

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**CITY COMMISSION**

**HARLINGEN, TEXAS**

**AUGUST 11, 2010**

A Special Meeting of the Harlingen Elective Commission was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Town Hall, City Hall, 118 E. Tyler Street, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

**Mayor and City Commission**

Mayor Chris Boswell  
Joey Trevino, Mayor Pro Tem  
Gustavo C. Ruiz, Commissioner District 1  
Robert Leftwich, Commissioner District 2  
\*Kori Marra, Commissioner District 3  
\*Jerry Prepejchal, Commissioner District 4

\*arrived during the Executive Session (Item No. 2)

**Staff Present:**

Gabriel Gonzalez, Interim City Manager  
Roxann P. Cotroneo, City Attorney  
Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary

Mayor Boswell called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present at this time.

**PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 DISCUSSED**

Roel Gutierrez, Director of Finance, explained that as part of the tax process, the tax rate is presented to the Commissioners to take a vote on the proposed tax rate. The proposed tax rate is \$.588827, which is the same as last year. There is no increase to the tax rate proposed. The rate is the same as it was in 2009 and it is less than the previous 5 years, which was .59 cents per \$100 value. Another part of the process is to publish its legal requirements to inform the citizens of three rates: last year's tax rate which is .588827; this year's effective tax rate, the rate that would bring in the same amount of revenues with the same property last year for this year and then the roll back rate. The roll back rate is the highest rate the taxing unit can set before the taxpayers can call a rollback election to lower the tax rate. Normally a vote on a tax rate is required if the tax rate is above the effective rate or the roll back rate and this year it is not so the votes are not necessary and neither are the two public hearings that are normally held. Mr. Gutierrez stated that the effective tax rate here is .604781; the roll back rate is .670043.

Gabriel Gonzalez pointed out that there was some confusion on the rates and Mr. Gutierrez explained that if the City of Harlingen adopts the 2010 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate, which is \$.60 per \$100 value, taxes would increase compared to 2009 by \$64,000. That is what was confusing the public but that is the required language; it's legal, and the exact wording has to be published. That is "if" we were to do that but we are not projecting that, we are projecting \$.588827.

Mr. Gutierrez commented that the balanced budget for the tax rate of \$.588827 and it is the number that was included in the budget revenues for property taxes. No kind of increase has been proposed. This meeting is just to go over the tax rate to give the Commission and the citizens a chance to know where we stand on the tax rate.

Commissioner Trevino asked if something different, in layman terms, could be published in the City's website, maybe a public announcement stating that the tax rate is not increasing.

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Mayor Boswell affirmed that the message to be conveyed is that we are not changing the tax rate; the tax rate is not going up which is a good thing.

Mr. Gutierrez stated that the tax revenues will increase based on values but not based on the tax rate.

Mr. Gutierrez stated that something could be placed in the website to let everyone know that the tax rate is not being increased.

Commissioner Trevino added that a press release could be sent to the Valley Morning Star and the other media outlets just because the County is currently struggling with whether or not they are going to raise their tax rate or what they are going to do about their budget. The press release needs to make it clear that the City is not increasing its tax rate this year.

Commissioner Leftwich made a motion to go into Closed/Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D., *V.T.C.A. Government Code* (Section 551.074); personnel matters to deliberate the evaluation, appointment and employment of the following applicants for the position of City Manager: Gabriel Gonzales; Robert Herrera; and Carlos Yerena.

Commissioner Trevino seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551,  
SUBCHAPTER D., V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE (SECTION 551.074);  
PERSONNEL MATTERS TO DELIBERATE THE EVALUATION,  
APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS  
FOR THE POSITION OF CITY MANAGER: GABRIEL GONZALEZ; ROBERT  
HERRERA; AND CARLOS YERENA.**

The Executive Session convened at 5:40 p.m. and concluded at approximately 8:40 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

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Chris Boswell, Mayor

Attest:

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Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary