

A Letter from Mayor Jones

We have now experienced more than one full calendar month of “shelter-in-place.” As it begins to ease under Governor Abbott’s order, I thought it appropriate to deliver an update on the operations of your city government.

First, I continue to be highly impressed with the superior quality of service delivered by your city employees, despite the obvious challenges of performing in the face of a declared disaster, and without the leadership of a city administrator.

This is the time we should be welcoming three new councilmembers to replace our three incumbents who are not seeking reelection. Unfortunately, we had no alternative but to cancel our May election. Texas law only allows two lawful election dates; unless Governor Abbott grants special permission to conduct our municipal election in July (as a large number of municipalities including Westworth Village have requested), our May municipal election will not be held until the November general election.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc with our committee and council meetings. As of writing this update, it is undetermined whether our meeting on May 12th must again be conducted by remote video conference, or whether it can be conducted live in council chambers under “social distancing” directives. I am anxious to return to normal activity, as we have important topics waiting to be thoroughly discussed by our various committees.

Unfortunately, the remaining shelter-in-place requirements will also require us to cancel our May community luncheon; we are making tentative plans for another community picnic during the month of June.

After we were forced to cancel our annual spring cleanup, we have arranged for the heavy duty “claw truck” to collect in Westworth Village on Saturday, May 23rd. This is your opportunity to dispense with big and heavy items, tree limbs, etc. More information will be provided as the day approaches.

Hawks Creek Golf Club has been open and operational, although previously on a limited, walker-only basis. Single-person carts are now available. I salute head professional Mike Krsnak and his staff for successfully operating the golf course under such difficult conditions.

At our April meeting, the city council retained a respected executive search firm to assist the city in finding our new city administrator. The process has begun, and I am hopeful we will have our new administrator in city hall by Labor Day.

Our public works team, lead by the extremely competent Joey Alvarez, has not missed a beat during this disaster. Special appreciation goes out to Joey and his team during National Public Works Recognition Week, May 17th-23rd.

Finally, we are beginning to gear up our annual budgeting process, and this undoubtedly will be a difficult budget process. Approximately 65 % of the city’s revenue comes from sales tax, and the Covid-19 disaster will undoubtedly have a downward impact on that revenue source. As we plan, we will obtain the best information we can, not only from the comptroller’s office, but also from some of the retailers themselves; however, this is shaping up to be one of those fiscal years when difficult decisions must be made.

When you run for public office, you don’t get to choose the unknown challenges you must face. I have every confidence your city council, committees, and staff will successfully address today’s unique challenges.



Mayor Kelly Jones