



Mayor's Newsletter

August 2021

Mayor Bobby Warren - bwarren@jerseyvillagetx.com

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Last month, your city council and staff met over the course of two days to review the proposed 2021-2022 city budget. After carefully working through the budget line-by-line, our council agreed on some very important investments in our city's future. I would like to go over some of the keyways your tax dollars are being put to good use.

Our top priority as a city government is to ensure that our first responders continue to have the resources needed to keep our citizens safe. The proposed budget includes funding for increased salaries for our police officers and dispatchers, funding for up to five new part-time firefighters, and additional overtime for full-time personnel to supplement our dedicated volunteers.

As part of our continued flood mitigation efforts, we are preparing for engineering work on improvements to the E127 tributary of White Oak Bayou (the tributary that runs parallel to Wall St. and Village Dr.) ahead of construction beginning on that project late next year. We have also budgeted for the first stage of voluntary tear-down and rebuild of flooded homes on Jersey Dr. east of Lakeview. Although we are still pursuing home elevation grants, we are excited to kickstart this new and innovative alternative that avoids the red tape of federal grants.

Several projects identified in the recently adopted Parks Master Plan will be completed in the upcoming fiscal year, including construction of restrooms at Carol Fox Park, replacement of bathroom fixtures and installation of a new rock-climbing wall at the city pool, and benches and water fountains to be installed along the walking trail at the Jersey Meadow detention pond. Each of these improvements were identified as high priorities by the citizen volunteers serving on our Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

One key project that many citizens contacted me about in recent months is the construction of a new golf course clubhouse at Jersey Meadow Golf Club. Unless there is a significant change in our planned capital investments elsewhere in the city for the upcoming fiscal year, we could not begin construction on a new clubhouse next year without taking on new debt. Our city council engaged in a very spirited debate on whether to seek voter approval to issue bonds to fund the project, and it will continue to be an ongoing discussion between your elected officials and our citizens in the coming months.

I have very serious concerns about incurring additional debt, and the additional expenses associated with servicing that debt, only to move up construction of a golf course clubhouse by a year or two. For years, our city has paid for projects using cash on hand, putting us on course to be debt free by 2027. By avoiding payment of interest on bonds, we can continue to reduce the property tax burden of our citizens and make additional funds available for improvements to our infrastructure, city facilities and our parks.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me and the other members of our city council to discuss this or any other issue concerning your city government. We're here to work for you!

Your neighbor,

Bobby Warren
Mayor