

HEWITT TEXAS

**MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING
HEWITT CITY HALL – 200 PATRIOT COURT
July 19, 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. Bancale | Mayor Pro Tem, At-Large | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Charles D. Turner | Council Member, Ward 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Erica Bruce (Conference Call) | Council Member, Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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
 Finance Director Lee Garcia
 General Services Director Scott Coleman
 Utilities Director Kevin Reinke
 Assistant Police Chief Tuck Saunders
 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.

BUDGET WORKSHOP – 6:00 PM

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the Workshop to order at 6:00 PM. He noted the council members in attendance. Council Member Erica Bruce attended remotely via conference call. Council Member Wilbert “Walky” Wachtendorf was absent.

2. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022.** City Manager Bo Thomas recapped previous presentation and key facts regarding the contents of the FY 2021-2022 Proposed Annual Budget. He distributed and explained information on the following handouts: State Comptroller Information regarding De Minimis Rate, Introducing a New Truth-In-Taxation, July 19, 2021 City Council Budget Workshop Data - Tax Rate, and Sales Tax History. General discussion was held concerning tax rate data, voter approval rate, sales tax revenues, economic development, fund balance, funding of items for Strategic Planning process, water development, and water/wastewater rate study.

3. **ADJOURN.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN WORKSHOP

MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved to adjourn the Workshop at 6:59 PM.

SECOND: Council Member Bill Fuller

AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bruce, Turner, Bancale, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Wachtendorf

MOTION PASSED.

REGULAR MEETING – 7:04 PM

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Mayor Fortenberry noted that all members of the Council were present with the exception of Council Member Wilbert “Walky” Wachtendorf. Council Member Erica Bruce attended remotely via conference call.
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 inquired if any public comment forms were received. **City Secretary responded no public comment forms were submitted.**
4. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF JULY 6, 2021.**
MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved approval of the minutes as presented but allow for corrections.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bruce, Turner, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Wachtendorf
MOTION PASSED.

5. **BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.** City Manager Bo Thomas advised that Finance Director Lee Garcia previously sent the June Financial Statements electronically for the Council to review, and inquired if Council had any questions. There were no questions or concerns raised. **No action required.**

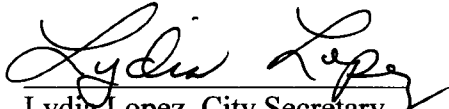
6. **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.** City Manager Bo Thomas presented a summary of report prepared by Valley View Consulting, L.L.C.
MOTION: Council Member Charlie Turner moved approval of the Quarter Investment Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2021.
SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bruce, Turner, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Wachtendorf
MOTION PASSED.

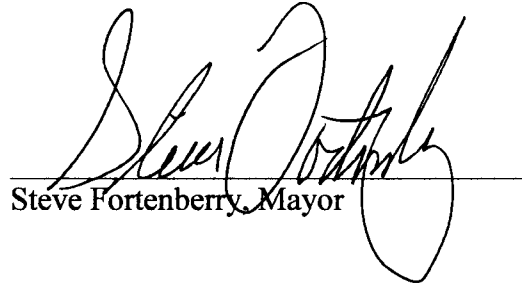
7. **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MEASURES, PROTOCOLS, AND MITIGATION EFFORTS.** City Manager Bo Thomas informed the Council that staff had set up the Council Chambers to accommodate attendance from the public with an overflow area in the Workshop Room with a live feed for viewing the meeting should the Council desire to open meetings back up to the public. 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. He further explained why Council would need to vote on reopening the meeting as Governor Abbott’s lifting the Open Meetings Act Suspension was not effective until September 1, 2021. General discussion was held concerning the safety of staff and the public, current status of COVID-19, and the ability for citizens to participate in the budget process.
MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bancale “I move that we open our meetings immediately to the public to allow their voices to be heard in setting our tax rate and to leave the room as is without partitions for Council dais.”
SECOND: Council Member Charlie Turner
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bruce, Turner, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Wachtendorf
MOTION PASSED.

8. **ADJOURN.**
MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to adjourn the Workshop at 7:29 PM.
SECOND: Council Member Charlie Turner
AYES: Fuller, Potter, Bruce, Turner, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Wachtendorf
MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 08-02-2021

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Steve Fortenberry, Mayor