

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER
AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 9th day of September 2011, the Amarillo City Commission met in a special meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 East Seventh Avenue with the following members present:

PAUL HARPOLE	MAYOR
ELLEN ROBERTSON GREEN	COMMISSIONER NO. 1
BRIAN J. EADES	COMMISSIONER NO. 2
LILIA ESCAJEDA	COMMISSIONER NO. 3
JIM SIMMS	COMMISSIONER NO. 4

Absent was none. Also in attendance were the following administrative officials:

JARRETT ATKINSON	CITY MANAGER
VICKI COVEY	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
DEAN FRIGO	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
MARCUS NORRIS	CITY ATTORNEY
DONNA DERIGHT	CITY SECRETARY

Mayor Harpole established a quorum, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and the following item of business was conducted:

ITEM 1: Mayor Harpole opened a public hearing regarding a proposed tax increase. He advised that the City Commission is considering a tax rate of \$0.32009, which is one cent higher than the current rate. This proposed rate will raise more taxes than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 3.51 percent. The tax on an average home last year was \$344.12. The tax on an average home would be \$360.57 under the proposed rate.

Mayor Harpole asked for comments. Jimmy Hammonds, 1516 S. Pierce, stated that the Commission needs to find a way to fund the street improvements and police officers other than with a property tax increase. Phillip Lopez, 3804 N.E. 24th, stated that this is the wrong time for a tax increase with other taxing entities increasing taxes and the cost for utilities continuing to rise. Kellie Rogers, 5309 Andrews, commented that it was recently stated that this will be the single best year in the City's history for sales tax so she does not understand why we need to raise property taxes. Mayor Harpole stated that due to budget constraints over the past several years, the City has not been able to adhere to the street maintenance schedule so the tax increase will assist in providing for the necessary street improvements. He also stated that with the population growth in the city, there is a need for two additional police officers in order to provide the ratio that will keep the community safe. Commissioner Simms stated that in 2008 there began a decline in sales tax which caused the City to not have the funds required to do maintenance projects, such as street improvements, and provide additional police officers. Commissioner Eades stated that he agrees with a slight tax increase for two additional police officers but is confident the improvement needs for the City will be met from funding generated by the downtown projects. There being no further comments, Mayor Harpole closed the public hearing.

Paul Harpole, Mayor

ATTEST:

Donna DeRight, City Secretary

