

convenience center - one for iron and nine for brush. The next curbside is June 5.

City Secretary Teresa Ballard reported that the animal control contract ends June 30 and advertising for applications accepted will be done. She is asking if one council member will volunteer to help with the interview. Cyber training is slated for June 15. There will be a special council meeting the first week of June for training on how to read financials and the mayor wants to go over the in-house procedures for accounts payable.

Mayor Gohman swore in Gwen Dyess as Mayor Pro Tem.

It was requested to add Riley Coalson's lease back on to the June agenda.

There being no further business, the council meeting as adjourned at 6:59 pm.



We All Wanna Be Fredericksburg

By James M. Decker

Today, we continue our series on creating good jobs in rural communities. If it was not already apparent, I'm using this series to construct a framework for our communities to use - Stamford and beyond - in creating jobs, growing our economies, and growing our communities.

I've used this quote before and I have no doubt that I'll use it again, but baseball Hall of Famer and famous philosopher Yogi Berra once said, "if you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else." When we attempt to bring jobs to our community without a cohesive plan, we run the risk of doing just that, ending up in a whole different place than we intended and maybe not a very good place at that. As rural communities have faced steep economic decline, many community leaders have attempted to stave off catastrophe by casting a wide net to attract any possible new businesses to town. It is an understandable reaction. To draw a blunt analogy, a drowning man casts about for any sort of flotation device that will save him, without stopping to consider if a more desirable flotation device might appear later. We do what we have to do in order to survive, both individually and on a community level.

Past decline aside, rural America now stands at a unique point in history. For various reasons, both related to the pandemic and otherwise, rural communities are in demand. People *want* to move to the right rural community that

provides opportunity and quality of life that they have not found elsewhere. Our rural communities are in demand more today than at any point since rural populations began their decline a half-century ago. We do not get many opportunities like this. As such, we need to handle them wisely and with a plan to maximize our opportunities for sustained success, in a way that will bring

us to our intended community goals.

In one of my earliest weekly essays, I wrote of the oft-admired community of Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg is the standard-bearer for a rural community that absolutely boomed over recent decades. I have heard many communities aspiring to "be like Fredericksburg," but Fredericksburg didn't accidentally

start booming. It capitalized on its unique qualities as a historic German community with one-of-a-kind history and architecture. Its leaders created an entire economy around just that. The best way to learn from the Fredericksburg example is not to do the same thing that they did, but apply a similar plan to our own communities. It is not easy. It is not accidental. It requires deliberate planning and execution

of that plan, without being distracted by the shiny objects that can and will appear on the horizon.

One of my favorite bands of the last 25 years is the Turnpike Troubadours. I have a special admiration for the depth of their songwriting. In the song "Long Drive Home," there's a line that sticks with me on the deep questions and aspirations of life.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.2495 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.249500 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.241110 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.249653 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.249653 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 9:30 AM at THE OLD JAIL ANNEX, 601 CHADBOURNE ST., ROBERT LEE, TEXAS.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax increase as follows:

FOR: PAT STEPHENS, BETTY LEWIS, NOEL TINKLER, BEVERLY BURDETT
AGAINST the proposal:

ABSENT: JUDITH ANDREWS

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT at (325) 453-2614 or COKECOTAX@YAHOO.COM.