

## MAYOR'S MINUTE – WINTER STORM REPORT

Wow is about all I can say about the winter/snow event that took place February 12 – 19. I want to give you an update on the event and how the City of West fared.

The city lost a pump motor on well #7. This was caused due to the rolling blackouts; the power went on and off and in turn that burned up the motor. We have a company that has started pulling the motor and by the time you read this the well should be back to normal. The pipes at our memorial cracked as well as the pipes in our park restrooms. Luckily, everything is covered by insurance. The weather caused a lot of damage to the city streets. When moisture gets under the asphalt it then freezes which cause the streets to crumble. This is seen as potholes and there are a lot of them. The city is working on putting down cold mix (asphalt) to fill large holes around town. The trouble is that there is just so many of them and so little staff to get this done quickly. I have asked for help from County Commissioner Jones and use of inmates to preform this work and as soon as the county opens back up the inmate release program, we are first on the list for this additional assistance.

On the bright side we never lost water service, although we came awfully close as Waco was having to deal with their pump stations. As it turned out the next day after we received their letter to conserve water, the power came back on to Well #6. We started pumping again using both Waco and Well 6 water, we reduced the amount of water we were using from Waco. We never went over our contracted daily amount. The wastewater treatment plant stayed online using a generator. I cannot express my gratitude to CJ and the public works employees that were able to get to work, they worked day and night to keep the city running. A huge thanks to our public works department, we appreciate you all and again thank you so much!

The city opened a warming center in the St. Mary's Gym. Another thanks goes out to Chief Barton, by posting on social media he received volunteers to help man the center. A huge thank you to the Red Cross for donating 50 cots and blankets to the city. Slovacek's generously donated food and Bush's Chicken gave a big discount on chicken. Many thanks to Father

Timothy, West EMS, West Fire Department and West PD for taking care of the warming station along with their regular duties.

Once again the City of West worked together and got through an extremely dangerous storm. There is no telling how many friends and neighbors welcomed those without power into their homes and I am so immensely proud of all of you. You all hang in there, the 100-degree (plus) summer is on its way.

To follow up on the winter storm we held our monthly council meeting on March 2, 2021. The first part of the meeting was a public hearing on our proposed revised zoning map. We have been working on this update for years and it is almost complete. There is little in the revised map that will affect anyone in the city, we took the old ordinance and map and have updated them with new language. We have added additional zoning classifications to the new map. One of the biggest changes will be the city will now allow HUD manufacturing homes in certain areas of the city. The revised map and ordinance will be viewed again before our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and the council will vote to adopt during regular meeting. The revised map is posted on our city web site. For more information on this you can call me 826-5442 or city hall.

The council approved the West ISD land to be annexed into the city limits. This will be the home of the new elementary school and they also approved another section north of the West High School ball fields to be used as an agricultural education complex and future district expansion.

The council also approved of a system to regulate our two above storage tanks to have the city on one water system. Right now, the south part of town is serviced by Waco and the storage for that is the tank on Washington Street. The north and east side of town is fed by our two wells and storage is in the elevated tank north of the city. This will be a better overall water delivery system when complete. The cost will be \$213,000.00 and paid for under our current budget.

Council approved a specialty food vendor truck/trailer permit fee of \$250.00 on any food vendor truck/trailer that comes into city. These are permitted on private property. Since these out-of-town vendors do not report sales tax for City of West this is reason for fees.

By now you have all heard that Governor Abbott has lifted his mask mandate. I want to emphasize to all that just because this mask mandate has been lifted please use common sense when out in public. If you conformable wear a mask, if not that is your decision. If you own a business and wish for people to wear just ask them and I would suggest you have a few masks at the door in case they do not carry their mask any longer. We have all learned over this past year how to protect ourselves from the virus, be diligent in washing your hands, wearing a mask in public and social distance. If a bar is open great, you are welcome to enjoy if that is your choice. If you are not comfortable with that situation, then please stay home.

It is that simple. I trust the citizens of West to use common sense and personal decisions are left to everyone based on their age, health and any special conditions they may have.

Sorry this mayor's minute is a bit longer than normal. Stay safe and healthy.