

HEWITT TEXAS

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 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. Presentation of the FY 2024-2025 audit report by Chris Pruitt, Partner with Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP.
Chris Pruitt, Partner with Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP, presented the FY 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). He stated that the City has received an unmodified ("clean") opinion. He noted that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City, and no material weaknesses were identified. For acceptance of the audit report, see the Regular meeting agenda item #5 below.
2. Presentation and discussion of revisions to the Employee Policies & Procedures Manual.
Human Resources Director Jessica Higgins presented the revisions to the Employee Policies & Procedures Manual. Ms. Higgins noted that City Attorney Mike Dixon, Texas Municipal Human Resources Association Peer Review, and City Manager Bo Thomas had reviewed the draft manual. Final approval will be placed on the next agenda — April 6, 2026.

WORKSHOP ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved to adjourn the Workshop Meeting agenda at 6:46 p.m.

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce

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 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 received two public comment forms. Mayor Fortenberry invited the following to speak:

Cary Suprobo, 6401 Coldwater Drive, Waco, TX 76712, appeared to present a proposed project — Indonesian Cultural Center to be located on Spring Valley Rd.

Sean Terrell, 238 W. Tours Rd., Ross, TX, 76640, appeared to express concern regarding the proposed Lacy Lakeview Data District (L2D2).

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

3. Approve minutes of the March 2, 2026, City Council Workshop/Regular 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.
4. Briefing and discussion concerning the Financial Statements ending February 28, 2026.
City Manager Bo Thomas advised that Finance Director Lee Garcia previously sent the February Financial Statements electronically on March 10, 2026, for review. The Council raised no questions or concerns.
5. Motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) as presented.
SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce
AYES: Stephens, Turner, Buce, Potter, Bancale, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

6. Discussion and possible action concerning the appointment of two members to serve on the McLennan County 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance District.
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to reappoint Ryan Holt for Seat One and James Devlin, Seat Two, to the McLennan County 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance District Board of Managers.
SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Erica Bruce
AYES: Turner, Bruce, Potter, Bancale, Stephens, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion and possible action on an appointment to the Board of Adjustment (alternate position).
City Manager Bo Thomas presented.
MOTION: Council Member Brad Turner moved to approve the appointment of Steve Dvorak to the Board of Adjustment for a term expiring in April 2027.
SECOND: Council Member Johnny Stephens
AYES: Bruce, Potter, Bancale, Stephens, Turner, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

8. Request for future workshops and/or agenda items.
City Manager Bo Thomas advised that the Strategic Plan Updates were planned for the April workshop agenda items and the topic of prevailing wages would be held in May. The Council raised no additional items.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Steve Fortenberry recessed the Regular Meeting to convene the following Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 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 9:07 p.m.

9. Discussion and possible action on evaluation/employment of City Manager (if needed).
Mayor Steve Fortenberry requested another Executive Session to be placed on the next agenda.
MOTION: Council Member Michael Bancale moved to approve a \$7,750 annual increase for the city manager, effective 1-1-2026, along with a one-year contract extension.
SECOND: Council Member Bob Potter
AYES: Potter, Bancale, Stephens, Turner, Bruce, and Fortenberry
NAYES: None

ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Bob Potter moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:09 p.m.

SECOND: Council Member Michael Bancale

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

NAYES: None

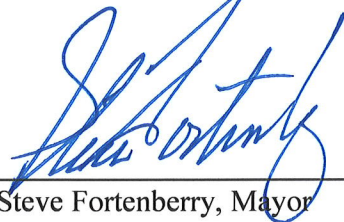
ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED.

Approved: 04-06-2026

ATTEST:


Lydia Lopez, City Secretary


Steve Fortenberry, Mayor