



## City Manager Report

October 2024

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I am pleased to present the City Manager's Report for the month of October 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.

### **Committees and Workgroups**

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** The Planning and Zoning Committee met on September 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed the creation of a workgroup to review Chapter 40, the City's Zoning ordinance. The meeting scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6PM was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Wildlife Committee:** The Wildlife Committee had an engaging meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>, where they discussed plans for an upcoming presentation to Council, a wildlife management plan, the proposal of a Youth Committee Member, and Texas Parks and Wildlife programs. The next meeting is set for November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

**Board of Adjustments:** The Board of Adjustments (BOA) met on September 30<sup>th</sup>. No upcoming meetings are currently scheduled.

**Airport Committee:** The Airport committee met on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, and discussed the survey, parking area and improvements at the airport, and a vacant position on the committee. The next meeting will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.

**Parks Committee:** The Parks Committee met on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and discussed recent park improvements, future park workdays, and the placement of a memorial tree in Veteran's Park. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

**Beautification Action Group:** This group is meeting more frequently to discuss Christmas Beautification opportunities within the City and inventory and plan for the Christmas display.

**Youth Advisory Committee:** At the September 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the City Council approved a Resolution adding Youth Advisory Committee members to the Parks, Airport, and Wildlife Committees. By giving the youth a platform to engage in meaningful discussions, we hope to inspire their interest in the decision-making process that shapes their community. The Parks, Airport, and Wildlife Committees have all been very welcoming to the idea of youth membership on each of their committees, and we'll be partnering with Marble Falls ISD in the coming weeks to share this exciting opportunity with local students!

## **Finance**

The City operates on a Fiscal Year that begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th of the following year. We are now operating on the approved Annual Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget. The approved Budget is posted to the City website at: <https://www.graniteshoals.org/city-services/finance/budget>.

If you stop by City Hall, you may notice a friendly face now greeting you at the reception area. We've made a staffing adjustment by rotating existing team members to the front desk, which helps us improve response times and ensures every interaction with our residents is friendly, courteous, and efficient.

## **Parks & Streets**

The road improvement project has been successfully completed, and staff are actively grading roads to maintain and improve conditions throughout the City. In the coming weeks, they will begin working on damaged or collapsing culverts in preparation for the wet weather, as well as the arrival of the vactor unit, which has a six-month lead time from the date of order. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we continue to enhance the city's roadways.

Additionally, new lighting has been installed at the pickleball court to improve visibility and extend hours of usability. The resurfacing project for the court is in the process of being scheduled, and this improvement will help ensure that the facility remains in top condition. We thank you for your understanding as we work to provide a safe and well-maintained recreational space for all to enjoy for years to come.



## **Utility**

### **Water Meters**

Staff recently met with the company that installed the water meter upgrades to review how the meters have performed over the past year and see how they've aligned with our original projections. We're excited to share that a detailed presentation of the metrics and overall performance will be provided to the Council at the November 12th City Council meeting. Stay tuned for the full report!

### **Billing**

Just a reminder, effective October 1, the City will no longer accept utility payments by credit card over the phone. We will continue to take the following forms of payment:

- **Bank Draft** - Set up **FREE** Automatic payments with the City for Bank Drafts. Complete the [Bank Auto Draft Form](#) and submit it in person to City Hall, email to [billing@graniteshoals.org](mailto:billing@graniteshoals.org), or mail to City Hall 2221 N. Phillips Ranch Rd. Granite Shoals, TX. 78654.

- **In Person** - Drop off your payment inside City Hall from 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday – Friday, excluding holidays. A drive through drop box with envelopes for payment is available in the parking lot just outside City Hall. For security purposes, please DO NOT leave cash in the drop box.
- **By Mail** - Mail your check or money order to City Hall, Attn: Billing Office.
- **Internet** - You may make a one-time payment or set up monthly auto drafts. <https://www.graniteshoals.org/city-services/utility-services/payments>

## **Administration**

This week, phone system updates were completed at City Hall, now allowing callers to directly connect with specific departments rather than having all calls route through a single line. It is our goal that this improvement will enhance efficiency and make it easier for residents to reach the services they need.

