



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayor's Newsletter August 2017

FY 2017-2018 Budget: Tackling the Big Issues

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

In my June Mayor's Newsletter I stated that this "summer's budget meetings will be some of the most important in Jersey Village's history." This past month, City Council and Staff spent long evenings addressing the pressing municipal needs of the community. Our City is very fortunate to have a strong financial position that allows us to continue to build and grow our community while tackling the important infrastructure needs, namely flood mitigation.

The single largest line item in the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget will go towards flood mitigation. Based on engineering recommendations, City Council authorized \$2 million to go towards the construction of a golf course berm to act as detention during rain events. Council instructed Staff to develop a functional berm that would allow for continuous golf course operations with as little interruption to homeowners along the golf course as possible. Those funds will also go towards the engineering and design of new streets and drainage for Wall, Crawford and Capri Streets. Council instructed Staff to prioritize flood mitigation and construction activities are expected to begin this year. Council and Staff also agreed to pursue federal grants for home elevations and buyouts. Targeted homes will receive surveys that are essential to the City's application.

Another topic addressed was City salaries. The aspects that make Jersey Village desirable such as police, fire, EMS, public infrastructure, parks and fiscal responsibility are directly attributable to excellent City staff. A salary evaluation was conducted which showed that key City personnel were underpaid, specifically our hardworking police officers. City Council supported salary increases so that we can continue to attract and retain the best candidates for our community.

The proposed budget also contains important allocations for infrastructure and equipment. Funds are allocated for necessary facilities upgrades for the Public Works building on Taylor Road. Public Works will also tackle important sewer line and storm water rehabilitation projects. In addition, Public Works will undertake continued waste water treatment plant repairs and multiple water plant repairs. Funding was also approved for the gray water golf course irrigation project. This environmentally friendly project is intended to save the City money by diverting gray water to the golf course for irrigation. Other departments also received necessary equipment upgrades. Every year the City transfers funds to a Capital Replacement Fund for equipment purchases. This year, Council approved a new Police Department Tahoe and rescue truck for the Fire Department.

The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget also contains new parks and recreation amenities. Funds are allocated for Golf Course improvements including a renovation of the club house. It includes continued park improvements, pool improvements and a new splash pad. Council and Staff also continued with plans for improved branding, City entrances and wayfinding.

In the June Mayor's Newsletter I stressed this next year's budget contain "plans and initiatives [that] work together for a common goal: Improve the quality of life and appeal of Jersey Village." We have a fiscally sound budget that accomplishes that objective. I want to thank my colleagues on Council and our dedicated Staff for their tireless efforts towards that goal.

All the Best

Justin Ray

Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas