



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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City Council Approves Homestead Exemption Increase for Over 65 and Disabled Persons

At the July 11 meeting, Council approved an increase in the homestead exemption for homeowners age 65 and over and those with a disability. The ordinance increases the exemption amount from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Approximately 22% of the homeowners in Highland Village will benefit from this exemption and see an average annual savings of \$427.00. The exemption amount decreases the taxable value of the home and, in turn, reduces the amount of associated property tax.

"We believe it is important to reduce the tax burden on this demographic, particularly with the increase in home valuations," stated Mayor Charlotte Wilcox.

The exemption will apply to tax bills for the 2017 tax year. The first read of the ordinance was passed by a vote of 5-1. Council will consider the second read at their July 25 meeting.

City Council continued budget discussions with staff presentations of the Supplemental Budget. The FY 17-18 Supplemental Budget totals nearly \$600,000 and includes an upgrade to the outdoor warning siren system as well as the installation of an additional siren at Sunset Point Park, parking canopies for public safety vehicles to protect them from severe weather, an upgrade to the Unity Park ballfield lights to include light shields and shade covers for the existing playgrounds at Lions Club, Turpin and Lower Sellmeyer Parks and the exercise station at Unity Park.

"Each year as we begin the budget discussions I always ask how this item or initiative will benefit the residents of Highland Village. I am pleased to see staff has taken a conservative stance and proposed items that protect our residents and the investments made with our tax dollars," stated Mayor Charlotte Wilcox.

Budget presentations will continue at the July 25 City Council meeting.

During the City Manager report a video was shown providing information regarding the utility rate increase which goes into effect in October 2017. City Manager Michael Leavitt informed residents of the call for applications to serve on City boards and commissions, the upcoming Concert in the Park scheduled for July 22 at Doubletree Ranch Park and the Unity in the Communities luncheon set for July 25.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Spectrum 16; Frontier 43) and via website streaming by searching HVTV. The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city [website](#).