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SERVING COPPELL, VALLEY RANCH AND HACKBERRY CREEK SINCE 1984

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Council Proposes Lower Tax Rate

By Jean Murph

The Coppel City Council Tuesday approved a proposed tax rate for 2015 of \$0.58400, the lowest rate since 1989. Finance Director Jennifer Miller told the Council the City was cutting \$2,249 for the next fiscal year from this year's \$6,064.9 rate.

City Manager Clay Phillips said Coppel was extremely lucky to have the tax base that it does, in comparison to other area cities who are going through hard times.

"I know we're excited about this," said Mayor Karen Hunt. "It's good for the (citizens) of Coppel." Ironically, there was not one citizen in attendance at the meeting to hear this news.

"\$10,646 has been cut over the past six years," said Miller. Councilman Marvin Franklin said that he had been on both ends of the process—raising and lowering taxes—and that it felt much better to lower them.

City Adds to Service Center

The Council also approved a zoning change for the construction of new buildings and expansion of existing buildings at the Coppel Service Center. To be built eventually are a structure for Equipment Vehicle Storage, a Bulk Storage Enclosure, an Auction Storage Building, and various unnamed additions to existing buildings.

The additions will be at the back of the Service Center property on 11.52 acres at 816 S. Coppel Road, north of the DART Right of Way and south of Darling Homes.

- Presented an award to the City from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts as a recipient of the 2015 Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Platinum Member designation.
- Approved a professional services contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc., in an amount of \$751,901, for the purchase of software for development services departments.
- Approved an award to enter into contract with Online Business Systems for the project recovery preparation work of the Tyler Technologies software implementation; for a total amount of \$450,000.
- Approved an ordinance ordering a Special Election to be held on November 3, 2015, to consider the reauthorization and adoption of one-quarter of one percent sales and use tax to provide revenue for the maintenance and repair of municipal streets or sidewalks.

City Manager Phillips reported that MacArthur Boulevard construction is complete and Denton Tap almost complete and will be before school starts, see **COUNCIL** on page 15

NOTICE OF 2015 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR CITY OF COPPELL

A tax rate of \$0.58400 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of City of Coppel. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearings be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

PROPOSED TAX RATE \$0.58400 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE \$0.60649 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE \$0.56925 per \$100
ROLLBACK TAX RATE \$0.58433 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Coppel from the same properties in both the 2014 tax year and the 2015 tax year.

The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Coppel may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

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

property tax amount = (rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

Mary McGuffey
City of Coppel Tax Assessor-Collector
255 Parkway Blvd Coppel, TX 75019
972-304-7070
mmcguffey@coppelltx.gov
www.coppelltx.gov

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First Hearing: August 25, 2015 at 7:30 pm at 255 Parkway Blvd, Coppel Tx 75019.

Second Hearing: September 1, 2015 at 6:00 pm at 255 Parkway Blvd, Coppel Tx 75019.

WWW.COPPELLCITIZENSADVOCATE.COM

CISD Property Values Up 9.23 Percent

Average Home Will Pay More Taxes Despite Rate Cut

By Jane Moore

Final tax rolls released in late July showed a 9.23 percent increase in Coppel ISD property values from last year, which translates to an \$8 million increase in revenue for the School District's operating fund and \$835,479 additional dollars for debt service.

The additional \$8 million will help offset the increase in CISD's proposed budget compared to last year. Board members are set to approve on August 31 a \$117.3 million budget for the 2015-2016 school year, which is about \$8 million more than last year's \$109.8 million budget.

The \$8 million increase over last year includes an extra \$5 million in recapture payments to the state, plus \$1.1 million in instructional salaries (classroom teachers and aides). There's also an extra \$700,000 for implementation of new finance, human resources and payroll software. In addition, \$735,197 was allotted for an increase in the District's debt service payments. The District has budgeted \$24.8 million for debt service payments this year. Debt service funds finance construction projects and some other legally

see **CISD** on page 15

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