

City Council
September 8, 2026

A regular 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 8, 2026 at 7:00 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
Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2
Chris Wright, Council Member Place 3

Others Present: Ricky Boyd, City Manager
Shon Brooks, Assistant City Manager
Robert Brown, City Attorney Representative
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billie Wallace called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Wallace gave the invocation, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Announcements/Presentations

- a. Introduce Honorary Council Member
- b. Recognize Teresa McNiel for 23 years of service on the Civil Service Commission
- c. Recognize John Hamilton for 12 years serving as President of the Waxahachie Partnership, Inc.
- d. Present Proclamation recognizing September as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month"

Council Member Chris Wright introduced Steve Chapman as Honorary Council Member for the month of September. Mr. Chapman is a lifelong resident of Waxahachie who has been deeply involved in the community for decades. He was married to his hometown sweetheart, Hilda Harbin, for nearly 50 years and raised two children, Jim and Jill.

A graduate of SMU and SMU Law, Mr. Chapman practiced law in Waxahachie for more than 55 years, specializing in real estate, business, and probate law. He also served as Waxahachie's City Attorney for more than 50 years, attending over 2,000 City Council meetings and earning a reputation for working effectively with elected officials and the community.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Chapman has chaired numerous local organizations and is known for his extensive collection of classic automobiles and his knowledge of Waxahachie history. He is described as a friend to everyone, an enemy to none, and a trusted advisor whose decades of service have made a lasting impact on the community.

Lindsey Mearns, Director of Human Resources and Civil Service, recognized Teresa McNiel for 23 years of service on the Civil Service Commission.

Sandy Rehkopf, Downtown Manager, recognized John Hamilton for 12 years serving as President of the Waxahachie Partnership, Inc.

Mayor Wallace presented a proclamation recognizing September as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” and presented it to Amanda Kelly.

5. Public Comments

Chris Davis, Chair of the Park Board, 401 N. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas, strongly supported the Kimley-Horn Lions Park plan, developed with extensive community and professional input, citing its broader recreational amenities and future flexibility. Mr. Davis opposed shifting to a six-field synthetic turf concept, which was never presented to or approved by the Parks Board, and raised concerns about its development costs, extreme heat, maintenance, and potential environmental impact from plastic and petroleum-based materials entering the Waxahachie Creek.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the City Council meeting of August 17, 2026
- b. Minutes of the City Council work session of August 25, 2026
- c. Proposed Ordinance approving a request by Stefan Kenyon, for a Petition for ETJ Release for approximately 63.451 acres, located at 1315 FM 1446 (Property ID 179047) – Owner Jon Payne (ETJ-PTN-90-2026)
- d. Proposed Ordinance approving a request by Elizabeth Davis, for a Petition for ETJ Release for approximately 20.501 acres, located at 1109 Wilson Road (Property ID 192192) – Owner: Elizabeth Davis (ETJ-PTN-94-2026)
- e. City Manager’s appointment of member to Civil Service Commission
- f. Approval of a construction contract with Texas Materials Group Inc and Reliable Paving Inc for Asphalt Milling and Overlay Services with IDIQ Pricing
- g. Construction contract award for the Waxahachie Creek Erosion Repair at Getzendaner Project in the amount of \$3,652,692

Councilman Chris Wright requested to remove Item g. from the Consent Agenda to allow for further discussion.

ORDINANCE NO. 3748

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE FROM THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE’S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF A 63.451 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, LOCATED AT 1315 FM 1446, KNOWN AS PROPERTY ID 179047, AND ORDERING THE CHANGING OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE’S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION BOUNDARY MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID CHANGE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3749

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE FROM THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF A 20.501 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, LOCATED AT 1109 WILSON ROAD, KNOWN AS PROPERTY ID 192192, AND ORDERING THE CHANGING OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION BOUNDARY MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID CHANGE.

Action:

Chris Wright moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, except for Item g., and authorize the City Manager and/or Mayor to execute all necessary documents. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (5-0).

James Gaertner, Director of Capital Improvements & Engineering, reviewed the Item. The City is considering awarding a \$3,652,692 construction contract to Austin Filter Systems, Inc. for erosion repairs along approximately 1,500 feet of Waxahachie Creek in Getzendaner Park. The project includes a rock anchor gabion wall, excavation, tree removal and replacement, fencing, storm pipe replacement, and removal of the old Matthews Bridge structures, along with several additional erosion-control improvements. Austin Filter Systems submitted the lowest responsive bid among nine contractors, and the project is within budget. Funding would come from the FY2023 and FY2024 Parks CO Bond funds.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to approve Item g. on the Consent Agenda and authorize the City Manager and/or Mayor to execute all necessary documents. Motion was seconded by Travis Smith and carried unanimously (5-0).

