



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Wolfforth City Hall - 302 Main Street Wolfforth, TX

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Addington at 3:00 PM

INVOCATION - Councilmember Place 1 David Cooper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Councilmember Place 2 Wesley Houck

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM

PRESENT

Mayor Charles Addington

Councilmember Place 1 David Cooper

Councilmember Place 2 Wesley Houck

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Hutcheson

Councilmember Place 4 Charlotte McDonald

Councilmember Place 5 Austin Brashier

SAFETY REVIEW

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

This is an opportunity for the public to address the City Council regarding an item on the agenda, except public hearings that are included on the agenda. Comments related to public hearings will be heard when the specific hearing begins. Citizen comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless the speaker requires the assistance of a translator, in which case the speaker is limited to six (6) minutes, in accordance with applicable law. Each speaker shall approach the designated speaker location, complete the citizen engagement sign-in sheet and state his/her name and city of residence before speaking.

Speakers shall address the City Council with civility that is conducive to appropriate public discussion. Speakers can address only the City Council and not individual city officials or employees. The public cannot speak from the gallery but only from the designated speaker location.

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Texas Government Code, section 551-001, et seq., the City Council will recess into executive session (closed meeting) to discuss the following:

The Council convened into Executive Session on June 10, 2024 at 3:01 PM.

1. 551.072. DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY; CLOSED MEETING. A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

In accordance with Texas Government Code, chapter 551, the City Council will reconvene into regular session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in executive session.

The Council reconvened into open session on June 10, 2024 at 3:10 PM. No action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION

2. Consider and take appropriate action on budget workshop for fiscal year 2025 Annual Budget Presentation concerning the FY 2025 budget were given to Council by City Manager Randy Criswell and Department Heads.

Currently FY 2024 budget is roughly \$16 million.

Budget consists of three major funds: General, Utility and Sanitation

Current tax rate is \$0.731784 with 2023 Taxable values of \$563 million. 2024 Estimated taxable value is \$773 million which includes \$81 million in new property. Final certified values should be received by late July.

Sales Tax is currently budgeted at \$1.3 million with a proposed budget for FY 2025 at \$1.3 million. Sales taxes have leveled off over the last 2 years even with new commercial growth.

Water Revenue is currently budgeted at \$4.5 million. Proposed budget will come after conversations with Newgen Strategies as they complete the City's rate study and Impact Fee implementation.

Sewer Revenue is expected to increase for FY 2025 to an approximate \$1,150,000.

In regards to Sanitation, contract with Republic Services expires April 2025. Future contract RFP process will begin soon so that a proposal and contract is ready for the Council's consideration in advance of March 2025.

Police Chief and Assistant City Manager Rick Scott addressed the Council concerning police department needs. Increasing manpower and equipment comes at a cost but is necessary as we continue to grow. The request for FY 2025 is for 3 additional officers: 2 Patrol Officers and 1 Detective. Additional vehicles would be needed in addition to the replacement of some older model police units.

Fire Chief Lance Barrett presented needs of the Fire Department. Two main priorities are man power and equipment needs. Pay rates need to be evaluated to maintain recruitment. Facilities including maintenance to the fire office and current station are needed. New ambulance and fire engine will be complete as we move into fiscal year 2025 and 2026.

Randy Hall with Public Works outlined needs including two additional personnel, replacement of two vehicles, and the trade-in of a 2021 Backhoe for a new 2024 backhoe to take advantage of high trade in values.

Kim Brantley, Library Director, presented to Council a consideration for a Strategic Plan for the expansion of the Library and the current needs and growth of the community. This process takes about 3 years to complete at a cost of \$50,000.

Development Department wants to focus on the clean up of several properties within the City. These include some rubbish cases and substandard structure cases. The process has begun with notifications to homeowners. Department Director Tara Tomlinson presented the Council with costs associated with property clean up. Some meeting space would be helpful to this department along with a continuation of training and certifications. As a look ahead into FY 2026, additional personnel will be needed to continue to meet the level of customer service the department strives for.

City Manager Randy Criswell discussed personnel with Council in regards to implementation of the comp/class study. Those figures are currently in the draft budget.

An increase in the TMRS employee contribution to a 7% rate should be considered. This would be a significant benefit to employees. More information will be given to the Council when rates are available from TMRS.

Planning for future facilities is also a priority of the City Manager.

Fund Balance at year end 2023: General Fund \$3,617,278 and Utility Fund \$3,739,518.

ARPA money will be used for water projects currently underway. All funds will be spent by December 31, 2026.

Moving Forward:

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption Calendar

June 17 - Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop

July 1 - Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop

July 15 - Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop

July 29 - Special Meeting for Budget Workshop (if required)

August 5 - Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop

August 19 - Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop

August 26 - Adopt Budget and Tax Rate at Special Meeting

Mr. Criswell requested comments from the Council pertaining to their priorities. The following comments were provided:

Councilmember Austin Brashier: maintain current tax rate, no increases to sewer rate, pay down as much debt as possible to prepare for facility needs, fund some fire department equipment mainly air compressor and Stryker equipment, increases in staff for police department is a high priority, personnel should come before equipment, explore new revenue streams similar to Emergifire.

Councilmember Charlotte McDonald: concentrate on department head concerns and would like more information on the comp/class study

Councilmember Doug Hutcheson: leaves priorities with staff and City Manager, tax rate increase could be considered

Councilmember Wesley Houck: would like to see draft numbers to help visualize the full picture. would like to see incentives to continue growth in sales tax base such as manufacturing etc... to alleviate heavy reliance on property tax

Councilmember David Cooper: supports a balanced budget and wishes the Department Heads and Management to continue their work on the budget.

Mayor Addington: continued support of economic development to help relieve the dependence on property taxes, continue to take care of our employees

Motion to adopt the following Budget and Tax Rate Adoption Calendar

June 17 - Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop

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Motion made by Councilmember Place 1 Cooper, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hutcheson.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Place 1 Cooper, Councilmember Place 2 Houck, Mayor Pro Tem Hutcheson, Councilmember Place 4 McDonald, Councilmember Place 5 Brashier

COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 5:12 PM.

Motion made by Councilmember Place 1 Cooper, Seconded by Councilmember Place 4 McDonald.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Place 1 Cooper, Councilmember Place 2 Houck, Mayor Pro Tem Hutcheson, Councilmember Place 4 McDonald, Councilmember Place 5 Brashier

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 17TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

Charles Addington, II, Mayor
City of Wolfforth, Texas

ATTEST:

DRAFT