

HEWITT TEXAS

**MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
HEWITT CITY HALL – 200 PATRIOT COURT
August 10, 2020 – 7:00 PM**

Attendee Name	Title	Absent	Present	Arrived
Charles D. Turner (presiding)	Mayor, Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wilbert "Walky" Wachtendorf	Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Fuller	Council Member, Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7:01 PM
Vacancy	Council Member, Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Michael S. Bancale	Council Member, At-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Steve Fortenberry	Council Member, Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Erica Bruce	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
Police Chief Jim Devlin
Library Director Waynette Ditto

In accordance with social distancing guidelines, the City Council meeting was not opened to the public; however, the meeting was live-streamed for view by the public on the Hewitt TX TV page.

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** Mayor Charlie Turner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. City Secretary Lydia Lopez polled the Council for attendance.
PRESENT: Fuller, Bancale, Wachtendorf, Fortenberry, Bruce, and Turner
ABSENT: None
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG.** Mayor Charlie Turner asked Council Member Erica Bruce to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET.** Mayor Turner opened the hearing and announced that one Public Comment form was submitted from Mr. Bob Potter, 409 W Wall Street. He quoted Mr. Potter's comment as "Round the tax rate to no more than 3 decimals, i.e. \$.54 or \$.541. Consider funding the short term financing capital outlays of \$564.619 with some of the unrestricted funds. This would avoid interest charges and provide more budget flexibility in the out years." Mayor Turner called for those speaking in favor and those speaking against. No one appeared for or against. The public hearing was closed.

4. CONDUCT THE FIRST OF TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON 2020 TAX RATE.

Mayor Charlie Turner called for those wishing to speak in favor and those wishing to speak against. No one appeared for or against. The public hearing was closed. City Manager Bo Thomas clarified that the Council approved a ceiling for the tax rate at the last meeting of \$.551506 based on the calculations presented by the Tax Assessor's Office. Mr. Thomas further advised the Council that changes were submitted on the 2020 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet the following day on August 4, 2020. He noted the new tax rate calculations as follows: No-new-revenue tax rate – 0.529873; Voter-Approval Tax Rate – 0.548838; De minimis rate – 0.674209. Mayor Turner clarified that the 2020 tax rate has not been set.

5. MOTION TO ANNOUNCE THAT AUGUST 17, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE HEWITT CITY HALL, 200 PATRIOT COURT, AS THE DATE TO VOTE ON THE 2020 TAX RATE.

MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to set the date of August 17, 2020, at 7:00 PM, at the Hewitt City Hall, 200 Patriot Court, as the date to vote on the 2020 tax rate.

SECOND: Council Member Erica Bruce

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

6. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING FY 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET.

City Manager Bo Thomas presented a Comparison of Surrounding Tax Rates and noted that Hewitt has one of the largest homestead exemptions in the County at 20%. This exemption reduces the tax rate from \$.54 to \$.43. Mr. Thomas also presented scenarios on the comparison of the current rate of \$.539677 and the rollback rate of \$.548838 to assist Council in their task of setting the 2020 tax rate. (Handouts distributed on file in the City Secretary's Office.) The following Department Heads submitted a summary of their departmental budgets: Police Chief Jim Devlin, Fire Chief Lance Bracco, Library Director Waynette Ditto, and Utilities Director Keven Reinke. General discussion was held about future water needs, ensuring ample water supply for the future, and the purchase of water from the City of Waco. Mr. Thomas concluded the discussion by announcing that General Services Director Scott Coleman would be presenting his budget summary at the next meeting and announced that in light of an advisory received from TML, the next meeting will be opened to the public to comply with the statutory-required property tax hearing on the tax rate.

7. ADJOURN.

MOTION: Council Member Bill Fuller moved to adjourn the Regular meeting at 8:19 PM.

SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale

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

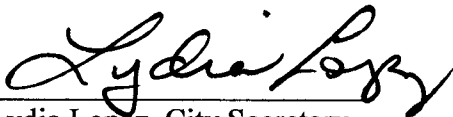
NAYES: None

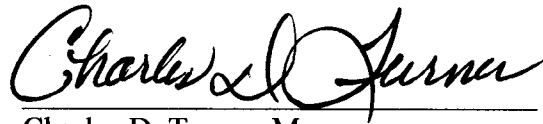
ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 8-17-2020

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Charles D. Turner, Mayor