



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING

August 18, 2025, at 6:00 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

WORKSHOP MEETING - 6:00 PM

WORKSHOP DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced a quorum was present. Council Member Michael Bancale arrived at 6:04 p.m.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. Continued discussion and recap of the FY 2025-2026 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented a recap and highlighted the following:
 - All Funds Matrix
 - General Fund Projection by Category
 - General Fund Budget Summary
 - General Fund Debt Service - Payments
 - Utility Fund Projection by Category
 - Utility Fund Budget Summary
 - Calculation of Estimated Tax Revenue
 - 2025 Certified Totals
 - 2025 Tax Rate Calculations Worksheet
2. Briefing and discussion concerning the Atmos Cities Steering Committee's (ACSC) negotiated settlement with Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division, regarding the Company's 2025 Rate Review Mechanism (RRM) Filing.
City Manager Bo Thomas provided an overview of the negotiated settlement reached by the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) and noted that formal Council action would be taken in September.

WORKSHOP ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) AND RELATED ACTION

3. Conduct the second of two public hearings on the 2025 Tax Rate.

Mayor Steve Fortenberry opened the public hearing on the 2025 Tax Rate at 7:01 p.m. and called three times for those wishing to speak. No one appeared. He closed the public hearing at 7:01 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 August 4, 2025, City Council Workshop/Regular Meeting and the August 11, 2025, City Council Workshop/Special Meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve the minutes as presented, but to allow for corrections.

SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

5. Briefing and discussion concerning Financial Statements ending July 31, 2025.
City Manager Bo Thomas advised that Finance Director Lee Garcia previously sent the July 31, 2025, Financial Statements electronically on August 13, 2025, for review. The Council raised no questions or concerns.
6. Discussion and possible action to approve the expenditure of \$66,809.00 for the purchase and upfitting of a 2025 Ford F150 for the Police Department.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve the expenditure of \$66,809.00 for the purchase and upfitting of a replacement unmarked police vehicle for the Hewitt Police Department from Silsbee Ford and Dana Safety Supply, through the BuyBoard State Contract, with \$31,395.00 funded from insurance proceeds.
SECOND: Council Member Brad Turner
AYES: Stephens, Turner, Bruce, Potter, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.
7. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2025-15** accepting the 2025 Certified Tax Roll.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2025-15** accepting the 2025 Certified Tax Roll.
SECOND: Council Member Johnny Stephens
AYES: Turner, Bruce, Potter, Bancale, Stephens, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.
8. Discussion and possible action on **Resolution No. 2025-06** approving the FY 2025-2026 Master Fee Schedule.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented the item, noting that he had distributed revised pages regarding water and wastewater rates to reflect the updated effective date of December 1, 2025.
MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve **Resolution No. 2025-06** approving the FY 2025-2026 Master Fee Schedule
SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce
AYES: Bruce, Potter, Bancale, Stephens, Turner, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.
9. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2025-16** adopting the 2025 Property Tax Rate of \$.539082.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.539082, which is effectively a 2.79% increase in the tax rate, and moved approval of **Ordinance No. 2025-16**.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

AYES: Potter, Bancale, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Steve Fortenberry reordered agenda items 10 & 11 per the City Attorney.

11. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2025-17** adopting the FY 2025-2026 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

City Manager Bo Thomas presented.

MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved approval of **Ordinance No. 2025-17** adopting the FY 2025-2026 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

SECOND: Council Member Brad Turner

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

10. Discussion and possible action on ratification of the property tax increase reflected in the budget.

City Manager Bo Thomas presented.

MOTION: Council Member Johnny Stephens moved to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget.

SECOND: Council Member Brad Turner

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

12. Discussion and possible action concerning canceling the City Council Regular Meeting scheduled for September 1, 2025.

City Manager Bo Thomas shared that the next Council Meeting is scheduled to fall on the Labor Day holiday. He stated that the Council has the option to cancel or reschedule the meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to cancel the City Council Regular Meeting of September 1.

SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

13. Requests for future workshops and/or agenda items

City Manager Bo Thomas stated that this item was placed on the agenda to allow the Council to request any future workshops and/or agenda items. The following workshop items were requested:

Council Member Michael Bancale - Homeless population/encampment

Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce - Upcoming software changes - Finance, Human Resources, Utility Billing

Mayor Steve Fortenberry - Upcoming contracts or agreements, future development, future agenda items.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Steve Fortenberry recessed the Regular Meeting to convene the Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Notice is given that a closed meeting will be held pursuant to 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**).

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Steve Fortenberry reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:54 p.m.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding the subject matter described in the Executive Session (if needed).

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce 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.

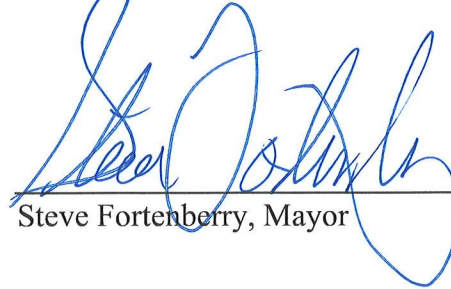
Approved: _____

9-15-25

ATTEST:



Lydia Lopez, City Secretary



Steve Fortenberry, Mayor