

For Immediate Release | October 05, 2021

Fellow Citizens:

It's been a while since I've provided a general update.

The three-week Roaring Springs resurfacing project is complete! I apologize for the dirt, dust, and inconvenience of one-way traffic for three weeks, but we all agree the road needed to be resurfaced. We had some typical contractor issues, leading to delay, and asphalt trucks improperly driving onto other streets and entryways, but at least now Westworth Village's section of Roaring Springs Road has been repaired. (*I hope other cities will soon follow our lead.*)

For those wondering, while our city limit is at Carb, our *roadway* does not start until Seymour. That short section of roadway lies within Fort Worth. We actually offered to pave that one-block section at our cost when we did our road work, but Fort Worth representatives told us processing our request "*was not worth the paperwork!*"

Our fine city council just a couple of weeks ago approved a sound budget for our new fiscal year commencing October 1st. The budget maintains a steady tax rate -- one of the lowest in the county -- with a balanced general fund budget, and strong cash reserves equal to 72 % of total annual operating expenses. The budget completes funding for Melva Campbell Park. The city's certified tax base has increased to \$381 million, a seven-percent increase over last year's value. Since 2016, the city's tax base has increased an incredible 68 %!

Construction continues on Melva Campbell Park behind city hall. We have been delayed due to shortages in PVC pipe necessary for the park's underground drainage system. However, that pipe is now arriving, and we should soon be back on track. After the drainage is completed, next will come the concrete, which will include the park's pathways, outline of the playground area, and pad sites for various equipment, including the jet and helicopter. Once the concrete is down, I'm confident you will see Melva Campbell Park coming together. Equipment continues to arrive, ready for installation at the appropriate time.

A couple of weeks ago the city council received a presentation by the city's engineers, who delivered the long-awaited comprehensive drainage plan. This study assumes complete build-out of the city, and provides priority recommendations for the drainage improvements to ensure proper storm water management. When these improvements are completed, along with the recently-announced golf course project, the city's entire infrastructure will be less than 15 years old!

Our competent long-range planning committee, ably chaired by Councilman Phillip Poole, will soon work hard evaluating the drainage plan, and working toward a long-range recommendation to the city council. I expect their recommendation will be completing the project over several years, using a combination of 1) annual general fund operating surplus, 2) our extensive cash reserves, and 3) bonded indebtedness, which is now at favorable pricing, given the investment market and the city's enviable AA bond rating.

On behalf of the city council and staff, we sincerely appreciate your positive response to our code enforcement "warning" letter. The result was a general cleanup all over town, which filled six dumpsters

and one garbage truck! Thank you for your overwhelmingly constructive response, and special recognition and appreciation goes to Councilmembers Dingman, Libbey, and Elizondo, all of whom worked tirelessly assisting their neighbors with their cleanup efforts.

After a one-year Covid absence, the city's fall festival returns on October 21st, to be held at the pavilion overlooking the ninth and 18th greens at Hawks Creek Golf Club. It was a resounding success two years ago, with over 200 residents attending. Our public safety (police, fire, and EMS) officers will be present, along with their equipment available for inspection, and our senior police officers will again cook complimentary hotdogs and hamburgers. The golf course will provide a beverage cart, and there will be three bounce houses for the children. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with your neighbors, and your city staff and elected officials, in a low-key, friendly atmosphere.

Finally, please be on the lookout for new city limit signs, which have been ordered and for which funding was set aside in the last two fiscal years' budgets. These new modern signs will include the city's "WV" logo, as well as an F-35A fighter jet, soon to arrive at the base. At night, both the WV and the jet will be illuminated. The staff, council, and I are all eager for you to see these signs, which set forth a positive image for our wonderful town.

As always, please feel free to call upon me whenever you think I might be of assistance.

--Mayor Kelly Jones

