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Council adopts budget & sets tax rate

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The City of Palacios held its first City Council meeting with new City Manager Jon Branson at the helm last week and the 2026-27 budget and tax rate were officially adopted.

The final meeting of September began with a required public hearing on the proposed budget and tax rate, however nary a citizen was present to offer any commentary.

On the City's 2026-27 budget, Branson commended the work of City staff in their preparation of the proposed balanced budget, with the City's revenues matching expenses.

City Finance Director Jackie Miller provided an overview of the budget to Council.

The City's general fund balance is \$3.9-million and the water fund at \$2.4-million. The

airport fund sits at \$164,000 and does include grant revenue, with \$90,000 in the RAMP Grant, and \$18,000 from the Palacios Economic Development Corp. (PEDC) for matching funds for the airport layout grant.

The City's proposed tax rate of \$0.58593 per \$100 valuation calculates to a total tax levy of \$2,054,457. The proposed budget is based on tax revenue collected at a rate of 96%, which would generate \$1,980,000 for the City coffers.

On the City's proposed expenditures of note, Miller cited an increase of 6.9% increase in City employee healthcare costs.

The police department will have to absorb the salaries for the expired Cops Grant, along with repairs to the PD's gun range, and a large

expense for body worn camera software. The fire truck repairs were increased in the budget to \$20,000.

Through the efforts of City staff, Miller said the expectation is to add \$135,000 towards the City's reserves.

Councilwoman Victoria Duran commended the City staff on its efforts on the budget.

"I'm glad to see positives, adding to the reserves. Great job staff," Duran said.

The budget was approved unanimously.

Property Tax Increase Ratification

Council unanimously ratified the property tax increase reflected in the City's FY2026-27 budget.

Tax Rate Adoption

On the City's property tax rate, Council adopted the Voter Approved Tax Rate of

\$0.58593 per \$100 valuation.

City Manager Branson acknowledged the adopted rate is lower than the 2025 rate of \$0.59000 per \$100 valuation.

Branson also addressed the Determination Letter the City received from the Attorney General's Office, which said the City's ability to raise taxes above the No New Revenue rate would be froze due to untimely audit submission.

"There was discussion about the No New Revenue Rate, which would result in a \$146,000 loss in tax revenue," he said. "The prohibition on adopting the No New Revenue Rate, take this fiscal year or next. According to the numerous legal opinions, TML (Texas Municipal League) general counsel, our City

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4:30 p.m. Friday**

Except for paid advertising, all articles, photos or other information submitted on Monday will be published on a space available basis only.

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The *El Maton National Hall*, located at 565 FM 1095 in El Maton opens its doors every Sun. at 1 p.m., with live music from 3-5 p.m. Stop in, wet your whistle and hear some tunes.

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CROWNED royalty during halftime of last week's varsity Shark and Mathis Pirate football conest, as the Palacios Junior Senior High's 2026 Homecoming Queen & King were Anahi Perez and Robert Sandoval. For the Homecoming Court see Page 2. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

PVFD trio of fishing tournneys fundraiser this weekend

Get your rods and reels as the Palacios Volunteer Fire Dept. Lines for Ladders two days of fishing tournaments hits the water of Tres Palacios Bay this Fri. and Sat. (Oct. 2-3).

The two day event features a trio of tournaments - Bank Fishing, Boat/Kayak Fishing, and a free kids tournament, with the event hosted by Bay to Brook Kayaking. Prizes and awards will be bestowed on the top anglers, along with raffles and food to purchase.

Bank Fishing

The Bank Fishing Tournament will be held Fri. (Oct. 2). Cost is \$20 (cash only) per rod, two rod max. Registration begins at 4 p.m. at the covered shelter on East Bay. Lines will hit the water at 6 p.m. and all lines will be out at 8 p.m. The Bank Fishing Tournament boundaries includes all of Palacios, Seawall and piers. Qualifying fish are limited to red fish, speckled trout, flounder and black drum. An additional

side pot for the 1st 17-inch speckled trout for \$20, with a 50-50 split between the PVFD and winner. Awards to immediately follow at the East Bay covered shelter.

Kayak & Boat Fishing

Registration for the Kayak & Boat Fishing Tournaments are each \$100, and begin at 4 p.m. on Fri. (Oct. 2) at the covered shelter on East Bay. Late registration opens at 6:30 a.m. on Sat. (Oct. 3) for the kayak & boat tournaments.

The boundaries include bay waters only within Matagorda Co., Matagorda Bay and East Matagorda Bay. No Gulf or surf fishing allowed. Qualifying fish are limited to red fish, speckled trout, flounder.

Each individual angler may submit a stringer consisting of: 2 redfish, 2 speckled trout, 1 flounder.

Awards to immediately follow at the East Bay covered shelter.

Vessels may launch at 6:30 p.m., but first cast may not set fly until 7 a.m. Weigh-in begins at 12 p.m., and all registered anglers must arrive at the designated weigh-in location no later than 3 p.m.

Kids Tournament

The free Kids Fishing Tournament begins at 9 a.m. on Sat (Oct. 3) at the 4th St. Pier.

(See PVFD, Page 2)



Blaze claims lives of pets in Tidewater Oaks

A residence near the entrance of the Tidewater Oaks Subdivision off of FM 2853 was consumed by a blaze on Sep. 23. Residents managed to escape unharmed but a trio of pets were lost in the fire. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

**Pavilion to host
Clean Coast Texas
Collaborative Green
Infrastructure workshop
next Wednesday**

The Palacios Pavilion will be host to the Clean Coast Texas Collaborative Green Infrastructure Workshop on next Wed. (Oct. 7).

The morning half-day workshop will assist attendees in finding out more about nature-based practices to clean and conserve storm water for people and wildlife at any scale: business or home, urban/suburban or industrial, local or regional.

Local elected officials, municipal representatives, county staff, landowners and facilities

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• **Deadline for Articles, Classified & Display Ads 4:30 p.m. Friday** •