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# CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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## MAYOR'S LETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

### THE BUDGET AGAIN

About this time every year I write about the budget. I do this because I just reviewed the budget for a week, after which City Council spent two long August nights pouring over almost every line in the proposed 2011-2012 budget. After putting in that time going over the city's financial plan for next year, I think that most people reading this letter are concerned where their taxes will be spent.

I have long said that I consider passing a balanced budget that meets the needs of the community is the most important function of the Mayor and City Council. Fortunately, I have good news to report: this city's finances are in great shape and we have taken considerable care to make sure it stays that way.

The projection for the current year is that we will have surplus of \$800,000 for this year. After beginning with a deficit budget of \$100,000, we are projecting revenues more than \$500,000 ahead of budget and expenses reduced by \$400,000. The expense reduction was accomplished without any staff layoffs or any reduction of major services.

This year the proposed budget shows additions of a few supplemental items and has an excess of revenues over expenses. The accumulation of these annual surpluses will allow the city to renovate a few more streets, water and sewer lines that have served their useful lives. Assuming the budget passes in September, look for City Council to act swiftly to start these street projects so we can take advantage of recession construction pricing.

I encourage everyone to get a copy of the budget and become familiar with it. I welcome any and all comments during the public hearing which is set for September 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there.

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## **DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN INITIATED**

The city has initiated Phase One of its Drought Contingency Plan, effective immediately. The plan is being implemented in response to a request from the City of Houston to reduce water consumption.

The central provisions of Phase One are as follows:

**Water customers shall limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Mondays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Tuesdays and Fridays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight on designated watering days.**

Additional information regarding the Drought Contingency Plan may be found on the city's web site, [www.jerseyvillage.info](http://www.jerseyvillage.info)