

## MAYOR'S MINUTE

OCTOBER 2012

It's October and I am pleased to report that the city's finances for the year 2013 are in very good shape. The City's fiscal year is from October 1st to September 31st.

Due to the fiscal responsibility of your city council, the hard work by CJ and the public works employees,(they do alot of work that if we had to contract out would cost the city alot more money!!!) great budgeting by Joey Pustejovsky, dedication and enforcement by Chief Lawhorn and our police department as well as administering and collection of fines by Judge Pareya and Jennifer I am pleased to report that the city's reserves going into 2013 is close to \$400,000.00 in the general fund (streets/operations) and \$400,000.00 in the water/sewer fund. With few exceptions these funds have to be kept separate.

Some of the city's larger projects in the works for the coming year include:

Purchasing 4 million in Certificates of Obligation bonds and start construction of expanded sewer plant. Additional funds if available will also fund some needed water/sewer line replacement. With the available funds on hand we will plan on paying for the engineer and design fees along with the updated wastewater license fees out of our reserves. That way we don't have to have two bond purchases and the council passed a "reimbursement resolution" some time back to refund the reserves after we secure the permanent obligation bonds when the project is bid out. This is what you would consider "interim" financing when you build a house.... Since we have this reserve it will save around \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 in fees and interest!

With help from a grant city is proceeding with expanded expansion of sewer intake lines on East side of city going to the sewer plant.

Improvements to the community center - paint, fixtures and either replace or thoroughly clean floor and fix broken tile. We have completed the new council table at the center...go by and take a look...; I think it looks great and very professional and since ALL council meetings, workshops and public hearings are now held at the center felt it was in order. Thanks to the generous donation by "anonymous" for the \$4000 forward this project.

Paint and repair Katy Depot - \$5000.00 grant awarded last year for this project and with the application for this year sent in grant money from railroad will paid 100% of this project.

Proceed with repair of Water well #4 on North Reagan Street. This well was closed when the city connected to Waco for it's water. Securing Waco as water source was a good deal however, I feel if we can get this water well up and running the city would be in a better position using our own allocation of ground water rather than paying Waco for theirs. We would supplement our supply with ground water and not be as dependent to another entity as well as having a larger economic impact for the city. It's also possible that we could at some point sell excess water to other water supply systems in the area and this has a potential for positive economic impact (revenue) for the city.

As you all know the construction of I-35 will soon make an impact as they move closer to the Oak Street intersection and overpass. We have to be patient with construction but I know after completion this will open up the West side of I-35 to expansion and additional annexation opportunities as businesses develop in that area.

One point I would like to make is when construction starts please do your best to shop with local businesses along I-35 and downtown. Since travelers may avoid the construction area and not pull off the highway it's up to the locals to help get these businesses through this "ruff" spot. Go eat downtown or visit some of the shops (antiques hint hint...)

I'm very pleased with what we have accomplished this past year and excited about the coming year with the various projects listed above. Please remember me in your prayers as I do my very best for the good of this wonderful city.

Ok I have been told that I am "stuck up" and do not wave at some of you when I'm driving.....I'm not stuck up.... sad to say but your Mayor is blind as a bat and can't see 20' in front of me without glasses ... and you guessed it ... I don't wear glasses when I'm driving... I'll work on that...

Remember to be careful come Halloween and watch out for children...

There is just so much going on that you guys need to know about that I doing a "bonus" minute this month!!!!

Regarding the dog pound/shelter/holding area... whatever you want to call it... in the past and for many years the city had a small area at the sewer plant where we held stray animals. Due to health guidelines this was deemed unacceptable and so we are in the process of building one up to health codes. Since we'll also expanding the sewer plant there was no longer space available for the size of building required so we started construction by the Washington/Goddard Water Tower. We're going to have a public meeting on Friday at 6:00 - community center regarding this location and the shelter so if you have concerns or comments please attend this meeting.

Also looked at updating our animal control ordinance..... tabled this until local vets could give me some ideas ...looking like we're going to combine some of Hillsboro's ordinance along with some of our current one to get a clearer more concise ordinance.... ordinances are great however we also have to work on enforcement!!!!

We also reviewed and agreed to amend the code of ordinances being worked on by firm out of Lubbock... this is one of the last steps... when complete they will be available on our web site for all to read.....much improved!!!! some were so outdated it was not funny.

There was a complaint regarding VFW lighting and I'm glad to report that I met with both parties and they worked out the problem.

We looked at the utility rate study but took no action... this study would give the city a better idea of just how much it cost to provide water to each person and also what the cost is to provide sewer service. In the past the council has always just "backed into" the cost raising it according to what the budget required. After this study and imputing the cost of infrastructure needed we will have a better idea what to charge for water and sewer. I feel the cost of water/sewer must INCLUDE cost of infrastructure upgrades if not we'll never get to a position to replace our aged water and sewer pipes put in the ground in the 1920's..... more on this in the months to come...

Still tweaking the grease trap ordinance and committee will report back next month on additional exceptions for some very low use organizations (ball field for one)....

Looked at some flooding problems on North Davis... by Sokio Hall. thanks to Roy Janek for pointing this out and giving us his expert opinion..we have sent that to Jed Walker (city engineer) to review and make suggestions....

Call meeting we agreed to pay Chamber 5000 toward new lighting for downtown. This is much needed and I'm excited...town needs to look more festive during the holiday and we're hoping we

get considered by Westfest to cover this cost.. will find out in November when they announce their donations to the community.

Ok I think I've covered just about everything.... remember to be careful come Halloween!!