



For Immediate Release

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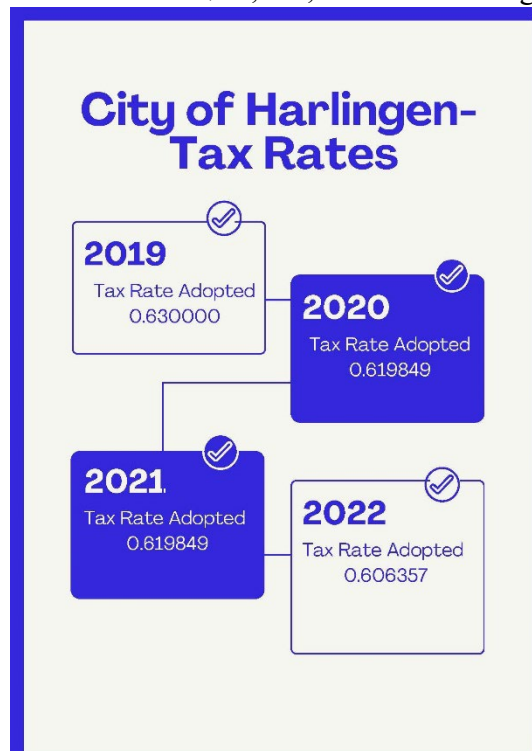
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Harlingen Budget Approved with No Property Tax Rate Increase

Harlingen, Texas—The Harlingen City Commission has approved the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget as presented by City Manager Gabriel Gonzalez. The funding measure was approved during the regularly scheduled meeting of September 21, 2022.

Mayor Norma Sepulveda says this is a very lean budget with no wasteful spending. It includes the necessary funding to maintain acceptable levels of service in all areas as directed by the Commission that focuses on public safety, drainage & infrastructure, and quality of life issues.

The combined \$95,812,266 million budget includes a decrease in the property tax rate for the



third consecutive year. The adopted tax rate is 0.606357 cents per \$100 assessed valuation down from 0.619849. This new tax rate is one of the lowest in the Rio Grande Valley, lower than many neighboring cities such as Brownsville, Edinburg, Pharr, Weslaco, San Juan, San Benito, Donna, and Mercedes.

The new budget includes the following: five police units, extrication tools or hazmat detectors for fire suppression, new vehicles for Code Compliance and Building Inspections, more than \$6 million for drainage projects, a new vector truck for Public Works, \$450,000 for projected electricity cost increases, \$1.5 million for street improvements, and nine new positions citywide to help deliver service

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more efficiently. The newly adopted budget also includes a reserve fund balance of \$25 million which translates to 172 operating days of service. City policy requires reserving enough funds to cover a minimum of 120 operating days. The budget also calls for a one to three (1 to 3) percent pay increase for all employees with no increase in health insurance rates.

The City's largest revenue source continues to be taxes. Property, sales, and franchise taxes make up 89 percent of the total general fund revenues while business licenses, fines, recreation fees, and other miscellaneous revenue make up the remaining 11 percent.

The fiscal year runs from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. By law, a balanced budget must be approved on or before October 1 of each year.

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