

MAYOR'S MINUTE – NOVEMBER 2020

For our November council meeting we met at the Fire Station due to the 2020 Election and our meeting was well attended.

I wish to welcome Natalie Kelinske as the newest city council member and congratulate Steve Vanek and Joe Pustejovsky on their successful re-election! I expect great things from Ms. Kelinske knowing she will be an active member of the city council and work for every citizen of West.

The board approved 3 items all related to the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The agenda items approved Walker Partners as the engineer firm, Norton Rose Fulbright as Bond Attorney, and Specialized Public Finance as the financial advisor for this project. The project will double the size of the plant as well as update the current plant operations to TCEQ requirements. I feel this is a much-needed project and when finished it will secure wastewater treatment for the City of West for years to come and allow for the increase in housing brought on by the 5 subdivisions being developed. We will now start working on the application process to the Texas Water Commission for funding the \$12,000,000.00 project. We have already done a water study which shows this loan to be paid for under the water/sewer account with a nominal increase in your wastewater rates. It depends on how many years the council decides to pay the note out but if they were to select a 30-year note, it would amount to about a \$1.00 increase.

Good news on the sales tax for the past month with an increase of over \$6,000.00. Keep shopping local folks, it does help our economy!

I presented the hotel budget for 2020-2021. It was approved by the council. We estimate the budget this year to be at \$50,000.00. Our hotel tax rate is currently 9%. With COVID cancelling Westfest and the car show we did not spend as much, nor did we receive that much from hotel guests in our city. I Hope that the New Year brings more visitors and hotel tax income. This money is used to promote the city and bring visitors to town for the night; thus "Heads in Beds" is the guiding principal for this tax.

I want to remind everyone in the city that we are not finished with this virus just yet so please wear your mask in public, wash hands, and practice social distancing. Let us all do our part to protect each other please.

In November we would normally have the traditional turkey dinner put on by West Kiwanis and the City however that event has been cancelled this year.

During this month of Thanksgiving I want to express my thanks to each one of you for your continued support and prayers, your support of your city council, and law officers. Even with all that is going on we have so much to be thankful for, so lets' do not get discouraged as we all move forward closing out this year of trials and tribulations. My hope is that 2021 brings us even more things to be thankful for.

Peace be with each of you.