

Office of the Mayor City of Johnson City P.O. Box 369 Johnson City, TX 78636 www.johnsoncitytx.org

In 2016, City employees worked hard to make Johnson City the best place in the Hill Country to live. More streets were paved, and this year, the rest of Pecan Street and several others will be paved. The City will be paving additional streets annually until all streets in the city are completed. Also, the sewer main project along highway 281 that was funded through a 2013 CDBG grant was completed. The new street signs were installed, the oft requested shade for the baby pool was erected and provided much needed relief for the children who swim in the baby pool, and the low water crossing on Pecan Street was repaired.

Also, fire hydrants around the City are being rehabilitated and repaired if necessary, the newer ones getting first attention. This year, some of the older hydrants will either be repaired or decommissioned. The working hydrants will be painted and marked for easy identification for the fire department. In addition, a map of the working hydrants will be provided to the fire department so they know which hydrants have been rehabilitated/repaired and are available for use. And while all hydrants in the city are usable, many may not shut off after being used which would entail costly emergency replacement or repairs. The City has applied for a CDBG grant in the amount of \$330,000 to install a new 200,000 gallon groundwater storage tank and possibly replace a few of the oldest fire hydrants. Should we receive the grant, the new tank will increase our water holding capacity by 30% which will help during dry weather and improve firefighting capabilities.

The Emergency Management section of the Public Works Department helped to complete the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Blanco County area. Other Public Works employees installed doggie care stations in the parks and placed trash cans with the City's logo throughout the downtown area to help keep trash off the streets and out of the parks. Lastly, design improvements to the wastewater treatment plant are 80% complete. We are hoping toward the end of the fiscal year, bids for construction on some of the needed upgrades will go out.

Work will begin this spring on the new park additions. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant that was awarded to Johnson City for a new skate park, tournament ready washer pits, a rain water system, and a sensory nature garden replete with native and edible plants will hopefully be ready for the summer season. An architect has been chosen and bids are in for construction. So, barring any unexpected complications, the park will be ready to go. On a similar note, the remodel of the pool building (or recreation center) was completed.

At City Hall, Amy Van Pelt left us to join her husband in his business. She was replaced by Micheal Ann Swift as our administrative assistant in the City Secretary's office. The Zoning Ordinance and land use map were updated and now, families will have multiple types of housing choices and builders/developers have easier to read maps. The Planning and Zoning Commission worked hard to ensure our natural resources and unique character are maintained. Further, City staff worked diligently to save you money by completing the annual trash audit. The audit found 15 cans that the city was being billed for, but weren't being billed to customers. After the audit, the City picked up 12 of the 15 cans which saved the

city \$2000.00 over the course of the year. In 2013, the City picked up 23 and ever since that year, the annual trash audit has reduced the number of cans that the City pays for that aren't in use. City staff also worked this past year to digitize all city maps, surveys, plats and deeds. Now, information will be easier to locate and maps can be tweaked with minimal effort.

Once the Zoning Ordinance had been completed, Council voted to have an impact fee assessment done in order to determine the impact that new developments will have on the city's existing infrastructure and charge accordingly. The Council is looking to the future when developments may occur and this will help assure that a large part of any infrastructure expansion costs are paid by the developer so that not all of the cost burden will be on the existing residents. The impact fee would be assessed on those who are going to be constructing new homes or businesses.

Additionally, the City updated the Animal Ordinance to ensure that we are in compliance with State law. Sections were added regarding lawful ways to restrain your pet and some of the old language was reworked so the ordinance is now easier to understand. Also, our partnership with Wags Hope and Healing, a non-profit that helps the City with any canine issues that occur, remains strong. 32 rescued dogs went through Wags' facility. This year, they will be relocating, but the City intends to keep the relationship strong. Wags provides spay/neuter services, microchipping, advice on how to care for your dog and other services that our community pets need. For cats, the City will be talking with Thundering Paws and other organizations that deal with cats to create a plan to help our cat owners and to deal with the feral cat population.

The City is partnering with PEC on the installation of a 14-acre solar farm on the 19 acres of City owned property just past Flat Creek Road. The land lease with RES, the company who will build the plant, is complete and work on the solar farm will begin no later than June. The Johnson City installation will be the first of its kind in the PEC service area. We are hoping that residents and visitors alike will see that the birthplace of the Pedernales Electric Coop is also the home of a genesis of a new form of power supply-the direct transmission of solar generated energy into a public utility power grid. We are still looking at ways in which to bring high-speed broadband to the City. Our efforts have been stymied, but we are still searching for a means to make this happen.

The Youth Municipal Advisory Council (YMAC) planned and planted a Community Garden. The garden went in early spring and produced tomatoes, okra, basil, squash, peas, green beans and a few other veggies throughout the summer. Many residents enjoyed the garden's bounty. In the fall, we replaced YMAC with an intern from the high school. The high school has a great internship program where students can work and learn skills while also obtaining high school credit. We have an intern who works in the Public Works Department and we plan on hiring another for the next school year.

The police department obtained a new vehicle this year and an extra officer was added to the force. We now have four officers and the Chief to watch over Johnson City. An old, decommissioned vehicle will be sold this year. Our Code Enforcement Officer gained a truck from the Public Works Department, so he now has a vehicle that can safely carry dogs, and every so often a kitty, to the holding area at the department while they await their owners or Wags. The department also finished its complete remodel. Paint, new flooring, new desks and computers, and a revamped bathroom have made the department into a more efficient working space.

The Municipal Court participated in Project graduation this year. Edie Walker, our Court Clerk, took a Drug Test Bean Bag Game for the kids to try. They had to wear "drunk" goggles while throwing the bean bags. The whole purpose was to show them how disoriented a person becomes while drunk and that is one reason why it is not safe to drive after drinking. The Court also served coffee and doughnuts during

Veteran's Day and Municipal Court Day. No one likes to appear in Court, so the Court is doing all it can to make those who must appear feel comfortable.

City Council worked hard during budget season. The budgeted goals set forth by council have been met for two consecutive years and the Council continues to closely monitor expenditures. The City is also maintaining financial transparency. All of our banking information, budget, tax rate and other financial information can be found on our website.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me or your city council person. We can all be reached via the city website: <a href="www.johnsoncitytx.org">www.johnsoncitytx.org</a>.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dawn Capra Mayor