

A G E N D A

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie to be held at the Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Meeting Rooms A and B, Waxahachie, Texas, on **Monday, June 24, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.**

Council Members: Billie Wallace, Mayor, Council Member Place 4
Chris Wright, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 3
Tres Atkins, Council Member Place 1
Patrick Souter, Council Member Place 2
Travis Smith, Council Member Place 5

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Public Comments:** Persons may address the City Council on any issues. This is the appropriate time for citizens to address the Council on any concern whether on this agenda or not. In accordance with the State of Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council may not comment or deliberate such statements during this period, except as authorized by Section 551.042, Texas Government Code. *Speakers must observe the five (5) minute time limit.*
5. **Discuss and consider** proposed Ordinance approving a general homestead exemption at a specified percentage of the appraised value of the residence homestead and with a minimum exemption of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2024
6. Comments by Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Manager
7. Adjourn

The City Council reserves the right to go into Executive Session as authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from legal counsel on any agenda item listed herein. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. Parking for mobility-impaired persons is available. Any request for sign interpretive services must be made forty-eight hours ahead of the meeting. To make arrangements, call the City Secretary at 469-309-4006 or (TDD) 1-800-RELAY TX

(5)



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Chad Tustison, Finance Director

Thru: Michael Scott, City Manager

Date: June 24, 2024

Re: Consider an Ordinance approving a general homestead exemption at a specified percentage of the appraised value of the residence homestead and with a minimum exemption of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2024.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"I move to adopt a (insert percentage) general homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes with a minimum exemption of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2024."

BACKGROUND

The City has long recognized the need to provide seniors and disabled persons with property tax relief. The City currently offers an Over 65 homestead exemption and a Disabled Persons exemption in the amount of \$30,000. Additionally, the City offers an ad valorem tax ceiling on residence homesteads of the disabled and of those age 65 or over and their spouses. For these residents, the tax imposed on the qualified homestead is not increased over the amount in the year the resident qualified for this exemption. Last year, the City Council approved a general homestead exemption of 1%, or a minimum of \$5,000 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2023.

ISSUE

During the City Council Budget Workshop held on June 18, 2024, the City Council expressed an interest in increasing the general homestead exemption to provide additional tax relief. The adoption of a general homestead

exemption or any change to the current exemption percentage amount must be approved by City Council before July 1 in order to be effective for the current tax year.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS, CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 30 TAXATION, TO INCLUDE A GENERAL RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR THE TAX YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT EQUAL TO (*INSERT %*) OF THE APPRAISED VALUE OF THE RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD WITH A MINIMUM EXEMPTION OF \$5,000; AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE IS PASSED WAS NOTICED AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS:

WHEREAS, Section 11.13(n) of the Property Tax Code of the State of Texas authorizes the governing body of a taxing unit to adopt an exemption from taxation by such taxing unit of a percentage of the appraised value of a residence homestead of individuals; and

WHEREAS, if the percentage set by the taxing unit produces a homestead exemption in a tax year of less than \$5,000 when applied to a particular residence homestead, the individual is statutorily entitled to an exemption of \$5,000 of the appraised value; and

WHEREAS, the City currently provides a homestead exemption in the amount of 1% of appraised value, or a minimum of \$5,000; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that adopting an ordinance increasing the percentage of the local option residence homestead exemption is in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDINANED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 11.13(n) of the Property Tax Code, the City Council hereby authorizes a percentage-based exemption from ad valorem taxes on the appraised value of the residence homestead in the amount of (*insert %*) of the appraised value of the individual's residence homestead or a minimum of \$5,000, to be effective for the tax year that began on January 1, 2024.

SECTION 2. Chapter 30, Section 30-22, General Residence Homestead Exemption, is hereby amended read as follows:

Sec. 30-22. – General Residence Homestead Exemption – Granted

There is hereby established an ad valorem tax exemption in the amount of (*insert %*) of the appraised value of the residence homestead or a minimum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in accordance with Article VIII, Section 1-b, of the Texas Constitution and section 11.13 of the Texas Tax Code. This exemption shall extend to qualifying residence homesteads commencing with the 2024 tax year, which began January 1, 2024.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 24th day of June, 2024.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Secretary