

City Council
February 1, 2016

A Work Session 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 Monday, February 1, 2016, at 5:30 p.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

Mayor Kevin Strength called the meeting to order.

City Council held a work session to discuss the Waxahachie Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Marcus Brown, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Ms. Leila Cole, Emergency Management Specialist, reviewed the current State of the City's Emergency Management.

Ms. Cole reported in 1981 City Council passed Ordinance 1337 authorizing a multi-jurisdiction Emergency Management Council. She stated since that time the city has grown and it is more desirable for the city to develop the city's own management plan.

Mr. Brown explained rather than taking other jurisdiction and copying theirs we researched our needs and divided into 3 areas: The Plan for Waxahachie; Annex's; and, Waxahachie Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline.

Mr. Brown reviewed the Supporting Annex Summary to include: warning, communications, shelter & mass care, radiological protection, evacuation, firefighting, law enforcement, health & medical services, public information, recovery, public works & engineering, utilities, resource management, direction & control, human services, hazard mitigation, hazardous materials & oil spill response, search & rescue, transportation, donations management, legal, and, terrorist incident response.

Mr. Brown reviewed the standard operating procedures/guidelines noting the plan includes: Comprehensive; Integrated; All-Hazards, and, TDEM Standards.

Ms. Cole stated they have applied for an Emergency Management Performance Grant and if approved it will include: public education efforts, training & exercises, professional development and, maintaining & updating the emergency management plan. She reviewed the "Goals" being safety, fiscal responsibility, and national preparedness.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Singleton expressed concern with public consumption. Mr. Brown stated because of concerns several pages are held from the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Singleton referenced threats and hazards. Mr. Brown stated he had TDEM come down and reviewed our process and assigned a planner from Austin, then went to each director to review their Annex. He explained each annex that addresses a threat is planned realistically.

City Manager Paul Stevens asked Mr. Brown to compare Ellis County's Emergency Management Plan to our program. Mr. Brown reported the language is vague and doesn't empower the city to act pertaining to the warning annex. He referenced resource management noting it does not have any specific language in the interest of the city of Waxahachie to provide assistance. Mr. Brown stated Ellis County Emergency Management program is not tailored to the city's interest and population specifically.

Mayor Strength stated, as it stands, if there is an incident in Waxahachie, the County Judge would be over the incident, and by separating from the County, we are gaining control of our own destiny. Mr. Brown concurred.

Mr. Stevens stated the Ellis County Emergency Management Coordinator was very good and noted when we had the Magnablend fire the County was in between emergency managers and had so little staff and continuity and we are at the point with our emergency managers and their expertise we are much more suited to be able to handle situations.

Mr. Brown stated the city has run the county's emergency management on 3 separate occasions when they were between managers.

Mr. Brown presented a draft ordinance allowing the city to take over and have its own emergency management plan. He explained there will be training with directors and first responders. Mr. Brown reported after approval of the Ordinance the city will issue a letter to Ellis County informing them of the change. The County will respond and all documentation will go to Austin to untie all connections between City and County.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Saunders
City Secretary