HEWITT
TEXAS

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

February 3, 2025, 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
Bob Potter, Council Member: Ward 2 – **Brad Turner,** Council Member: Ward 1
Vacant Seat, Council Member: Ward 2

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 p.m., announced all members were present, and declared a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Steve Fortenberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S) AND RECOGONITION(S)

1. Swearing-in and pinning ceremony of newly hired and promoted firefighters.
   Fire Chief Jonathan Christian administered the ceremonial oath of office and introduced the newly hired Firefighters Cameron Anderson, Kannon Clendenin, Riley Patton, Justin Rott, and Taylor Wines. A family member pinned badges on their firefighters, and Captain Derek Finely pinned Justin Rott. Chief Christian also introduced and recognized Firefighters Brit Berry, Casey Garcia (deployed), and Sam Morgan for being promoted to Driver-Engineer. A family member pinned their badges, and Chief Christian presented them with new helmet shields.

2. Presentation of Hewitt's 2024 Racial Profiling Report.
   City Manager Bo Thomas introduced Police Chief John McGrath, who highlighted the report and noted that the Department received one racial profiling complaint for 2024. The complaint was addressed per department policy and was deemed unfounded.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) AND RELATED ACTION

3. Public hearing on Storm Water Mitigation as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
   City Manager Bo Thomas stated that TCEQ requires this annual public hearing to allow residents to discuss drainage and stormwater issues. Mayor Steve Fortenberry opened the hearing at 7:22 p.m. and called for those wishing to speak. No one appeared, and the hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m.

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 posted on the agenda. (Note: Citizens 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 had received any public comment forms. The City Secretary did not receive any public comment forms.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4. Approve minutes of the January 21, 2025, City Council Special Meeting.
   MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved to approve the minutes as presented but to allow for corrections.
   SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

5. Presentation of the report from the City Engineer Miles Whitney, P.E.
   Update on pending utility projects.
   Update on pending street projects.
   Update on pending drainage projects.
   City Engineer Miles Whitney, P.E., reviewed the listed projects.

6. Discussion and possible action on rescheduling the City Council meeting scheduled for February 17, 2025.
   MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to cancel the meeting scheduled for February 17, 2025, as it is an official city holiday, and hold business until the March 3, 2025, Regular Meeting.
   SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2025-03**, ordering a Special Election, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Election Services Contract with the McLennan County Elections Administrator, and establishing Early Voting and Election Day Vote Centers and dates/times of operation.

   City Manager Bo Thomas presented and read the ordinance caption for the record.
   MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2025-04** ordering the Special Election to be held on May 3, 2025, authorizing the City Manager to execute the Election Services Contract with the Elections Administrator of McLennan County.
   SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

8. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2025-04**, ordering a Joint General Election, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Election Services Contract with the McLennan County Elections Administrator, and establishing Early Voting and Election Day Vote Centers and dates/times of operation.

   City Manager Bo Thomas presented and read the ordinance caption for the record.
   MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2025-04** ordering the Joint General Election to be held on May 3, 2025, authorizing the City Manager to execute the Election Services Contract with the Elections Administrator.
   SECOND: Council Member Johnny Stephens
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
   NAYES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Steve Fortenberry recessed the Regular Meeting to convene the following Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Notice is given that a closed meeting will be held under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code (V.T.C.A.) so that the Council may discuss personnel matters regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee **(City Manager's evaluation)**.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Steve Fortenberry reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:52 p.m.

9. Discussion and possible action on evaluation/employment of City Manager (if needed).
   MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve a three percent (3%) cost-of-living increase, an additional four and one-half percent (4 1/2%) performance increase for the City Manager, for a total of seven and one-half percent (7 1/2%) annual salary increase effective 01/01/2025, along with an extension of his contract for an additional year.
   SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
   AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:54 p.m.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 03-03-2025

ATTEST:

Lydia Lopez, City Secretary

Steve Fortenberry, Mayor