

City of Woodland
Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out HB 581 Homestead
Exemption Minutes

February 17, 2025

I. Call to Order

Mayor James Carter called to order the Public Hearing to discuss the Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption for the City of Woodland at 6:15 PM on February 17, 2025, at the Woodland City Hall.

II. Roll Call

The following persons were in attendance: Mayor James Carter, Mayor Pro Tem T.L. Carter, Councilman John Haralson, City Clerk Allissa Gresham, and City Attorney Gary Byrd. Councilwoman Allison Owens, Councilman Jeffery Mitchell, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Powell were absent.

III. Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Hearing

Attorney Byrd explained the reason for the hearing and stated Rodney Steverson had signed up to speak. Mr. Steverson asked what the benefit would be for someone on a fixed income if the City opted out. Attorney Byrd explained by opting out, the old system would stay in place. He started with the old system; citizens would receive an estimate of taxes they owe through the mail in May and would have 45 days from receiving the estimate to challenge it before an adjustment board. Attorney Byrd discussed by opting in, you would not receive an estimate letter in May because, under the new system, property would automatically be assessed every three years. Mr. Steverson stated he thought for himself, as a taxpayer, it would be better for the City to opt in for the new system because there would be better control of setting the rates according to inflation. Attorney Byrd stated if the City opts out this year, they have the option to opt in next year. He stated if the City opts in this year, they will not have the option to opt out next year. Mr. Steverson stated he was just trying to understand the pros and cons of opting in and opting out. Attorney Byrd asked if there was anything the Mayor or Council wanted to add to the discussion. The Mayor and Council had nothing to add. Attorney Byrd stated this was the second of three hearings scheduled for the City of Woodland. He stated the City of Woodland will hold the third hearing on Monday, February 24, 2025, and immediately after the hearing, a Special Called Meeting will be held to vote on the City of Woodland's Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption. Attorney Byrd stated if there was no more discussion needed, the Mayor could close the hearing.

Mayor Carter closed the Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Hearing at 6:31 PM.

Minutes submitted by: _____

Allissa Gresham

City Clerk

Approval Date

