake parks on Labor Day weekend

Gumaro Martinez, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the Item. City Council discussed reopening the lake parks for Labor Day weekend following a two-year closure due to overcrowding and safety concerns. Staff from Police, Fire, Emergency Management, Communications, and Parks developed a temporary plan to provide public access while maintaining safety and controlling capacity.

The plan will issue numbered dashboard passes corresponding to available parking spaces at Boat Dock and Spring Park. Once capacity is reached, additional vehicles will be turned away. Police will enforce parking restrictions, including citations and towing, while pedestrian access will be limited to verified neighborhood residents. The parks will operate from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., with dedicated police, fire, parks, and emergency management staffing.

The estimated cost for the three-day weekend is approximately \$23,000, including personnel, signage, and materials. Council acknowledged that the plan is not financially or operationally sustainable long-term and discussed future options, including non-resident fees, QR codes or parking passes, and restrictions on buses.

Council expressed support for reopening the parks while recognizing the need to balance public access, safety, and cost. Council was in agreement to use the Labor Day weekend as an opportunity to educate the public and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

It was the general consensus for staff to proceed with implementation and public communication. Council also discussed the need for a budget appropriation and future development of a more permanent and sustainable lake park management plan.

3. Discuss and review Board and Commission applications

The City Council reviewed and discussed the applications, attendance records, and qualifications of each board. Council requested staff to continue monitoring board member attendance. Recommendations will be presented to City Council for consideration in September.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary