

HEWITT TEXAS

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING

January 5, 2026, 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., announced all members were present, and declared a quorum.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. Discussion and update on License Plate Reader cameras.
Police Chief John McGrath and Assistant Police Chief Joe Chavez presented an overview of the Automated License Plate Reader Program and updated the Council on its benefits, statistics, and successes.
2. Presentation and discussion concerning Warren Park.
General Services Director Scott Coleman provided an update on Warren Park improvements, including the Park Pond Pavilion and Toddler Playground. He reviewed project costs, noted City staff completed part of the installation, and outlined plans for future improvements to Warren Park.

WORKSHOP ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to adjourn the Workshop at 6:54 p.m.

SECOND: Council Member Brad Turner

AYES: Bancale, Potter, 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 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 public comment statement. The City Secretary reported that no public comment forms were received.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

3. Approve minutes of the December 8, 2025, City Council 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, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

4. Discussion concerning Financial Statements ending November 30, 2025.

City Manager Bo Thomas advised that Finance Director Lee Garcia previously sent the November 30, 2025, Financial Statements electronically on December 5, 2025, for review. The Council raised no questions or concerns.

5. Discussion and possible action on the use of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) funds for Fire Department physical examinations to comply with House Bill 198.

City Manager Bo Thomas presented. Fire Chief Jonathan Christian responded to the Council's inquiries.

MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to authorize the use of Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) funds not to exceed \$25,000 to provide for Fire Department physicals.

SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of the Springbrook Cirrus and Xpress Bill Pay software platform for \$259,650.00.
Assistant City Manager Jim Devliin presented an overview of the selection process and noted that the selection committee agreed that Springbrook software would meet the City's needs.
MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to approve the expenditure of \$259,650.00 to Springbrook software and authorize the City Manager to enter into a three-year contract for the implementation and use of the Springbrook Cirrus software platform and Xpress Bill Pay, as presented.
SECOND: Council Member Johnny Stephens
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance 2026-01** abandoning a 10-foot public utility easement located along the rear property line of 108 Longwood Circle.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented. The applicant, Christopher Conrad, was present in support of his request and to answer the Council's questions.
MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2026-01** abandoning a 10-foot public utility easement located along the rear property line of 108 Longwood Circle, and authorizing the City Manager to execute and record all necessary documents.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Bancale, Potter, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

8. Briefing and discussion concerning key information about the upcoming May 2, 2026, General Election.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented and noted that the filing period for the City's General Election begins on January 14, 2026, and ends on February 13, 2026. No action required.

9. Discussion and possible action on rescheduling future City Council meetings.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to reschedule the January 19 Council meeting to January 20 and to consolidate the February meetings into a single Council meeting on February 9.
SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce
AYES: Potter, Bancale, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

10. Request for future workshops and/or agenda items.
Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce requested an agenda item for a future meeting to discuss concerns raised by citizens about the installation of fiber-optic pedestals.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter

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

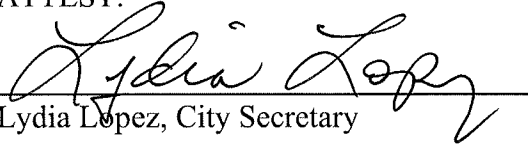
NAYES: None

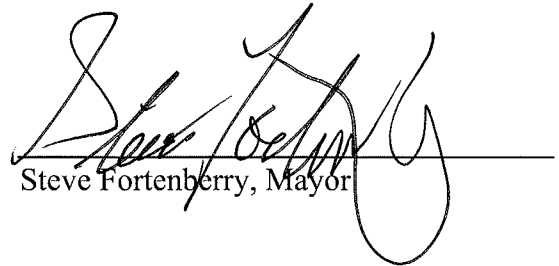
ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 01-20-2026

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Steve Fortenberry, Mayor