

MAYOR'S MINUTE – JANUARY 2012

Due to the death of my father, Mr. A.J. Muska who served as Mayor of West from 1975 to 1985 the council agreed to cancel this months meeting. Since there was very little on the agenda and no pressing business I feel this was a good decision.

With that this month I will give you a list of my short and long term goals for the city and what I hope to achieve during 2012 and beyond.

Short Term

Complete and get council approval of new/revised City of West Employee manual.

Get new website up and running – this will be great tool for everyone to get more information regarding city.

Clean-up ordinances currently on books with city. This would require a “definition” page making the ordinances more clean and concise.

Work on additional grants for city. I want to find funds to get MKT depot painted and fixed up.

Work on City of West museum – Upstairs of City Hall. As soon as Mr. Hykel gets figures together as to cost we’ll have a better understanding of just what it’s going to cost. I can tell you that some of the cost will involve “private funds” so be looking for some fundraising dinners or something to help raise funds for this project.

Refinance City Debt – If done correctly this would also provide needed funds for expansion of sewer plant..

Work with Chamber to help get permanent secretary which would help them promote city businesses.

Work on getting well located near city hall up and running. This will benefit the city as this water would supplement our water coming from Waco, Texas. The water coming from this well does not cost a dime, other than cost for treating it, thus would provide additional funds as well as help with possible expansion across the highway.

Long Term

Find funds to purchase land for business park in West. We need to have some place where we can offer business to move to West. The area I’m thinking about would be close to both I-35 and the railroad making a “distribution center” or some type of industry like that interested.

Expand the sewer plant.

Fund and replace needed water and sewer pipes in the city. My idea is to at least come up with some type of program to replace SOME pipe each year as money is available. It may take years but we have to start somewhere.

Work with railroad to implement a “quiet zone” through the city. This would require each railroad crossing to be outfitted to close off access when train is coming through. The good thing would be the train does not have to blow horn if this is implemented!!!

Work on 4B sale tax. This would require a lot of education to the public; however the city currently has NO 4B sale tax revenue in place. The portion of property tax that SHOULD go into this fund was diverted years ago to property tax relief. Back in those days Economic development was not a high priority. We need that ½ of 1 cent to apply to the 4B fund to help promote and get new businesses to expand and move to West. This goes hand in hand with the aforementioned industrial park...

As always I want your 4-c's. Comments, Complaints, Concerns and Complements. Call or come by and see me.

On a personal note I wish to thank everyone for their kind words and prayers to me and my family on the loss of my father. He was a great Mayor and I hope to do half as good a job as he did during his service to the city of West.