

HEWITT TEXAS

**MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORKSHOP
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
HEWITT CITY HALL – 200 PATRIOT COURT
July 6, 2021 – 6:00 PM/7:00 PM**

Attendee Name	Title	Absent	Present	Arrived
Steve Fortenberry (presiding)	Mayor, Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michael S. Bancala	Mayor Pro Tem, At-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Fuller	Council Member, Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Potter	Council Member, Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wilbert “Walky” Wachtendorf	Council Member, Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Charles D. Turner	Council Member, Ward 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Erica Bruce	Council Member, Ward 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff present:

City Manager Bo Thomas
City Secretary Lydia Lopez
Fire Chief Lance Bracco
Library Director Waynette Ditto
HR Manager/Civil Service Director Jessica Higgins (left at 6:59 PM)
Finance Director Lee Garcia (left at 6:59 PM)
General Services Director Scott Coleman (left at 7:29 PM)
Utilities Director Kevin Reinke (left at 7:29 PM)
City Engineer Miles Whitney

Staff absent:

Police Chief Jim Devlin
City Attorney Mike Dixon

Note: The meeting was live-streamed for view by the public on the City of Hewitt’s website at <https://www.cityofhewitt.com/790/Hewitt-TX-TV>. Citizens could submit written comments to the City Secretary.

SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORKSHOP – 6:00 PM

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the Workshop to order at 6:00 PM.

2. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022.** City Manager Bo Thomas began presentation by providing information about revenues in the FY 2021-2022 Budget. He distributed the following handouts: Comparison of Surrounding Tax Rates for Tax Year 2020, Certified Taxable Value for Tax Years 2015-2021, Sales Tax History, and a copy of an email response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale concerning the total costs of salary adjustments. Mr. Thomas further highlighted key facts regarding the contents of FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budget. General discussion concerning sales tax revenues, funding and completion of street projects - Spring Valley, police recruitment and reimbursement of Academy training cost.

3. **ADJOURN.**
MOTION TO ADJOURN WORKSHOP
MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to adjourn the Workshop at 6:59 PM.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry,
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Bruce, Bancale, and Turner
MOTION PASSED.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – 7:01 PM

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Mayor Fortenberry noted that all members of the Council were present with the exception of Council Members Erica Bruce, Charlie Turner, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **HEAR VISITORS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO CITY BUSINESS.** Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is prohibited from discussing, responding, or, acting on any comments or items that have not been properly posted on the agenda. **NOTE:** The public was offered the opportunity to submit written comments on items listed on the agenda or under the hear visitors. Mayor Steve Fortenberry read into the record the following public comment received by Denny Lessman, 920 Cheyenne Trail, Hewitt, TX 76643. “I express my concerns regarding behavior at Hewitt City Park. The shooting last week was a culmination of events that have been degrading for the past several years, namely the profanity and inappropriate behavior at the park which is mostly at the basketball court.

I have lived next to the park for 19 years. I have regularly used the park for recreation and taking walks. Over the past several years it has become more common for profanity and vulgarity to be used at the basketball courts. On several occasions I contacted Hewitt PD regarding this behavior. I feel that the police department’s response at the time was appropriate.

It simply takes the enjoyment out of taking walks or using the park to have to hear the profanity and vulgarity. And, I have found myself not walking at the park anymore. We should not have our enjoyment ruined by profanity, vulgarity, and other inappropriate behavior. We should not have to confront individuals in order to enjoy my walk and we should not have to call the police.

I have three recommendations to help address this problem.

1. Post a new sign of prohibited activity and include the appropriate provisions of the disorderly conduct statute (Penal Code Sec. 42.01 (a) 1-11)
2. Install lighting at the front of the park: sidewalk entrance by the benches, basketball court, and walking track.
3. Increase police patrols through the park and have the police actively listen and look for inappropriate language and behavior.

I would gladly agree to talk more on this and/or help serve to address this problem. Just let me know. Thanks.”

City Secretary noted no other public comment forms were submitted.

4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2021.

MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved approval of the minutes as presented but to allow for corrections.

SECOND: Council Member Bill Fuller

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Bancale, Bruce, and Turner

MOTION PASSED.

5. PRESENTATION OF REPORT FROM CITY ENGINEER MILES WHITNEY, P.E.

- Update on pending utility projects.
- Update on pending street projects.
- Update on pending drainage projects.

6. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING A 3.3% RATE INCREASE BY REPUBLIC SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTRACT. City Manager Bo Thomas presented the 3.3% rate increase adjustment which is tied to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (Water, Sewer and Trash Collection Services) and announced the effective date of July 1, 2021. Mr. Thomas further stated that the contract allows for an annual rate adjustment and this item was brought before Council for informational purposes only. **No action required.**

7. CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03; A RESOLUTION OF CANDIDATE NOMINATION FOR THE MCLENNAN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE REMAINING 2020-2021 TERM. City Manager Bo Thomas presented. No member of the Council expressed a desire for their name to be submitted as a candidate. **No action taken on this item.**

8. **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11; ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.** City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2021-11;** establishing a Board of Adjustment.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Bancale, Bruce, and Turner
MOTION PASSED.
9. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING COUNCIL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS.** City Manager Bo Thomas presented current vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission and on the Board of Adjustment. He asked Council to submit information on any prospective applicants. **No action taken.**
10. **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MEASURES, PROTOCOLS, AND MITIGATION EFFORTS.** City Manager Bo Thomas informed the Council that staff had set up the Council Chambers to accommodate attendance from the public with an overflow area in the Workshop Room with a live feed for viewing the meeting should the Council desire to open meetings back up to the public. He further informed the Council of an email received from City Attorney Mike Dixon concerning action by Governor Abbott's Office lifting the Open Meetings Act Suspension at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2021. Mr. Thomas also offered to move the full Council to the dais and/or add acrylic dividers between positions on the dais to offer more space for the public. General discussion was held concerning the need to have a full Council to take any action. **No action was taken.**

Mayor Steve Fortenberry recessed the Special Called Meeting to convene to the following Executive Session at 7:29 PM.

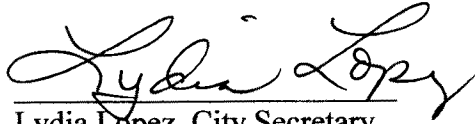
11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Notice is hereby given that a closed meeting will be held pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Government Code (V.T.C.A.) so that the Council may deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.
- Chapel Road Plant (Plant #3)
 - FM Hwy 2837 Plant (Plant #4)

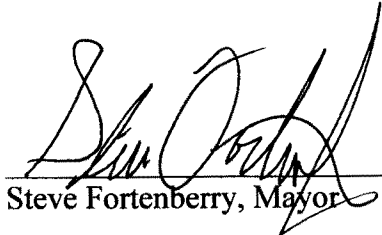
Mayor Steve Fortenberry reconvened the Special Called Meeting at 8:11 PM.

12. **ADJOURN.**
MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:11 PM.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Wachtendorf, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Bancale, Bruce, and Turner
MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 07-19-2021

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Steve Fortenberry, Mayor