TML Conference Update: I'm happy to report that the TML conference in Houston was a great success. Staff had the opportunity to learn about some of the latest trends in municipal management, particularly in areas such as infrastructure planning, and innovative approaches to public service delivery. These insights will help us as we continue to improve operations and services here in our community.

City Hall Fiber Line Installation: Our Parks staff recently trenched a line to City Hall, and the service provider will be pulling fiber to the building within the next couple of weeks. This upgrade is timely going into the winter months and aims to ensure that City Hall experiences less interruptions to Wi-Fi and phone systems during weather changes.

## **Staffing**

The City of Granite Shoals is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Utility Plant Operator Technician
- Parks Maintenance Technician

If you're interested in either of these exciting opportunities, visit <https://www.graniteshoals.org/city-services/human-resources/job-openings> for more information and to apply. Join us in making a difference in our community!

## **New to the Team!**

We are pleased to announce that 4 Firefighters and 1 Fire Lieutenant have been welcomed to the Granite Shoals Fire team. Each individual brings valuable skills and experience that will further strengthen our team's ability to serve the community, plus the addition of these team members establishes safety staffing standards to ensure that there are two in and two out. The "Two-In, Two-Out" rule, set by OSHA, requires that two firefighters enter a hazardous environment (like a burning building) while two others remain outside to monitor and assist if needed during interior structural firefighting operations. Upon joining, the new hires will

participate in an orientation to familiarize them with our procedures, policies, and operations. This onboarding process ensures a smooth transition as they begin their roles in providing safety and service to our community.



GSPD is also proud to welcome three experienced officers to the Police team. Officer Cory Jones, back from deployment, Officer John Gillespie, and Officer Javario Savannah offer a collective 32 years of public service and possess a wealth of knowledge and skills that will further strengthen their department's commitment to serving the Granite Shoals community with excellence.

We are confident that these new members of our team will help us continue to provide the highest level of service to Granite Shoals. Be sure to keep an eye out for them and join me in giving them a warm welcome!

### **Odds and Ends**

**Burn Ban Reminder:** A burn ban is still in effect, as determined in collaboration with local fire officials who are actively monitoring conditions to ensure public safety. We encourage everyone to stay informed by checking the City's website and social media for any updates. Thank you for your continued cooperation and dedication to fire safety.



**Deer Caution Alert:** Recently, there has been an increase in deer activity on local roadways. Please stay cautious and alert in areas with higher deer traffic.

**John Rinehart Spirit of Service Award:** The nomination period for the 2024 John Rinehart Spirit of Service Award closed on September 30th, and all submissions are currently under review. The award will be presented during an upcoming City Council meeting—stay tuned for more details!

**TxDOT Sign Update:** A special thank you to TxDOT for updating the population signs at the city's entry points to reflect the most recent Census data.

### **Upcoming Community Events**

Please add the following upcoming events and activities to your calendar:  
November

- 9 – Christmas Outreach BBQ (11-2)
- 11 – Veteran's Day flag raising ceremony at Veteran's Park
- 16 – Rusty Pilots @ Community Center- 9-11

- 25 – Small Business Saturday
- 30 - Christmas parade and tree lighting ceremony
- Operation “Fill the boat” for Christmas. This event runs through 11/30 and is a holiday toy drive. New, unwrapped toys are collected in decorated police and fire department boats, and the donations are distributed to local children in need, spreading holiday cheer and helping ensure that every child has a gift to open this holiday season.

## Past Events

### October

- 8-11<sup>th</sup> TML Conference in Houston
- 8-14<sup>th</sup> Fire Prevention week
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Circus
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day – City Holiday – City offices closed
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunset Sips, Snacks and Social
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Meet the Pilots
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Trunk or Treat at Quarry Park

