



## Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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### August 2015 - Budget Update

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

This past July, City Council and Staff burned the midnight oil during the annual budget meetings. I am pleased to say that Jersey Village's finances are strong and I would like to share some of the high points of the budget discussions.

Going into fiscal year 2015-2016, the city has a number of budgetary considerations. Chief among them are the expenses related to Highway 290 expansion. For this budget, and likely into the future, the city will be initially responsible for costs associated with utility relocation due to 290 expansion. The majority of those costs will be reimbursed by TxDOT but the initial capital outlays will need to be considered in the budgeting process. The proposed budget also includes continued street repair, on-going sewer line maintenance and responsible salary increases for city workers.

The proposed budget also contains some specific supplemental expenditures. The budget calls for the hiring for an additional building inspector to increase the efficiency of permitting and code enforcement. In response to speeding and cut-through concerns, the budget also provides for additional consultant-led traffic calming studies. These studies are designed to provide a complete picture of traffic problems and recommended solutions. Other expenditures go towards maintaining some of the aging facilities such as City Hall and for necessary pool safety initiatives. Fortunately, it appears that Jersey Village has avoided any Federal and/or State unfunded mandates for this year's budget.

Jersey Village continues to receive sufficient revenues to fund city operations at its current tax rate. This budget contains responsible allocation of resources that continues to provide city services while keeping the city in the black. It is important to note that sales tax revenue will be an unknown variable in future budgets. The effects of the 290 expansion on future sales tax revenue is difficult to predict and will need to be monitored from a budgetary standpoint.

Budget and tax rate meetings will continue through October. Public hearings on the budget will be held during the September Council meeting. I would like to thank our City staff for again preparing a fiscally responsible budget that continues to provide for our important City services. Because of that, the financial health of Jersey Village continues to be the envy of Texas municipalities.

All the Best



Justin Ray  
Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas