

City Council  
June 30, 2015

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Council Conference Room at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

Council Members Present: Kevin Strength, Mayor  
Mark Singleton, Mayor Pro Tem  
Chuck Beatty, Councilmember  
David Hill, Councilmember  
Mary Lou Shipley, Councilmember

Others Present: Paul Stevens, City Manager  
Michael Scott, Assistant City Manager  
Steve Chapman, City Attorney  
Lori Saunders, City Secretary  
Ricky Boyd, Fire Chief

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Mayor Kevin Strength called the meeting to order.

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Mayor Strength stated previously the Council approved going to a fire-based EMS and approved a budget transfer to cover the cost of ordering ambulances. The cost would be recouped by charging a water bill fee. Since that time the city was made aware that it can't be allowed without being challenged.

City Manager Paul Stevens stated a water bill fee could result in an unfair tax resulting in legal challenges. He reported such fees were allowed in cities with a population of more than 220,000 and less than 250,000 such as the city of Garland allowing them to establish a Resolution by the governing body that they may establish a monthly fee for the cost of emergency medical services. The city of Irving received legislative approval for their fire-based EMS. Mr. Stevens explained after further research it was determined that the city cannot establish a monthly fee without legislative approval and if at this time the city proceeds with a fire-based EMS, it would be a large hit on the tax rate. He reported ambulances were not ordered and recommended to go back to the Request for Proposal process with Ellis County and Red Oak.

Fire Chief Ricky Boyd presented Statistics from CareFlite's third month of operation. He reviewed emergency calls and transfers noting there are continued concerns with CareFlite's compliance for all runs and continued supply problems.

Chief Boyd reviewed a revised Request for Proposal bid overview comparing AMR and CareFlite. He reported AMR is a nationwide company and larger than CareFlite.

Mr. Stevens reported AMR has a lot of employees that live in our area and would like to come back and work in our area. He stated the current contract with CareFlite is for three years.

After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of Council was to continue the goal of a fire-based EMS, however by not adding the fee to the water bill will hinder the city. They agreed during the 2017 Legislative Session, request approval for a water bill fee. If approved, it will allow the city to order the ambulances and CareFlite to carry out their third year contract.

**Mayor Pro Tem Mark Singleton moved to rescind the approved 2014-2015 budget amendment requested by the Waxahachie Fire Department dated June 1, 2015 for the order of ambulances totaling \$730,000.** Councilmember Chuck Beatty seconded, **All Ayes.**

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Saunders  
City Secretary