

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 Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Council Member Absent: Travis Smith, Council Member Place 5

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager  
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager  
Terry Welch, City Attorney  
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**

Deacon Billy Smith, Waxahachie Bible Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public Comments**

Kimberly Fuller, Ellis County Homeless Coalition, provided the following report about the assistance provided to individuals in need in the area. From January to November 2024, assistance was provided to 621 individuals, primarily in Waxahachie and some in Midlothian, with approximately one-third being children under 18. In October, 61 individuals were assisted, including 23 children, and in November, 53 individuals were helped, including 17 children. The Coalition has actively engaged with nearly all individuals in need, often through repeat visits, to connect them with resources and support their stability. Cold weather has raised concerns, as a recent case involved a mother with five children seeking shelter, but no warming shelters are currently available. To address this, the team is coordinating efforts to establish temporary facilities while Central Presbyterian Church prepares to open as a warming center by late January or February, with cots and blankets ready for use.

**5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the City Council meeting of December 16, 2024
- b. Proposed Ordinance approving a request by Brian Molder, for a Petition for ETJ Release for approximately 20 acres, located at 208 Crownover Road (Property ID 181906) – Owner: Brian & Kimberly Molder (ETJ-PTN-225-2024)
- c. Consumer Price Index adjustment to the Garbage and Trash Collection effective April 1, 2025

- d. Budget amendment for insurance reimbursement for repaired police vehicle
- e. Proposed Resolution for the Ellis Appraisal District Facilities Renovation
- f. Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report

**ORDINANCE NO. 3590**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE FROM THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF A 20 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, LOCATED AT 208 CROWNOVER ROAD, KNOWN AS PROPERTY ID 181906, AND ORDERING THE CHANGING OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION BOUNDARY MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID CHANGE.**

**Action:**

*Patrick Souter moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, as presented, and authorize the City Manager and/or Mayor to execute all associated documents as necessary. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (4-0).*

**6. Introduce Honorary Council Member**

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright announced David McSpadden will attend the next meeting to serve as the January Honorary Council Member.

**7. Present Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Award**

Kyle Cooper, Senior Director of Parks and Recreation, announced the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee has revived the Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Award, which celebrates homeowners and businesses that contribute to the beauty and character of their neighborhoods. He introduced Madeline Bracken, Chair of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee.

Ms. Bracken explained this quarter, the Weaver family, who reside at 902 West Main Street, was honored for their exceptional efforts, particularly during the Christmas season. The Weavers created a festive photo backdrop and bench that attracted families, fostering joy and community connections. Many neighbors and passersby stopped to take holiday photos, which added to the spirit of the season. Their dedication to enhancing the neighborhood perfectly embodies the purpose of the award, making Waxahachie a more welcoming and beautiful place.

As part of their recognition, the Weavers were presented with a \$50 gift card to a local business and a yard sign acknowledging their achievement, which will remain on display for three months. The Council and community expressed their appreciation for the Weavers' contributions to uplifting the neighborhood.

**8. Consider supplemental appropriation for Waxahachie City Cemetery security camera installation**

Mr. Cooper presented the Item. In 2022, the City of Waxahachie Cemetery experienced vandalism resulting in over 275 damaged headstones, which have since been repaired. In response to concerns

about cemetery security, the City Council approved \$50,000 in funding for security cameras as part of the FY22-23 budget. However, delays due to changes in providers and equipment, as well as pending fiber optic line installations near the site, resulted in the project not being completed during FY22-23. However, the unused funding was encumbered to procure the security cameras and installation hardware. Unfortunately, unanticipated project cost increases realized when contractor bids were received require additional funding for the pole installation and electrical services needed for the operation of the cameras.

Since the 2022 vandalism incident, there have been no further documented cases of vandalism at the cemetery. Despite this, the Cemetery Board has recommended moving forward with the Cemetery Security Camera Project consisting of the installation of five pole-mounted security cameras strategically placed to maximize coverage. These cameras will feature license plate reading capabilities and an expanded field of view.

