HEWITT
TEXAS

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

August 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Hewitt City Hall, 200 Patriot Court, Hewitt, TX 76643

MINUTES

Steve Fortenberry, Mayor, Ward 3
Erica Bruce, Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 3 – **Michael S. Bancale**, Council Member, At-Large
Johnny Stephens, Council Member, Ward 1 – **Johnny Price**, Council Member, Ward 2
Bob Potter, Council Member, Ward 2 – **Brad Turner**, Council Member, Ward 1

REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM, announced all members were present, and declared a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Fortenberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The City Council invites citizens to speak on any topic not already scheduled for a public hearing. The Texas Open Meetings Act prohibits the Council from discussing, responding to, or acting on any comments or items not properly posted on the agenda. (Note: Members of the public who wish to speak must complete a "Public Comment Form" and present it to the City Secretary before the meeting.)

Mayor Fortenberry read the statement above and inquired if the City Secretary received any public comment forms. The City Secretary received no public comment forms.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) AND RELATED ACTION

1. Conduct the second of two public hearings on the 2023 Property Tax Rate.
   City Manager Bo Thomas advised the maximum property tax rate to be considered is $0.546736. Mayor Fortenberry opened the public hearing at 7:02 PM and called for those wishing to speak about the 2023 Property Tax Rate. Jim Bruns, 701 Regina, inquired how he would be able to protest his valuation. City Attorney Mike Dixon responded that he could protest the valuation of his property with the McLennan County Appraisal District. No one else appeared. The public hearing was closed at 7:04 PM.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

2. Approval of minutes of the Workshop/ Regular Meeting of August 7, 2023, and the Special Meeting of August 14, 2023.
   MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Workshop/Regular Meeting of August 7, 2023, and the Special Meeting of August 14, 2023, as presented but to allow corrections.
   SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
   The City Secretary polled the Council.
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

3. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2023-09** accepting the 2023 Certified Tax Roll.
   City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
   MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved approval of **Ordinance No. 2023-09** accepting the 2023 Certified Tax Roll.
   SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale
   The City Secretary polled the Council.
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

4. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2023-10** adopting the 2023 Property Tax Rate of $_____.
   City Manager Bo Thomas presented. Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce presented reasons for the Council to consider setting the de minimus rate. Council Member Michael Bancale expressed the Council's intent to be good stewards of taxpayer money.
   MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bruce moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $0.546736, the de minimus rate, which is effectively a 13.2% increase in the tax rate.
   SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale
   The City Secretary polled the Council.
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

   Mr. Thomas read the caption of **Ordinance No. 2023-10** and filled in the blanks under Section 1 of the ordinance as follows:
   Tax Rate - $0.546736
   M&O Rate - $.332142
   "The tax rate will effectively be raised by 11.4 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a $100,000 home by approximately $27.15.

MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve **Ordiance No. 2023-10.**
SECOND: Council Member Johnny Price
The City Secretary polled the Council.
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

5. Discussion and possible action on **Resolution No. 2023-07** approving the FY 2023-2024 Master Fee Schedule.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented changes in the fee schedule and noted that the water rates would only become effective after the Council reviewed and deliberated later in the year.
MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved approval of **Resolution No. 2023-07** approving the FY 2023-2024 Master Fee Schedule.
SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale
The City Secretary polled the Council.
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Fortenberry reordered agenda items 6 and 7 per the City Attorney.

7. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2023-11** adopting the FY 2023-2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved approval of **Ordinance No. 2023-11** adopting the FY 2023-2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.
SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce
The City Secretary polled the Council.
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

6. Discussion and possible action on ratification of the property tax rate increase reflected in the budget.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget.
SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale
The City Secretary polled the Council.
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

8. Briefing and discussion concerning Financial Statements ending July 31, 2023.
City Manager Bo Thomas advised that Finance Director Lee Garcia previously sent the July Financial Statements electronically for the Council to review. He inquired if the Council had any questions. The Council raised no questions.

9. Discussion and possible action concerning the cancellation of the September 4, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.
City Manager Bo Thomas announced that the next Council Meeting falls on the Labor Day holiday, September 4, 2023, and unless the Council had an objection, the Council Meeting will be cancelled. The next regular meeting will be held on September 18, 2023.

Mayor Fortenberry expressed appreciation to the staff for the hard work on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:34 PM.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
The City Secretary polled the Council.
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Price, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 09-18-2023

ATTEST:

Lydia Lopez, City Secretary

Steve Fortenberry, Mayor