



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter June 2018

Direction for FY 2018-2019

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

Last month City Council and Staff convened to conduct the annual budget retreat. This was the opportunity for Council and Staff to identify our City's priorities and how to fund them. As with the last several budget retreats, this year's included spirited discussion on funding the City's bold ambitions. Jersey Village remains in a strong position. The city continues to see strong growth in property tax revenue, property valuations, and sales tax revenue throughout the community. Since 2010, we have seen steady growth in the value of residential and commercial properties. During that time, the City kept expenditures low providing for a healthy general fund balance. This year's, like last year's, budget will tap into those reserves to provide for flood mitigation, community amenities, economic development, facilities improvements and public safety.

For Fiscal Year 2017-2018 the City set aside \$2 million for flood mitigation projects and we project doing the same for the upcoming fiscal year. The engineering firm to design the golf course berm has been hired and the project should be designed by this fall. Allocated flood mitigation funds will also go towards the Wall Street drainage project to be designed this year and completed next year. During this process, the City has made great progress with grants to pay for a portion if not all of the flood mitigation projects.

City amenities and aesthetics were also a significant topic. Council and Staff reviewed the plans and financing of a new community club house and meeting center at the Jersey Meadows Golf Course. Council reaffirmed the desire to have a modern and updated club house with enhanced dining and meeting rooms for the community. Council also provided direction for new entrance markers and marquis at major entrances and exits in the City.

The continued prioritization of public safety services also took center stage at the retreat. Council and Staff reviewed law enforcement statistics that showed a steady decline in major crimes in Jersey Village as well as continued increases in citations and arrests. Statistics also displayed the yearly increases in EMS and Fire calls for services. Jersey Village continues to need volunteers to step up in order to maintain the high levels of Fire and EMS service. Council again reiterated its commitment to adequately staffing and funding our critical public safety departments.

City Council and Staff discussed numerous other projects to be included in the 2018-2019 budget. Public Works will receive a badly needed new building to house fleet vehicles and City maintenance equipment. Public Works will stay busy with multiple water, sewer and street projects in the next budget cycle. Similarly, the Parks Department will continue park improvements, golf course upgrades, walking trail upgrades, and pool and splash pad projects among others.

Over the summer and into the fall, City Council and Staff will continue to develop and ultimately pass a budget that fits the needs of our growing and dynamic community. I encourage any neighbors with questions about the budgeting process and priorities to reach out to myself and my colleagues on City Council.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas