



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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August 2016 - A Busy Summer in Jersey Village

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

Last month Council and Staff held another round of budget meetings to set the FY 2016-2017 City budget. The meetings lasted over two days and touched on a wide range of community initiatives. The meetings began with a review of the FY 2015-2016 accomplishments. Among those discussed were the progress on long-standing Public Works projects, Comprehensive Plan completion, US 290 property acquisitions, Elwood Street reconstruction, completion of a traffic study, the adoption of city impact fees and aesthetic repairs to City Hall.

After reviewing the accomplishments of the current budget, City Council laid out the goals of the upcoming budget. Next year's goals include long-term flood analysis with action plans, the completion of US 290 utility projects, implementation of Comprehensive Plan initiatives, and maintenance facility replacement. The budget also provides adequate funding for the core activities of public safety, public works and parks and recreation. Staff provided another fiscally sound budget that balances community needs with the requisite stewardship of public funds.

There are many specific budget items that are worth mentioning. Among those are important water treatment facility repairs and a desperately needed maintenance building. Closely aligned with the water treatment repairs will be the additional capability to use treated wastewater for golf course irrigation which will provide sustainability and cost savings for the City. As a result of the traffic calming study recommendations, the budget contains several speed reducing measures including additional speed monitors and signage. I am also pleased to report the budget contains the Comprehensive Plan initiatives of a new City brand, wayfinding signage, new City entrances and a dog park. Lastly, during the meetings Council received updates on the long term flood recovery study. The previously discussed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been submitted. We have received interest from several engineering firms to work with City Council, Staff and residents to draft a Jersey Village centric plan for flood mitigation. Council is expected to select a firm at the regular August meeting.

Though it has been a busy and successful summer for the City, it ends on a bittersweet note. Our City Manager of eleven years, Mike Castro will be leaving the City this month. Mike has accepted the position of City Manager of Murphy, Texas. City Council will be reviewing candidates for an interim City Manager and undergoing the process of selecting a new City Manager. Mike's leadership has been invaluable for our community. Mike was a key contributor to the growth of Jersey Village and leaves the City in a strong financial position. He will be missed and I wish him all the best in his new position.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas

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