

HEWITT TEXAS

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING

February 9, 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. Bancala, 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. Presentation and discussion on a residential development proposal from Welch Development (Ritchie Road & Warren Street).

City Manager Bo Thomas opened the discussion by outlining the proposed development's location near Ritchie Road and Warren Street. He then introduced Josh Welch of Welch Development, who presented his vision for a residential project on the property.

Mr. Welch explained that he is considering either seeking rezoning of the property or pursuing a planned unit development (PUD). He indicated that his decision to move forward would depend on which development options the City Council would be most likely to support. General discussion was held on the following:

- Lot size
- # of lots
- R-1G zoning
- Planned Unit Developments
- Homeowner's Association
- Sidewalks
- Park Land Donations/Pedestrian Bridge to Park
- Timeline for beginning the project

2. Presentation and discussion on Hewitt Public Library Accreditation.
Library Director Matthew Glaser presented the standards required for the Hewitt Public Library's Accreditation from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). He emphasized the importance of accreditation relative to applying for and receiving grant funding for programs.
3. Presentation and status update on Fire Station No. 2, and discussion regarding a potential Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) grant opportunity.
Fire Chief Jonathan Christian presented information on a potential TIFMAS Grant to fund a fire truck and provided a status update on Fire Station No. 2, along with pictures.

WORKSHOP ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved to adjourn the Workshop meeting at 7:06 p.m.

SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

SPECIAL MEETING - 7:00 PM

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Fortenberry called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m., announced all members were present, and declared a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Steve Fortenberry called upon the Girl Scout Troop #456G, who were present in the audience, to lead the "Pledge of Allegiance." Mayor Fortenberry welcomed and commended the troop for attending the Council meeting.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) AND RELATED ACTION

4. Public hearing on Storm Water Mitigation as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
City Manager Bo Thomas stated that the TCEQ requires this annual public hearing to allow residents to discuss drainage and stormwater issues. Mayor Steve Fortenberry opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. and called for those wishing to speak. No one appeared, and the public hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5. Approve minutes of the January 20, 2026, 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.

6. 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 and responded to Council's questions.

7. Discussion and possible action on **Ordinance No. 2026-02** ordering a General Election, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Election Services Contract with the McLennan County Elections Administrator, and establishing Early Voting and Election Vote Centers and dates/times of operation.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2026-02** ordering the General Election to be held on May 2, 2026, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the Election Services Contract with the Elections Administrator of McLennan County.
SECOND: Council Member Johnny Stephens
AYES: Stephens, Turner, Bruce, Potter, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

8. Discussion regarding Devonshire Station Senior Community Development Project.

City Manager Bo Thomas presented information on the Devonshire Station Senior Community Development Project and a recent public hearing regarding it. He explained that the property is not located within the City's jurisdiction and that there have been no discussions regarding the provision of City water or sewer services. He further noted that the primary concerns identified at this time involve access to the property, traffic impacts, and drainage.

Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce reported that she had received seven emails and multiple phone calls from area residents expressing concerns. These concerns included not receiving a timely notice of the public hearing and statements allegedly made by the developer indicating that the project had already been approved. Mayor Pro Tem Bruce also expressed concern that she had not been informed about the project, that City staff were not present or involved in discussions, and that, without adequate information, she was unable to effectively respond to or address citizens' questions.

9. Request for future workshops and/or agenda items.

City Manager Bo Thomas advised that staff have planned for several workshop items coming forward. This item allows the Council to ask for additional workshop or agenda items. No additional items were presented.

RECESS SPECIAL MEETING TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Steve Fortenberry recessed the Special Meeting to convene the following Executive Sessions at 7:53 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).

EXECUTIVE SESSION Executive Session: Notice is given that a closed meeting will be held pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code (V.T.C.A.) so that the Council may consult and seek confidential legal advice from the City Attorney

RECONVENE SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Steve Fortenberry reconvened the Special Meeting at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

SECOND: Council Member Johnny Stephens

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

NAYES: None

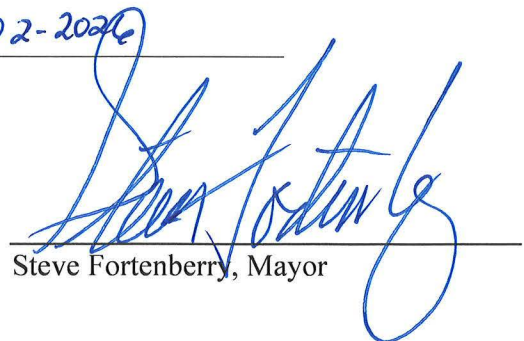
ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 03-02-2026

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Steve Fortenberry, Mayor