

MAYOR'S NEWLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

The City continues to explore the possibilities of a Transit Oriented Development (TOD). The consultant Kimley Horn held two public work sessions last month and drafted a couple of preliminary designs for Jersey Village TOD. There was a great turnout of the general public each night, as well as representatives from City Council, city staff and the Planning & Zoning Committee. The land owners where the development is proposed were also there and they were generally enthusiastic about the possibilities.

The results of the work sessions are available on line at

<http://www.jerseyvillage.info/TOD/Jersey%20Village%20Transit%20Oriented%20Development.html>

You can view the actual presentation at

http://www.jerseyvillage.info/TOD/TOD%20Jan%2014_2010.pdf.

While these preliminary drafts are the first look at the possibilities, my experience is that the final product never looks like the first draft. Kimley Horn will continue to seek input, and I ask that you look at their designs and make comments. There will be many changes, revisions, additions and tweaks before we agree on a final design. From there, we will have plenty of discussion about the financing and cost/benefits of such a development. Input from citizens will be sought all along the way.

The next steps will be to continue getting input from all stake holders -- the citizens of Jersey Village and the land owners -- and coordinate that input with the other public entities that will interface with the TOD. This will include all the transportation entities: the county, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD), Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) and other groups such as Galveston-Houston Area District, Harris County Flood Control District and many others. As you might imagine, with all of these public entities involved, this type of project is not easy to accomplish. The good news is that by being proactive, Jersey Village can control the project and make it work for its citizens rather than having other bureaucrats control the process.

Please feel free to give your input and continue to watch the progress online.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimley Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Council Action Report – Regular Meeting – January 18, 2010

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION	ACTION
1. Consider Resolution No. 2010-01, authorizing a contract with the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for the collection of delinquent taxes.	Passed
2. Consider Ordinance No. 2010-01, amending Chapter 62 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, relating to approval of Section 33.11 penalty under Texas Property Tax Code for delinquent tangible personal property taxes.	Passed
3. Consider Resolution No. 2010-02, authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) which allows the District to process letters of map revisions (LOMAR) and conditional letters of map revisions (CLOMAR) in Jersey Village.	Passed
4. Consider Resolution No. 2010-03, authorizing and adopting a revised City of Jersey Village Financial Accounting Policy	Passed
5. Consider Ordinance No. 2010-02, amending the budget of such city, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010, to cover the cost of the Sanitary Sewer Control Easement proposal.	Passed
6. Consider Resolution No. 2010-04, authorizing a contract with West Belt Surveying, Inc., for the surveying services, research, and report indicating findings pertaining to the sanitary sewer control easements.	Passed
7. Consider Resolution No. 2010-05, reviewing and accepting the 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.	Passed
8. Consider Resolution No. 2010-06, approving 90-Day Review Period for Municipal Court Judge Compensation.	Passed
9. Consider Ordinance No. 2010-03, amending Section 70-77 of the Code of Ordinances to allow for an 8% water and sewer rate increase.	Passed
10. Consider Ordinance No. 2010-04, re-imposing the city's one and one half percent (1.5%) sales and use tax on the residential use of gas and electricity.	No Action

The 2010 Census is Underway

Every 10 years the United States performs a census which consists of counting every individual residing in all 50 states; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; Guam; the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; and American Samoa.

While April 1, 2010 has been designated as Census Day, much of the work for the 2010 Census has already begun and will continue throughout 2010 and into 2011 until the Census for 2010 is completed. The 2010 Census questionnaire distributed in February and March of 2010 will be one of the shortest questionnaires in history and will ask for the name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and if the individual owns or rents his/her home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live, our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more – are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Households not receiving the 2010 Census questionnaire by April 1, 2010 should contact their local partnership specialist at the number listed below.

It is important that everyone participate in the Census, as the information it provides is helpful in determining locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen center, and more. Additionally, businesses use census data for determining markets and in locating and constructing new facilities, but more importantly, the Census determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and it sets the boundaries for legislative districts. On the local front, the Census provides information as to the financial health of the community and provides insight for future social service program needs such as after-school programs and the designation of urban revitalization areas.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. For more information, local households may contact Partnership Specialist Cathanina Tran 832-314-7689 or visit the 2010 Census Web site at <<http://www.census.gov/2010>>.