When this item was presented to the Council on November 4, 2024, no action was taken and staff received guidance to explore cost-saving opportunities. Following that feedback, staff solicited proposals from twelve vendors across various trades and received five responses. Staff selected two contractors capable of completing separate aspects of the project. By City Staff managing the project and segmenting the project into separate components to be completed by different contractors, a cost savings of approximately \$15,000 is estimated from what was previously proposed.

**Action:**

*Patrick Souter moved to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$60,000 from the Cemetery Fund unreserved fund balance to fund the Cemetery Security Camera Project and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents. Motion was seconded by Chris Wright and carried unanimously (4-0).*

**9. Consider an Engineering Professional Services Agreement with Walter P Moore Engineering for the Creek Bank Stabilization at Getzendaner Park**

Justin Stoker, Director of Public Works and Engineering, presented the Item. This agreement will be for the design and engineering services of a project to address the erosion along the east banks of Waxahachie Creek at Getzendaner Park. The project will install a gabion system along a portion of the creek where erosion is, or threatens to, undermine the pedestrian and bike trail in Getzendaner Park. The project also restores infrastructure such as storm drain outfalls and erosion protection on both sides of the two (2) pedestrian bridges.

**Action:**

*Chris Wright moved to approve a professional services agreement with Walter P Moore Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$480,000 for the engineering and design of the Creek Bank Stabilization Project at Getzendaner Park. Motion was seconded by Tres Atkins and carried unanimously (4-0).*

**10. Consider contract renewal for solid waste service agreement**

Shon Brooks, Executive Director of Development Services, presented the Item. The City of

Waxahachie entered into a five-year contract with Waste Connections in April 2021. The current contract allows for a renewal at the initial terms for an additional five years, beginning on April 1, 2026. However, a proposed additional 8.606% rate adjustment plus the annual CPI-U rate adjustment was discussed in a City Council work session on October 29, 2024. The rate adjustment is necessary for Waste Connections to offset unprecedented inflationary cost pressures and maintain their current service levels.

The proposed renewal contract terms will remain the same as the current contract, except the inclusion of an 8.606% rate increase in addition to the annual CPI-U rate increase to be applied in April 2026. Each year thereafter, Waste Connections can increase rates based on the current CPI-U at the time, but the rate increase cannot exceed 5%.

The proposed contract renewal to become effective April 2026 will include the annual CPI-U rate adjustment plus the additional 8.606% rate increase. This will adjust all residential and commercial trash and recycle rates. By estimating a CPI-U of 4%, residential rates will increase from approximately \$6.23/month in 2025 to \$7.02/month in 2026 representing about a \$0.79 increase for a typical resident. Rates for subsequent years may only increase based on the CPI-U and cannot exceed 5%. The adjustment will also similarly increase the City's collected franchise fees.

**Action:**

*Tres Atkins moved to approve the five-year renewal of the solid waste collections contract with Waste Connections Lone Star, Inc. beginning April 1, 2026, to include a rate adjustment of 8.606% plus the November 2025 Consumer Price Index for garbage and trash collection, not to exceed a total rate adjustment of 13.606%. Motion was seconded by Patrick Souter and carried unanimously (4-0).*

**11. Comments by Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Manager**

Council Member Patrick Souter congratulated 26 members of the Waxahachie Fire Department who participated in a promotion and shield ceremony, expressing gratitude for their service and dedication. He also commended the Parks Team for progress on the security camera project, acknowledging the hard work of the IT department and others involved. He offered prayers for the victims in the New Orleans incident.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Wright thanked Finance Director Chad Tustison for the quarterly report, Ellis County Homeless Coalition for their efforts, recognized the Parks Department's installation of new astroturf at a playground, which received positive feedback from the community, and congratulated Records Coordinator Clarice Crocker for earning her Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification.

Shon Brooks, Executive Director of Development Services, recognized Jennifer Pruitt for her contributions as she prepares to retire and welcomed Trent Robertson as her successor.

Deputy City Manager Albert Lawrence echoed Mr. Brooks' comments.

Council Member Tres Atkins congratulated Ms. Crocker on achieving her recent certification, expressing his pride in her accomplishment and commending the Parks Team for their outstanding work.

City Manager Michael Scott thanked City Council for their support.

Mayor Billie Wallace echoed all comments and recognized City Staff for their work.

## **12. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal  
City Secretary