

**CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
@ 5:30 PM
CASA DE AMISTAD
1204 FAIR PARK BLVD.
HARLINGEN, TEXAS**

Notice is hereby given that the Harlingen City Commission of the City of Harlingen, Texas will hold a **Special Meeting** on **Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.** at the **Casa de Amistad, 1204 Fair Park Blvd., Harlingen, Texas** and provide the public the ability to view the meeting via internet live streaming at www.harlingentx.gov and the City of Harlingen YouTube Page.

To submit written comments for City staff to read aloud during the meeting, go to www.harlingentx.gov and click on "PUBLIC HEARING AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATION FORM" write your comments (limited to 400 words or less) and submit the form.

PLEASE SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS BEFORE 3:00 P.M. THE DAY OF THE MEETING.

A recording of the meeting will be made and will be available to the public in accordance with the Texas OpenMeetingsAct.

City of Harlingen meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary's Office at (956) 216-5001 or write Post Office Box 2207, Harlingen, Texas 78550 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

The Harlingen City Commission reserves the right, pursuant to the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to enter into closed executive session on any item posted on the agenda if a matter is raised that is appropriate for closed discussion.

Call Meeting to Order

Invocation – Commissioner Delia Cavazos-Gamez

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Conflict of Interest:

"Under State Law, a conflict of interest exists if a council member, or certain members of that person's family has a qualifying financial interest in an agenda item. Members with a conflict of interest cannot participate in the discussion nor vote on the agenda item. Are there any known conflicts of interest to disclose at the time? (City Attorney)"

Citizen Communication: *At this time, the public is invited to address the City Commission and speak on any matter not specifically listed for the public hearing elsewhere on this agenda. Please note that the City Commission members may not respond to comments or deliberate on topics addressed.*

Action Items: *City Commission will discuss, consider, and take any action deemed necessary on items listed in this section, including the adoption of a resolution or an ordinance.*

- 1) Consideration and possible action to approve an ordinance on second and final reading adopting the City of Harlingen's budget for Fiscal Year 2027, by record vote. Attachment (**Finance Dept.**)
- 2) Consideration and possible action to approve an ordinance on second and final reading adopting the Tax Year 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operations Rate (M&O) together with the Interest and Sinking Rate (I&S), by record vote. Attachment (**Finance Dept.**)
- 3) Consideration and possible action to approve a resolution ratifying the property tax reflected in the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2027. Attachment (**Finance Dept.**)

Adjournment

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above Notice of the Special Meeting of the Harlingen City Commission is a true and correct copy of said notice posted on the bulletin board at City Hall of said City of Harlingen, Texas in a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times and on the City's Internet Website and said Notice was posted on **Friday, September 18, 2026 11:15 a.m.** and remained so posted for at least 3 business days preceding the time of said meeting.

Dated this 18th day of September 2026

Mayra Herrera
Mayra Herrera, City Secretary

AGENDA ITEM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 24, 2026

Agenda Item:

Consideration and possible action to approve, by record vote, an ordinance on first reading adopting the City of Harlingen's budget for fiscal year 2027.

Prepared By (Print Name): Robert Rodriguez

Title: Finance Director

Signature: 

Brief Summary:

Texas Local Government Code Section 102.007 requires the City Commission's vote to adopt the budget to be a record vote. The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget covers the period October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. Exhibit provides a summary of proposed revenues, expenditures, and estimated fund balances by fund.

Total Proposed Revenues – \$120,318,469

Total Proposed Expenditures – \$113,424,563

The proposed budget excludes the revenues and expenditures of the Community Development Block Grant Fund, Harlingen Economic Development Corporation Fund, Harlingen Community Improvement Board Fund, Harlingen Waterworks System, and Valley International Airport, which are budgeted separately.

Funding (if applicable):

Are funds specifically designated in the current budget for the full amount for this purpose? N/A – Proposed Budget

☐ Yes ☐ No*

*If no, specify source of funding and amount requested:

Finance Director's approval:

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance on first reading adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 budget as presented.

City Manager's approval:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments:

City Attorney's approval:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Departmental Budget Projections and Requests
Department Request
Fiscal Year 2027

Exhibit A

170 Days of Operation

Fund	Projected Beginning Fund Balance	Projected Revenues	Requested Expenditures	Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance
General Fund	\$ 33,389,637	\$ 71,804,233	\$ 71,788,796	\$ 15,437	\$ 33,405,074
Tennis Court	328,506	251,302	231,758	19,544	348,050
Hotel / Motel	4,612,714	1,980,000	988,333	991,667	5,604,381
Catastrophic Emergency	876,932	53,068	30,000	23,068	900,000
Downtown Improvement District	35,055	482,068	482,853	(785)	34,270
Free Trade Bridge	1,775,586	529,000	111,500	417,500	2,193,086
Convention and Visitors Bureau	185,568	598,833	784,401	(185,568)	-
Award Programs - Restricted	(1,442,403)	13,780,271	9,874,042	3,906,229	2,463,826
Subdivision Park Fees	86,300	74,000	-	74,000	160,300
Public, Educational, and Governmental Programming	1,036,602	95,000	100,000	(5,000)	1,031,602
Keep Harlingen Beautiful	511,665	150,000	150,000	-	511,665
Harlingen Convention Center	1,674,386	36,000	-	36,000	1,710,386
Federal Forfeitures	1,084,875	350,100	330,000	20,100	1,104,975
State Forfeitures	81,939	144,100	152,000	(7,900)	74,039
Tax Increment Financing No. 1	1,464,474	491,000	1,000	490,000	1,954,474
Tax Increment Financing No. 2	4,744,223	772,000	1,000	771,000	5,515,223
Tax Increment Financing No. 3	1,672,721	938,000	501,000	437,000	2,109,721
Sponsorships Fund	87,885	150,500	151,000	(500)	87,385
Animal Shelter Fund	75,393	56,480	131,873	(75,393)	-
Debt Service	753,476	4,547,001	4,451,164	95,837	849,313
Infrastructure	769,599	1,605,000	1,516,200	88,800	858,399
Municipal Auditorium*	201,153	118,000	176,550	(58,550)	142,603
Sanitation/Sanitary Landfill*	(245,616)	10,913,000	10,781,375	131,625	(113,991)
Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum*	(28,453)	165,925	137,472	28,453	-
Municipal Golf Course*	(2,551,236)	1,451,788	1,608,387	(156,599)	(2,707,835)
Motor Vehicle Warehouse*	1,051,156	2,465,000	2,415,338	49,662	1,100,818
Health Insurance	689,053	6,274,000	6,457,521	(183,521)	505,532
Lon C. Hill Memorial Library	57,713	42,800	71,000	(28,200)	29,513
Total	<u>\$ 52,978,903</u>	<u>\$ 120,318,469</u>	<u>\$ 113,424,563</u>	<u>\$ 6,893,906</u>	<u>\$ 59,872,809</u>

*Working capital presented in place of fund balance.

ORDINANCE NO. 26 - ____

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THE CAPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, the City Manager of the City of Harlingen has prepared and presented to the City Commission a budget for the fiscal year October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed budget was duly called for September 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., following publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation at least ten (10) days and not more than thirty (30) days before the public hearing to be held at City Hall, in the City of Harlingen, Texas, at which interested persons were provided an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed budget; and,

WHEREAS, Section 102.007, Texas Local Government Code requires the City Commission's vote to adopt the budget to be a record vote; and,

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 5 of the City Charter requires ordinances to be read as provided therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS:

SECTION I. That the budget of the City of Harlingen, Texas, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027, excluding the revenues and expenditures of the Community Development Block Grant Fund, Harlingen Economic Development Corporation Fund, Harlingen Community Improvement Board Fund, Harlingen Waterworks System, and the Valley International Airport, is hereby adopted with total revenues of One Hundred Twenty Million, Three Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$120,318,469) and total expenditures of One Hundred Thirteen Million, Four

Four Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$113,424,563). A summary of the budget adopted hereby is attached to this Ordinance as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference and shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the City Secretary during regular business hours and on the City of Harlingen's website.

SECTION II. That the City Manager of the City of Harlingen, Texas, is hereby authorized to increase the Fiscal Year 2027 budget by the amount necessary to carry forward valid purchase orders and related encumbrances outstanding as of September 30, 2026.

SECTION III. That the City Manager of the City of Harlingen, Texas, is hereby authorized to increase the budget by amounts received by insurance recoveries for the repair or replacement of City property or equipment damaged by others, with such amounts restricted to the applicable repair or replacement.

SECTION IV. That the City Secretary of the City of Harlingen, Texas is hereby authorized and directed to cause a true and correct copy of the caption of this Ordinance to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas.

FINALLY ENACTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2026 at a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Harlingen, Texas, in compliance with CHAPTER 551 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, and other applicable law.

CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS

Norma Sepulveda, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mayra Herrera, City Secretary

**AGENDA ITEM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: **September 24, 2026**

Agenda Item:

Consideration and possible action to approve an ordinance on second and final reading adopting the Tax Year 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operations (M&O) together with the Interest and Sinking (I&S) Rate for Fiscal Year 2027 by record vote.

Prepared By (Print Name): Robert Rodriguez

Title: Finance Director

Signature: 

Brief Summary:

Chapter 26 of the Texas Government Tax Code requires the City Commission to record a record vote to adopt the City's tax rate. The proposed maintenance and operations rate for Tax Year 2026 is \$0.463135 per \$100 valuation, when combined with the interest and sinking rate of \$0.062925 per \$100 valuation the total proposed tax rate is \$0.526060 per \$100 valuation. All legal requirements have been met for the adoption of the tax rate.