- 7. Public Hearing on a request 7020 Waxahachie LP, for a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for Heavy Machinery and Equipment, Rental, Sales or Storage use within a Light Industrial-1 zoning district located at 7020 N Interstate 35 (Property ID 185396) - Owner: Waxahachie LLC (ZDC-64-2026)**

Planning Director Trenton Robertson presented the Item. The applicant requests approval of a Specific Use permit (SUP) to allow for a Heavy Machinery and Equipment, Rental, Sales, Storage and Display use for 7020 Waxahachie LLC at 7020 N Interstate 35. The lot has a one story, 6,022 square foot metal building on the subject property. The structure is 100.2' long and 60' wide. Proposed hours of operation are 24/7 with up to 30 employees. Outside storage of heavy machinery, equipment, and materials will be to the rear of the property. Only the display and storage of heavy equipment and vehicles will be allowed along the front of the property. Landscaping, fence installation, and an exterior remodel have been completed without obtaining the appropriate permits. However, a civil permit and irrigation permit have been obtained. The irrigation and work covered under the civil permit have not been completed or accepted by the City.

Upon bringing this to applicant's attention, the applicant has agreed to apply for the appropriate permits to satisfy code requirements. Several trees were planted in TXDOT's Right of Way (ROW) for screening purposes. The applicant has agreed to replace any landscaping in the ROW that is removed in the event of a TXDOT expansion, and the replacement landscaping would be in the interior of the lot.

To comply with State law contained in Local Government Code Chapter 211 and the City's public hearing notice requirements, nine notices were mailed to property owners within 200 feet of the request. Staff has received no letters of support and no letters of opposition to the proposed SUP request.

Mayor Wallace opened the public hearing at approximately 7:28 p.m.

There being no others to speak for or against the item, Mayor Wallace closed the public hearing at approximately 7:28 p.m.

8. Consider proposed Ordinance approving ZDC-64-2026

ORDINANCE NO. 3750

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT (SUP) TO PERMIT A HEAVY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, RENTAL, SALES OR STORAGE USE WITHIN A LIGHT INDUSTRIAL-1 ZONING DISTRICT, LOCATED AT 7020 N INTERSTATE 35, BEING PROPERTY ID 185369, IN THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS, BEING IN THE WM B HAYNES L B OUTLAW SURVEY, AND ORDERING THE CHANGING OF THE ZONING MAP THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID CHANGE.

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to approve ZDC-64-2026, a Specific Use Permit for a Heavy Machinery and Equipment, Rental, Sales or Storage, subject to the conditions of the staff report, authorizing the City Manager and/or Mayor to execute all necessary documents. Motion was seconded by Travis Smith and carried unanimously (5-0).

9. Public Hearing on a request by Matt Lucas, Kimley-Horn, for a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for a Pole Sign use within a Planned Development-Mixed Use Nonresidential (PD-MUNR) zoning district located on the northeast corner of Gridiron Drive and Blue Star Drive (Property ID 303980) – Owner(s): 289 BSL Waxahachie, LLC (ZDC-79-2026)

Mr. Robertson presented the Item. The applicant proposes to develop a one-story restaurant use (Texas Roadhouse) that is allowed by right under the current zoning of PD-MUNR. The building area will be approximately 7,926 square feet, with a proposed height of 28'-10." The operational plan provided by the applicant anticipates that the restaurant will feature approximately 290 indoor dining seats, 32 patio seats, and 194 parking spaces.

The applicant proposes a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for the subject property to allow for a 24' Pole Sign for the proposed Texas Roadhouse development. Per section 5.08 of the Waxahachie Zoning Ordinance, a pole sign is only permissible by SUP by amending ordinance establishing a PD. The overall proposed use is allowed by right under the current zoning of PD-MUNR. The total height of the proposed pole sign is 24'. The proposed size, height, and location of the proposed sign adheres to the requirements for pole signs set forth by the City of Waxahachie's Zoning Ordinance. The sign features 149.33 square feet of advertising space and is proposed to be setback a minimum of 20' from all property lines. The sign is proposed to be situated on the southeast corner of the property.

As part of this SUP request, the applicant is proposing three (3) minor deviations from the established zoning regulations associated with the Texas Roadhouse development. Under the current zoning district, a 25' landscape buffer is required under the associated Planned Development (Ord.3224). Additionally, per section 5.03 of the Waxahachie Zoning Ordinance, each refuse facility shall be screened by an opaque wall of masonry not less than six (6) feet, and no more than eight (8) feet in height. Lastly, a minimum roof slope of 5:12 is required under section 5.03 of the Waxahachie Zoning Ordinance. The applicant proposes the following deviations:

1. Landscape buffer along north fire lane/access drive: A 23' landscape buffer as shown in landscape plan. This deviation from the PD is to accommodate canopy trees along one of the main access points into the development and to provide sufficient parking for their business operations.
2. Dumpster enclosure screening height: An Opaque screening wall that is 8'-8" in total height as shown in Dumpster Enclosure. The overall design preserves the intent of the ordinance as it will still provide adequate screening, by an opaque masonry wall on all three sides of the dumpster enclosure and does not reduce the quality, durability, or combustibility with the proposed structure.
3. Roof Pitch: The roof will feature a "flat" roof (with parapet) and an overall mix of roof pitches as shown in the Roof Plan which reflects their prototypical architecture for the associated business.

In accordance with Chapter 211 of the Texas Local Government Code and the City's public hearing notification requirements, five notices were mailed to property owners located within 200 feet of the subject property. At time of publication, staff received zero (0) letters in support of the request and zero (0) letters expressing concerns regarding the Special Use Permit (SUP) request without indicating either support or opposition.

Mayor Wallace opened the public hearing at approximately 7:32 p.m.

There being no others to speak for or against the item, Mayor Wallace closed the public hearing at approximately 7:32 p.m.

10. Consider proposed Ordinance approving ZDC-79-2026

ORDINANCE NO. 3751

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT (SUP) TO PERMIT A POLE SIGN USE WITHIN A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-MIXED USE NONRESIDENTIAL (PD-MUNR) ZONING DISTRICT, LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE INTERSECTION OF GRIDIRON DRIVE AND BLUE STAR DRIVE, BEING PROPERTY ID 303980, IN THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS, BEING LOT 4, BLOCK A IN THE 289 BSL WAXAHACHIE ADDITION SUBDIVISION, AND ORDERING THE CHANGING OF THE ZONING MAP THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID CHANGE.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to approve ZDC-79-2026, a Specific Use Permit for a 24' Pole Sign use adjacent to the intersection of Gridiron Drive and Blue Star Drive, subject to the deviations and considerations of the staff report, authorizing the City Manager and/or Mayor to execute all necessary documents. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (5-0).

11. Consider proposed ordinance approving revised budget figures for fiscal year 2025-2026 and adopting the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027

Finance Director Chad Tustison presented the Item. This agenda item is for the City Council to consider the approval of revised budget figures for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the proposed budget for Fiscal year 2026-2027. The proposed budget represents the City's funding plan for the next fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2026.

The development of the annual budget is a comprehensive effort that involves input from the City Council and all City departments. This process begins early in the calendar year as City staff begins reviewing the current budget, revenue and expenditure trends, and preparing budget proposals.

On April 14th, staff held a work session with the City Council on the preliminary Capital Improvement and Debt Management Plan to discuss upcoming capital projects and funding options, including the issuance of bonds.

On June 22nd, a second budget work session was held to provide City Council an overview of the draft budget, including all major funds, proposed operating and capital plans, major revenue sources, as well as an opportunity to discuss the proposed tax rate.

A public hearing on the proposed was held on the proposed budget on September 1st.

Councilman Patrick Souter thanked Mr. Tustison for his work but expressed concerns about the potential reappropriation of Waxahachie Community Development Corporation (WCDC) funds. He also stated that he does not support increasing the City Council's per diem.

ORDINANCE NO. 3752

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS, APPROVING REVISED BUDGET FIGURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND TERMINATING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to approve revised budget figures for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as presented. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried 3-2, with Patrick Souter and Chris Wright voting in opposition.

12. Consider proposed ordinance amending Water and Wastewater rates and fees and setting an effective date of October 1, 2026

Mr. Tustison presented the Item. This item is for the City Council to approve the water and wastewater rates and fees included as part of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

The Water and Wastewater Funds provide for the administration, operation and maintenance of all City water services including distribution, wastewater collection, water and wastewater treatment activities, meter management, and billing services. Revenue to support these operations is generated primarily through water and sewer usage rates, as outlined in City ordinance.

