

Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee

Report to City Council HOT Committee Recommendation

MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023

SUMMARY:

The Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Committee submits this report to the Woodcreek City Council with recommendations on whether to increase the current Hotel Occupancy Tax above 0%. The Committee also agreed to remain in place as the HOT Committee of Woodcreek and to meet again in the first quarter of 2024. At that time, the Committee will make an assessment as to whether there have been material changes in the past 12 months that would warrant revisiting the question of increasing the tax or leaving the tax at 0%.

HISTORY:

On April 9, 2008 the Woodcreek City Council passed Ordinance No. 08-113 by a 5-0 vote approving a 7% Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). The Ordinance became effective on May 1, 2008.

On May 12, 2010 the Woodcreek City Council passed Ordinance No. 10-141 by a 5-0 vote approving a 5% Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). The Ordinance became effective on July 1, 2010.

On April 10, 2013 the Woodcreek City Council passed Ordinance No. 13-178 by a 5-0 vote approving a 4% Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). The Ordinance became effective on July 1, 2013.

On April 10, 2013 the Woodcreek City Council passed Ordinance No. 13-178 by a 3-0-1, Mayor Pro Tem Britner abstained, vote approving a 0% Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). The Ordinance became effective on January 1, 2014.

On November 9, 2022 the Woodcreek City Council directed staff to post an application form for membership to the HOT Committee for both lodging and the non-lodging owners. Membership to serve on the committee was not limited to residents of the City due to the nature of the HOT. The application was placed in the newspaper, Wimberley View, on November 24, 2023. The application was also placed on the City's web page.

On February 22, 2023 City of Woodcreek Mayor Rasco, HOT Committee Chair Konradi, met with Creekhaven Inn & Spa owner Helena Hauk and Wimberley Tourism Director Leanne Kirby to discuss the HOT implemented in Wimberley.

On March 1, 2023 the Hotel Tax Occupancy Tax Committee conducted its first meeting. The committee discussed (1) the governing Ordinance for the City of Woodcreek (Chapter 110) (2) HOT laws and Uses of HOT Funds (3) Creation of a Mission Statement for the HOT Committee (4) Schedule and agenda content for the next meeting.

On March 21, the Hotel Tax Occupancy Tax Committee had a video conference with Scott Joslove Esq., President and CEO of the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association. The committee

was able to discuss a Hotel Occupancy Tax and current viable options available to spend funds. The committee also looked at the result from the City Council survey, "should the City raise Hotel Occupancy Tax to promote and support local businesses in the area? Funds collected under this tax are restricted for certain purposes", recently conducted.

RECOMMENDATION ONE -- LEAVE HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX AT 0%:

The Advisory Committee recommends the Hotel Occupancy Tax should remain at 0%.

RECOMMENDATION TWO – DO NOT REMOVE HOT FROM CODE OF ORDINANCES:

The Advisory Committee recommends that the Hotel Occupancy Tax Ordinance should remain in the City of Woodcreek's Code of Ordinances.

Ann Thin Mandi

Chairperson, Hotel Occupancy

Tax Advisory Committee
City of Woodcreek, Texas

Received By:

ITY Manager

Date

Date