The proposed tax rate is the same as the current tax rate in effect.

Funding (if applicable):

Are funds specifically designated in the current budget for the full amount for this purpose?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

*If no, specify source of funding and amount requested:

Finance Director's approval:

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval.

City Manager's approval:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments:

City Attorney's approval:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - ____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND TERMINATING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; PROVIDING FOR APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES; PROVIDING WHEN TAXES SHALL BECOME DUE AND WHEN SAME SHALL BECOME DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, the tax rolls of all taxable property in the City of Harlingen, Texas have been prepared and submitted to the Director of Finance of the City of Harlingen, Texas by the Chief Appraiser of the Cameron County Appraisal District:

WHEREAS, such tax rolls as certified by the Chief Appraiser show a taxable valuation, after making deductions for all exemptions authorized under State law and under ordinances of the City of Harlingen, Texas of Five Billion, Seven Hundred Thirty-Four Million, Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$5,734,582,975);

WHEREAS, the City Commission approved the municipal budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027;

WHEREAS, the City Commission ratified the property tax revenue increase reflected in the fiscal year 2026-2027 approved budget;

WHEREAS, the property tax rate reflected in the budget also represents no change compared to the rate adopted by the City Commission for fiscal year 2025-2026;

WHEREAS, it is necessary that an ordinance be passed levying an ad valorem tax on all property, both real and personal, within the corporate limits of the City of Harlingen, Texas in accordance with such budget and the Texas Tax Code;

WHEREAS, The City of Harlingen has complied with all the legal, procedural, and notice requirements to enact this ordinance fixing the ad valorem tax rate for the City for the tax year 2026;

WHEREAS, THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE; and

WHEREAS, THE TAX RATE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE RAISED BY 4.61% AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$20.40;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF HARLINGEN:

The following ad valorem tax rate is adopted per \$100.00 valuation:

\$ 0.463135 For Maintenance and Operation (M&O)

\$ 0.062925 For Debt Service (I&S)

\$ 0.526060 Total Tax Rate

WHEREAS, that unless the due date has been extended, taxes levied under this ordinance shall be due October 1, 2026 and if not paid on or before January 31, 2027 shall immediately become delinquent.

WHEREAS, that a tax rate set at the foregoing rate is hereby levied on all properties subject to taxation, real and personal, located within the City of Harlingen, Texas and a lien against such property to secure the payment of such taxes levied is hereby established.

WHEREAS, that the City Secretary of the City of Harlingen, Texas is hereby authorized and directed to cause a true and correct copy of the caption of this Ordinance to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas.

FINALLY ENACTED THIS ____ day of _____, 2026 at a regular meeting of the Elective Commission of the City of Harlingen, Texas at which a quorum was present and which was held in accordance with TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 551.

CITY OF HARLINGEN

Norma Sepulveda, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mayar Herrera, City Secretary

**AGENDA ITEM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: **September 24, 2026**

Agenda Item:

Consideration and possible action to approve a resolution ratifying the property tax reflected in the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

Prepared By (Print Name): Robert Rodriguez

Title: Finance Director

Signature:



Brief Summary:

In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 102.007(c) which states when a budget will require raising more property taxes than in the previous year a vote separate from adopting the budget or tax rate must be taken to ratify the property tax increase. A vote in addition to and separate from the vote to adopt the budget or tax rate must be taken to ratify the property tax increase.

Funding (if applicable):

Are funds specifically designated in the current budget for the full amount for this purpose?

☐

Yes

☐

No*

*If no, specify source of funding and amount requested:

Finance Director's approval:

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

N/A

Staff Recommendation:

No action is necessary for a public hearing.

City Manager's approval:

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

N/A

Comments:

City Attorney's approval:

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

N/A

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - ____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS
RATIFYING THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE REFLECTED IN THE ADOPTED
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027, AND DEALING WITH RELATED MATTERS**

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code Section 102.007(c) states, when a budget will require raising more property taxes than in the previous year a vote separate from adopting the budget or tax rate must be taken to ratify the property tax increase; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission has committed to an increase in the property tax rate as reflected in the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
HARLINGEN, TEXAS, THAT:**

Section 1. The City Commission hereby ratifies that the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget will raise more property taxes than last year's budget by \$915,834 or 3.20%, and of that amount \$702,674 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Section 2. The recitals contained in the preamble hereof are hereby found to be true, and such recitals are hereby made a part of this Resolution for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the City Commission.

Section 3. All resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Resolution shall be and remain controlling as to the matters resolved herein.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

Section 5. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held to be invalid, the remainder of this Resolution and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall nevertheless be valid, and the City Commission hereby declares that this Resolution would have been enacted without such invalid provision.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in force and effect from and after its final passage, and it is so resolved.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this _____ day of _____ 2026.

CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS

Norma Sepulveda, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mayra Herrera, City Secretary

(CITY SEAL)