As part of the budget process, City staff recommends that City Council vote to affirm these rates annually and amend rates and fees when necessary. The FY 2027 Budget includes an increase of 4% in water and wastewater rates, fees, and charges to keep up with growth, address inflationary cost escalations, and preparation for future capital projects. Additionally, the ordinance includes changes to various utility fees to recover the costs of service, eliminate fees for services no longer provided, and clarify certain language in the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance includes the Sokoll rate fee of 2.01 per 1,000 gallons. Updated annually, this rate is charged to the City and Rocket SUD to recover each entity's proportional cost to operate and maintain the Sokoll Water Plant.

City staff said the City's water and wastewater rates remain in the lower-to-middle range compared with similar-sized cities, but inflation and rising infrastructure costs are putting pressure on the system. Since 2020, inflation has increased about 4.3% annually, while the City's rates have risen about 3.1%, prompting an ongoing rate study to ensure future infrastructure and debt needs are adequately funded without raising rates unnecessarily. The study will also explore potential discounts or assistance for qualifying seniors and residents on fixed incomes, with recommendations expected in October or November.

ORDINANCE NO. 3753

AN ORDINANCE SETTING WATER AND WASTEWATER FEES, BY AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to approve an ordinance setting water and wastewater rates and fees and setting an effective date of October 1, 2026. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (5-0).

13. Consider proposed ordinance adopting the Tax Rate for fiscal year 2026-2027

Mr. Tustison presented the Item. This agenda item is for the City Council to consider the proposed Property Tax Rate included in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. In accordance with the Tax Code, a public hearing on the property tax rate was held on September 1, 2026. The proposed rate of \$0.610000 is above the no-new-revenue rate of \$0.582798 and lower than the voter-approval rate of \$0.611094.

The increase in the budget provides for continued and additional funding for essential City services such as public safety, street and sidewalk installation and maintenance, park improvements, to keep pace with growth, and continued support of the City's Capital Improvements Program.

Mayor Wallace expressed support for maintaining the city's tax rate at 61 cents for the third consecutive year, noting that the rate was previously as high as 68 cents or more. They praised City Council and staff for working together to meet community needs within existing revenues despite inflation and emphasized the importance of avoiding additional costs for local families.

ORDINANCE NO. 3754

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

Action:

Travis Smith moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 61 cents, with an operation and maintenance rate of 39.0646 cents, and an interest and sinking rate of 21.9354 cents, which is effectively a 4.7% percent increase in the tax rate. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried 3-2, with the vote as follows:

*Billie Wallace – Aye
Travis Smith – Aye
Tres Atkins – Aye
Patrick Souter-Naye
Chris Wright – Naye*

14. Consider a motion to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code

Mr. Tustison presented the Item. Texas Local Government Code requires that adoption of a budget that will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year requires a separate vote of the governing body to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget.

The increase in the budget provides for continued and additional funding for essential City services such as public safety, street and sidewalk installation and maintenance, park improvements, increases in operational costs, and continued support of the City's capital improvements program.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried 3-2, with Patrick Souter and Chris Wright voting in opposition.

15. Consider and act upon an ordinance of the City of Waxahachie, Texas, approving the 2026-2027 annual service plan update to the Service and Assessment Plan for the North Grove Public Improvement District and providing an effective date"

Tanner Siegert, Municap, presented the Item. Mr. Siegert noted that there are no changes to the assessment methodology previously approved in the Service and Assessment Plan. He also recognized the Dove Hollow Phase III plat, which adds 171 residential lots in 80-, 70-, and 60-foot configurations. With this phase, all 618 lots within Improvement Area #3 have been developed and subdivided.

As of the specified dates, 10 parcels in Improvement Area #1, one parcel in Improvement Area #2, and 11 parcels in Improvement Area #3 have prepaid their special assessments in full. Following approval of the 2026–27 Annual Service and Assessment Plan update, the approved assessment amounts for each parcel will be provided to the Ellis County Tax Office for inclusion with 2026 property tax bills.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith suggested using postcards with a QR code to help homebuyers understand the updated service plan and access additional information online.

ORDINANCE NO. 3755

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE APPROVING THE ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE SERVICE AND ASSESSMENT PLAN AND ASSESSMENT ROLL[S] FOR THE NORTH GROVE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §372.013, AS AMENDED; CONTAINING A CUMMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Action:

Tres Atkins moved to approve an ordinance of the City of Waxahachie, approving the 2026-2-27 annual update of the Service and Assessment Plan for the North Grove Public Improvement District No. 1 and providing an effective date. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and carried unanimously (5-0).

16. Discuss and consider Resolution designating an official newspaper and an alternate advertising source for the City of Waxahachie for Fiscal Year 26-27

City Secretary Amber Villarreal presented the Item. The proposed resolution authorizes the City Council to designate a newspaper as the City’s official newspaper for the publication of ordinances, notices, and other materials required by the City Charter and applicable law. The Council may also designate one or more alternative newspapers to serve as secondary publication options when the required publication deadlines cannot be met by the primary newspaper.

For the prior fiscal year, the Council designated the *Waxahachie Daily Light* as the City’s official newspaper and *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Ellis County Press*, *The Midlothian Mirror*, and *The Waxahachie Sun* as alternate newspapers. Each newspaper meets the legal requirements established under Section 2051.044 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Council members discussed the importance of using local vendors whenever possible and questioned whether the vendors under consideration have a physical presence within Waxahachie. They agreed with the preference to support local businesses when opportunities are available. The discussion also touched on the use of alternate newspapers for required publications and the changing role and significance of the traditional newspaper of record.

RESOLUTION NO. 1419

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE DESIGNATING THE WAXAHACHIE DAILY LIGHT AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, AND THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, THE ELLIS COUNTY PRESS, THE MIDLOTHIAN MIRROR, THE WAXAHACHIE SUN, AND THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM AS ALTERNATE ADVERTISING SOURCES, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to approve a resolution designating the Waxahachie Daily Light as the official City newspaper and the Dallas Morning News, the Ellis County Press, the Midlothian Mirror, the Waxahachie Sun, and the Fort Worth Star Telegram as alternate newspaper advertising sources. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried 3-2, with Patrick Souter and Chris Wright voting in opposition.

17. Consider appointments to Boards and Commissions

Ms. Villarreal presented the Item. On August 25, 2026, the City Council held a work session to review applications for board and commission appointments. Staff is requesting that Council discuss the applications and appoint members to the respective boards and commissions.

City Council discussed the process for appointing members to boards and commissions, particularly concerns that the list of recommended appointments changed after a prior Council meeting. Councilman Wright questioned the removal of an existing WCDC board member and suggested that, if the process has changed, Council should reconvene to agree on a final slate before voting.

Mayor Wallace explained that the current rules allow the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to make changes following Council's initial discussions and defended the decision as based on a potential conflict of interest involving oversight of multiple budgets.

Council also discussed the WCDC board member's County employment and whether that role creates a potential conflict when making decisions involving City funds. Council members disagreed over the reasoning and process, with some supporting stricter rules for serving on multiple boards, particularly those overseeing budgets.

Councilman Tres Atkins noted that the City now has more applicants than available board positions and cautioned that any changes to the rules should account for the possibility of needing more board members in the future.

After Council discussion, the following recommendations were made:

ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2-year term)

Kenzie Redington, Person whose duties include the daily operation of an animal shelter
Kari Kelly-Koch, Citizen
Holly Pike, Citizen
Haven Moreno, Citizen

CEMETERY BOARD (2-year term)

Mark Gundert
Alex Lohmann

CULTURAL ARTS AND HERITAGE COMMISSION (2-year term)

Mary Crook (replacing unexpired term of Twyla U. Williams until September 2028)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Christopher Ochoa (replacing Patrick Aulson)

HERITAGE PRESERVATION (2-year term)

Ronald Finch
Mark Gundert
Jackie Montejano

IMPACT FEE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee Coleman, Ad Hoc Member (replacing Dalton Bradbury)

KEEP WAXAHACHIE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE (3-year term)

Madeline Bracken
Forrest John
Katrina Rabien
Jackie Wray (filling unexpired term of Austin Mauldin until September 2027)

MID-WAY REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD (3-year term)

Nanette Paghi

PARK BOARD (3-year term)

Brad Burns
Tiki Smith

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION (2-year term)

Jenny Bridges
Twyla U. Williams
Vacant

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2-year term)

Princess Murray
Laura Piper
Tiki Smith

TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE (2-year term)

Amber Adams
Al Mack
Brad Yates

WAXAHACHIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (2-year term)

Jenny Bridges
David Hudgins
Cindy Smith

WAXAHACHIE HOUSING AUTHORITY (2-year term)

Detrick Lester
Priscilla Ramirez
Kristin Ramsey (resident)

Action:

Travis Smith moved to approve the appointments to Boards and Commissions as presented. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried 3-2, with Patrick Souter and Chris Wright voting in opposition.

