

City Council
September 1, 2026

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie was held at the Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Meeting Rooms A and B, Waxahachie, Texas, on September 1, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Council Members Present: Billie Wallace, Mayor, Council Member Place 4
Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Travis Smith called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Tres Atkins gave the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments

Dean Settlemyer, 605 Brookside Road, Waxahachie, Texas, raised concerns about school-related traffic congestion on Brookside Road to Main Street, and the resulting safety risks for emergency vehicles, and asked the City to explore solutions such as a turn lane or designated turnaround area. Mr. Settlemyer also expressed concern about proposed ambulance/EMS changes and potential tax increases, urging the Council to involve citizens and allow public input before moving forward.

5. Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2026-2027 and announce the date, time, and place for adoption

Director of Finance Chad Tustison presented the Item. As part of the annual budget process, Chapter 26 of the Property Tax Code requires taxing units to comply with truth-in-taxation laws in adopting their tax rates. This item meets the requirement for the City Council to hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rate necessary to fund the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Annual Budget.

The FY 2026-2027 Proposed Budget includes a tax rate of \$0.61000 per \$100 valuation, which is unchanged from the current rate. This rate provides funding for operating costs to keep pace with growth and to fund and plan for capital needs throughout the City. Of this amount, a rate of \$0.390646 is for Operations and Maintenance (including the Sims Library rate) and \$0.219354 is for Interest and Sinking. The proposed rate exceeds the no-new-revenue rate of \$0.582798 and does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate of \$0.611094.

The following provides a breakdown of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 property tax rate.

	FY 2027
FY 2026 Current Property Tax Rate	0.610000
FY 2027 Proposed Tax Rate (No Change)	0.610000
FY 2027 Proposed Tax Rate	0.610000
<i>Interest & Sinking (I&S) Rate</i>	<i>0.219354</i>
<i>Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Rate</i>	<i>0.390646</i>
<i>General Services</i>	<i>0.371246</i>
<i>Sims Library</i>	<i>0.019400</i>
Total No New Revenue Rate	0.582798
M&O No New Revenue Rate	0.377698
Voter Approval Rate (M&O Voter Approval Rate plus I&S Rate)	0.611094
<i>M&O Voter Approval Rate (3.5% plus unused increment)</i>	<i>0.391740</i>
<i>I&S Rate</i>	<i>0.219354</i>

Mayor Pro Tem Smith opened the Public Hearing at approximately 5:40 p.m.

There being no others to speak for or against the City of Waxahachie proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2026-2027, Mayor Pro Tem Smith closed the Public Hearing at approximately 5:41 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith announced the vote on the proposed tax rate will take place on September 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Waxahachie Civic Center.

6. Public Hearing on the City of Waxahachie proposed Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and vote to set the date, time, and place for adoption

Mr. Tustison presented the Item. This item is a public hearing to consider the City's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which begins October 1, 2026. Texas Local Government Code 102.007 requires that the City Council take action at the conclusion of the hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith opened the Public Hearing at approximately 5:43 p.m.

Those who spoke:

Dean Settlemeyer, 605 Brookside Road, Waxahachie, Texas

Mr. Tustison reviewed the new \$2 million vehicle replacement fund, explaining that it will set aside money annually to create a more predictable and transparent process for replacing city vehicles. Beginning with the 2028 budget, vehicle replacements will come from this fund rather than individual department budgets, with the fleet manager determining when replacements are needed and standardizing purchases. The fund will initially cover smaller vehicles, while large equipment such as dump trucks and excavators will be handled separately. Council noted the approach should improve planning, purchasing efficiency, and potentially reduce costs.

There being no others to speak for or against the City of Waxahachie proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, Mayor Pro Tem Smith closed the Public Hearing at approximately 5:48 p.m.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to consider and hold a record vote on the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget at the next City Council Meeting on September 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Waxahachie Civic Center. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and carried unanimously (3-0).

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

Council Member Chris Wright thanked residents for attending and encouraged continued public participation, particularly at the September 8th meeting when the budget will be discussed in greater detail. He also provided an update that Councilman Patrick Souter is out for a medical procedure.

Council Member Tres Atkins clarified that the previously mentioned EMS timeline was a workshop exercise, not an approved plan to purchase ambulances, and emphasized that the City remains transparent with its plans and budget. He also offered to discuss the EMS issue further with residents and asked the community to keep Councilman Souter in their thoughts following his surgery.

City Manager Ricky Boyd addressed several issues, expressing concern for Councilman Souter and wishing him a speedy recovery, while noting the City will explore a temporary fix for Brookside Road until the Minto development provides planned road improvements. Regarding EMS, he emphasized that the City is focused on improving services while remaining financially responsible. Mr. Boyd clarified that the EMS timeline and five-year capital improvement plans are projections for planning purposes, not commitments, and that major decisions must be discussed and approved publicly. He also invited residents to attend the upcoming September 16th workshop on EMS and other City matters and praised the City's finance and budget staff for their work.

Mayor Pro Tem Travis Smith acknowledged growing community distrust and said it may stem from the Council and staff taking a more proactive, forward-planning approach, which requires making projections that can change due to unforeseen circumstances or state-level decisions. Mayor Pro Tem Smith explained that planning for major services and equipment requires significant lead time and financial forecasting. He assured residents that any potential plans or options would be presented publicly and emphasized that, despite disagreements and social media discourse, the Council generally works together to make decisions they believe serve the broader community.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary