

**From the Mayor's Desk
April 2021**

Winter Weather Emergency

The water dispensing events we did to help residents impacted by the SAWS issues went well. We will be doing an “after action” report on March 29th to identify what went well and where we could have done better in dealing with the weather emergency. In particular, we will focus on identifying what steps we should take to make our city more resilient in a major winter storm.

State of the City Address

Just before beginning to write this article, I delivered a State of the City speech for future release. We will be doing this event digitally this year and several other folks from the city will be involved in the presentation. I am looking forward to this new format, which will allow broader distribution than we have had in the past.

Water Rights Project

Subject to delays from the winter weather emergency, we have begun follow up on the remaining wells and easements that need to have curative documents signed. We are also making arrangements for a handful of surveys that still need to be done of access easements and sanitary control easements. We have received good cooperation on finalizing these arrangements.

Tobin Maples, our City Manager, asks anyone needing to discuss specific issues with him to please call him at City Hall at 210-698-0900 or email him at tmaples@fairoaksranchtx.org. Additionally, our Special Legal Counsel is available to answer questions (Rhonda Jolley at 210-598-5406 or Joe Davis at 210-598-5414).

Boerne Ranch Estates, L.L.C. (The Reserve)

There is no additional activity to report on this item at this time.

Planning and Zoning Commission

The P&Z Commission will begin a diagnostic review of our Unified Development Code on March 25th at 6:30 pm via Zoom. This is standard procedure for P&Z Commissions and should be done every couple of years. P&Z will report back recommended changes to Council for final approval.

Dietz Elkhorn Road Corridor Study

I previously reported that, on September 17th, City Council authorized the City Manager to issue a work authorization for Legacy Engineering Group, our City's General Engineering Consultant to review traffic and safety concerns for Dietz-Elkhorn Road. Major concerns to be addressed include:

- High volume of citizen complaints with speeding, truck traffic, and lack of pedestrian facilities

- Impact of opening second elementary school along the corridor
- Need to develop short, mid, and long term solutions for known problem areas
- Need to better understand traffic pattern changes of IH-10 West project and FM 3351 expansion projects respectively on the west and east ends of the corridor

Mike Garza, our General Engineering Consultant, presented a report on the Dietz-Elkhorn Corridor study at the regular March 18th council meeting. Mike showed findings and some potential solutions to some of the issues. More to come on this after we have time to digest some of the findings.

Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Program and Joint Base San Antonio Compatible Land Use Plan Presentations

At the March 18th meeting, council received presentations on these two programs from Larry Dotson and Richard King. These are programs that support the military mission of these installations by managing the land use around them. The presentations were well done and I anticipate that we will be endorsing these programs more formally in the future.

Branding Committee Meeting

The Branding Committee will be having its next meeting at 1:00 pm on March 23rd. We will be turning our attention to more visual presentations in the next phase of the project.

Code of Conduct

We completed our call for volunteers to serve on a committee to write the Code of Conduct. At a special meeting on February 25th the council selected the following five people to serve on this committee: Joe duMenil, Mike Lyle, John McCune, Shane Stolarczyk, and Jane Burton. This committee will meet via Zoom on March 23rd. As was planned in the Charter, this group will not have public meetings. They will report their work results to council in public meetings.

Presentation of GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

At the February 25th council meeting Sarah Buckelew, Finance Director, shared the presentation materials for these two prestigious awards. This is the third year in a row we have won the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award and the first year we have won the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. We are very proud of our Finance group for these accomplishments.

Presentation of FY 2019-20 Annual Audit

Michael Del Toro, partner for ABIP, PC presented the results of our annual audit. The audit received an unqualified (clean) opinion. Michael reported no significant findings from an accounting standpoint.

Oak Wilt Season

Please note that per city ordinance, the maintenance of ALL oak trees, including pruning, trimming, cutting and removal, is prohibited February 1st through June 30th. This timeframe is when fungal spore formation and nitidulid beetle (insect vector of the disease) are highest!

Exceptions to the rule include the following: clearing of branches posing a danger to life or property; for purposes of residential or commercial development; for maintenance performed by utility, phone and cable services; AND clearing of branches damaged due to the winter storm.

If you have an eligible project or have any questions, please contact the City's Environmental Project Manager at (210) 698-0900.

Police Department Annual Report

Chief Tim Moring presented the annual report for the police department at the February 25th council meeting. This report is always a good place to get reliable information on our policing activities. The report is available on our city website.

Declaration of Local Disaster

We have had no changes in the declarations since the last time we reported. We drafted the Emergency Ordinance to be continuing.

As most of you know, the Governor created a rule that outdoor gatherings of more than 10 persons within city limits requires the approval of the mayor. **That rule has now been eliminated so there is no need to fill out these requests any longer.**

I want to once again thank our residents and our businesses for their cooperation during these difficult times. **Please keep wearing your masks in public places where social distancing is impossible.**

It is still taking time to get vaccines, but City of Boerne has established a sign up list. I have gotten good reports about how well these sessions are being run.

Drainage Mitigation Work

At the March 18th meeting, council had additional discussions regarding the use of a Storm Water Utility. At this point, we have determined that this will not be the financing mechanism to use. The state rules around this create an inequitable situation between gated and non-gated communities and all council members were opposed to this tool because of this issue. We anticipate staff coming back to us in the near future to discuss the other mechanisms we have discussed.

New Format for City Council Agenda Packets

Those of you who read our agenda packets may have noticed that they have a new look. We are using a new software called Municode to help streamline the

production of the packets for the council meetings. The tool has an approval process built into it and has nice features for navigating to the various parts of the packet. These tools can be used by the readers of the packets as well as those putting the packets together.

Election Information

Voting for our municipal elections will begin on April 19th. Early voting runs through April 27th with Election Day on May 1st. The voting this year will be at the historic schoolhouse on the grounds of Van Raub Elementary School on Dietz-Elkhorn. The historic schoolhouse is on the left front of the campus as you face the school from Dietz-Elkhorn. We will be posting specific information about voting times on our website before the voting begins.

Resident Volunteers/City Staffers at Work

- Facebook fans can find us at City of Fair Oaks Ranch, TX. In the last month we reached almost 5,700 people with our posts. A little over 1,200 people reacted to the postings by liking, sharing, or posting them. We have had 15 new page likes and 16 new page followers in the past month.
- We now have almost 4,800 residents accessing us through Nextdoor and we had a little over 15,000 impressions on this tool during the month in which we had 15 posts.

As we move into the next growing season, I have seen many of you hard at work replacing plants that were killed by the winter storm event. Dedie and I are doing the same and looking forward to getting the landscape looking good again. Be safe as you do this work and we'll be admiring the results of your effort.

Best to you and your families,

Garry Manitzas
Mayor
Fair Oaks Ranch