- 18. Consider approval to enter into a contract for a Type 3 fire apparatus identified as 4244- BME-International HV 507-Type 3 for \$673,590 with Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, LLC**

Fire Chief Scott Safford presented the Item. The purpose of this purchase is to strengthen the department's operational capabilities in response to the continued growth of Waxahachie and the surrounding areas, particularly in regions with rural characteristics and heavy vegetation. A Type 3 apparatus provides increased suppression and off-road capability, making it a critical asset for both initial attack and extended operations. By approving this purchase now, the City can secure a unit that is already in production. This opportunity significantly reduces the standard build and delivery timeline (three years), allowing the department to place the apparatus into service in the fourth quarter of 2027.

Funding for the purchase of \$673,590 is sufficiently within the City's proposed FY27 General Fund budget. The cost is anticipated to be funded by reimbursements to the General Fund through deployments under the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS). Waxahachie firefighters and apparatuses are frequently mobilized for state wildfire response, generating reimbursement revenue that will help recover the City's investment over time. By purchasing this apparatus at this time, staff was able to negotiate a \$26,286 savings.

Action:

Travis Smith moved to approve the HGAC Contract with Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, LLC for the purchase of a BME International Type 3 apparatus in the amount of \$673,590 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (5-0).

- 19. Convene into Executive Session to deliberate economic development incentives, as permitted by Texas Government Code Section 551.087; to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property for municipal purposes, as permitted by Texas Government Code Section 551.072; to deliberate personnel matters, including the appointment, evaluation, duties or dismissal of any member of a City board or commission, as permitted by Texas Government Code Section 551.074; to consult with City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with City Code and Charter**

provisions and consultation with City Attorney regarding pending and anticipated litigation, as permitted by Texas Government Code Section 551.071, and all matters incident and related thereto

City Council did not convene into Executive Session.

20. Reconvene and take any necessary action

No action taken.

21. Comments by Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Management

City Attorney Robert Brown expressed gratitude for being alongside Steve Chapman, an experienced attorney who served as the City Attorney for 50 years.

Council Member Chris Wright congratulated Steve Chapman and thanked everyone involved in supporting the city. Councilman Wright recognized Teresa McNeil and John Hamilton for their years of service and acknowledged the Finance Department, Chad Tustison, Mariana Dunn, staff, department heads, and others for their hard work on the City budget. He also highlighted progress on the Waxahachie Creek project in Getzendander Park, thanked the library and encouraged residents to get a library card.

Council Member Patrick Souter thanked Mr. Chapman for his significant contributions to the City of Waxahachie and Ellis County. He also thanked Mayor Wallace for considering and using his recommendations regarding the boards and commissions for which he serves as Council liaison.

Mayor Pro Tem Travis Smith welcomed Patrick Souter back and thanked him for attending. He called for greater transparency in the boards and commissions appointment process, including written justification for nominees. He also defended the City's budget and staff, emphasizing the significant work involved in developing the budget and expressing concern that staff efforts should not be used for political purposes or social media campaigns.

Council Member Tres Atkins welcomed Mr. Chapman and expressed appreciation for his longstanding presence in the community, praised Teresa McNeil and John Hamilton for their dedicated service, and thanked the Fire Department for its quick response to a medical incident. Councilman Atkins also expressed support for Councilman Souter's return.

City Manager Ricky Boyd welcomed Steve Kuykendall as the newly appointed Civil Service Commissioner, noting his family's connection to fire service and expressed confidence in the insight and wisdom he will bring to the City. Mr. Boyd acknowledged Teresa McNeil's significant contributions and noted that she will be difficult to replace. Mr. Boyd also praised City staff for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Billie Wallace thanked Mr. Chapman, Teresa McNeil, and John Hamilton for their years of dedicated service and recommended that City Council be present when appointments are considered. Mayor Wallace also thanked Councilman Souter for communicating his concerns and providing information that led to positive changes. Mayor Wallace expressed disappointment that

the FY 2026–27 budget was not unanimously approved after months of work by the Council and staff. Finally, she praised City staff, the Fire Department, Parks Department, Police Department, and other departments for successfully and safely reopening the lake parks over Labor Day weekend, highlighting the extensive planning, strong execution, community participation, and absence of drownings.

22. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary