



City Manager Report

August 2024

I am pleased to present the City Manager's Report for the month of August 2024. In addition to the departmental reports regarding finance, fire, streets and parks, police and utilities, this report provides an overview of key activities, committees, projects, events, and updates Citywide.

Public Meeting – Wirtz Dam Road Project

UPDATE: TxDOT hosted a well-attended and engaging public meeting on August 20, 2024, from 5-7 pm at the Marble Falls Public Library (101 Main Street). Local leaders and community members came together to review the latest plans and discuss the Wirtz Dam Bridge project. TxDOT is actively seeking feedback from the community on



this important project. To ensure your voice is heard, please submit your comments by Friday, September 6, 2024. You can send them via email to Toni.Red@txdot.gov with the subject line "Wirtz Dam Road Project" or by mail to the TxDOT Austin District Office at 7901 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78753.

Finance

The proposed FY 25 Budget is now available on the City website, and bound copies were provided to the City Council at the meeting on August 13th. So far, we've held three budget workshops where the Council, community, and staff came together to discuss and collaborate on budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. We've covered everything from capital improvement planning, staffing needs, and department head recommendations to revenue and expense projections, committee requests, restricted funding sources, debt service, and property and sales tax rates. The proposed budget is balanced and includes a property tax rate of 0.5417 per \$100 of property valuation.

This budget highlights several key elements:

1. **Infrastructure Investments:** We're focusing on major improvements to streets, culverts, and water systems throughout the city.
2. **New Full-Time Positions:** The FY 25 budget includes the addition of three firefighters and two water plant operators. The firefighters will help us meet the "2 in, 2 out" safety standard, ensuring our emergency responders are well-protected. The plant

operators will optimize water operations and testing, allowing existing staff to concentrate on critical line upgrades and repairs.

3. **Employee Retention:** This budget includes a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) and performance-based merit increases of up to 3%, designed to help retain our valuable employees.
4. **Financial Stability:** This budget is fully balanced, with sustained General and Utility fund budgets.
5. **Debt Reduction:** A significant portion of this year's budget is dedicated to paying down the city's existing debt service.

We're enthusiastic about the positive impact this budget will have as we address our community's priorities and look forward to continuing our work together for the benefit of all residents.

In addition, city staff are coordinating with an audit team, who will be in the office on September 16th for a pre-audit review of our books before the close of FY 24. By engaging the firm early, we aim to get a head start on ensuring an on-time audit in early 2025.



Heritage Tree Photo Contest

We are excited to announce that the Heritage Tree Photo Contest has officially concluded, with the contest wrapping up on August 10th. We were thrilled to receive such an incredible array of photos that beautifully captured the stunning trees within our community. The top three winners have been selected and were notified on August 15th.

We will be recognizing these top three winners and celebrating their outstanding work in an upcoming Council meeting. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the contest. Your contributions have truly highlighted the natural beauty that surrounds us, and we are grateful for your enthusiasm and support!

Committees and Workgroups

Community Cat Advisory Committee: The Community Cat Advisory Committee (CCAC) met on July 15 to discuss several important topics. They reviewed the report on the PetPals Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) event held on May 21, 2024, and the Hope Animal Clinic TNR event from June 28, 2024. The committee also discussed plans for another PetPals TNR event scheduled for July 19th and worked on adopting a TNR and cat relocation process guide. The City will be partnering with Hill Country Humane Society, Alley Cat Allies, Dr. Natalie Lord of Hope Animal Clinic and Tip and Snip for a large-scale TNR event in October.

Planning and Zoning Committee: The Planning and Zoning Committee meeting scheduled for August 20th was cancelled so that members may attend the Wirtz Dam Road project public session and will be rescheduled.

Wildlife Committee: The Wildlife Committee had an engaging meeting on August 5th, where they dove into plans for a 2024 survey, discussed their FY 25 budget request, and prepared for an upcoming presentation to the Council. Kicking off their hands-on activities, the group conducted community surveys at 6:00 pm on Monday, August 12th, 19th, and 26th. The next meeting is set for September 2nd.

Board of Adjustments: The Board of Adjustments (BOA) does not have any meetings scheduled.

Airport Committee: The Airport committee met on August 1, 2024, and discussed the lease agreement, airport signage, and an airport operations building timeline. There was also discussion surrounding a workday scheduled for Saturday, August 10 at 9am for a couple members of the committee to meet on site to install parking ropes, pavers and perform camera upgrades. The committee also discussed their fall events calendar and a potential fundraising opportunity.

Whittlesey's has provided discounted material for the improvements to the airport parking pad. Parks staff assisted in placement and installation, and it looks great.

Parks Committee: The Parks Committee met on August 1, 2024 and discussed updates related to Timberhill Park, future park workdays, and work scheduled the Community Center. The Community Center flooring project was scheduled for August 16th and 17th where volunteers cleaned the floor and laid new floor tiles throughout. We appreciate our volunteers and staff for their dedication to improving our Community Center and enhancing the quality of life for Granite Shoals residents!



Fire

A burn ban is currently in effect for the City of Granite Shoals and will remain in place until further notice. Residents are strongly advised to avoid all outdoor burning activities to protect our community from potential wildfire hazards. The safety of our residents and environment is our top priority, and your cooperation is essential and appreciated during this period. We will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as needed. Thank you for helping to keep Granite Shoals safe.

Parks & Streets



City crews recently test drove a Vactor unit to assess its efficiency in clearing culverts throughout the city. The Vactor unit, which is designed for powerful vacuuming and cleaning, proved to be an effective tool for flushing and maintaining our infrastructure. This equipment is currently included on the capital project list for the upcoming fiscal year, highlighting its importance in our ongoing efforts to improve city services and infrastructure maintenance.

The street paving project on Kings Circle and Hill Way is set to begin on August 26th. To ensure minimal disruption, staff have distributed notices to all affected neighbors, posted detailed information online, and advised the school district regarding possible impacts to bus routes. This will allow neighbors time to plan accordingly and locate alternate routes. In addition to this city project, there have been recent road improvements along 1431. While this work is not a city project, we are grateful to TxDOT and their contractor, Lone Star Paving, for their efforts in enhancing the infrastructure along our community's main thoroughfare. We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we continue to improve our city's roadways.



Our team has also been focused on cleaning up and repairing the large shop behind City Hall. After hailstorm damage took a toll on some of our city vehicles a couple months ago, we decided it was essential to take extra precautions to safeguard the City's assets. Now, all of our equipment and city vehicles can be safely stored under cover in this large building, giving them the protection they deserve!

Utility

Our team has been in coordination with PEC, who will be bringing 450 telephone poles to stage at City Hall for a phased replacement citywide. As this project moves forward, the City and PEC will continue to coordinate efforts and deliver information timely to areas within the City that may experience outages or inconveniences.



A 2-mile waterline extension and upgrade project in the area of Kingswood Dr. involved the upgrade of an existing 2 inch mainline to a 6 inch in order to resolve longstanding pressure issues and to support the installation of three fire hydrants in the area. Work ran daily 8am – 5pm from August 15-23rd.

The City also recently received notice from the Texas Department of Agriculture that our

CDBG grant application for pump upgrades and other improvements at the water intake facility was successful and that this project will be funded at the maximum funding level allowed, \$500,000!

Odds and Ends

Staff have begun meeting with a small group of Granite Shoals Historians to learn about the history of the Quarry Park site, park land, and other interesting facts about the City. It is fascinating to learn about the history of our community. Did you know that lake LBJ was once called Lake Granite Shoals, or that Texas Pink granite from Granite Shoals was used to construct the Federal Reserve Building in San Francisco and part of the state capital in Austin? Did you know that the hill that City Hall sits on is called “Hog Mountain” and that two different types of granite were harvested here and named by the mining company? They are Texas Pink and Texas Pearl. These are just a few of the fun facts that have come from these meetings.



The City’s Interpretive center signage recently received a refresh with laminated interpretive signage depicting the history of the granite mined in our community.

Upcoming

Christmas Preparation – it’s never too early! City staff has prepared the Christmas light decoration assembly area for the Beautification Committee. This committee is preparing to provide another spectacular display this holiday season.

Save the dates for Granite Fest (March 22-23, 2025)