



City Newsletter

August 2024

Dear Neighbors,

2025 Budget - One of the primary responsibilities as an elected official is adopting an annual budget that reflects the priorities and needs of the City while being fiscally responsible. I am pleased to report that planning the blueprint for fiscal year 2025 is well underway. City Council and staff are proposing a budget that strengthens public safety and enhances aging infrastructure— all while we keep costs under control and avoid an increase in our tax rate.

The City’s proposed budget reflects our dedication to supporting our exemplary Memorial Villages Police Department and Village Fire Department at a time when crime and emergency response times are exploding around us. From an aging infrastructure perspective, key projects that will hit milestones next year include street and sidewalk improvements on primary streets (Bunker Hill Rd., Knipp Rd., and Taylorcrest) and the design and construction for water and wastewater line replacement.

Council voted on the proposed tax rate, which maintains the 2023 tax rate at \$0.271 per \$100 valuation. Council will hold a public hearing and vote to adopt the budget at the September 17, 2024 Council meeting. At the same meeting, a public hearing and approval of the final 2024 property tax rate to support the budget is scheduled.

To view the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025, visit www.bunkerhilltx.gov/governance/finance-budget.

Public Works - Over the past few months, I have written about the hard work and dedication of our City’s Public Works crews who serve as essential first responders before, during and after emergency events. The role of Public Works is to plan and prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters that threaten our community – such as Hurricane Beryl.

As Hurricane Beryl approached our City, Public Works crews sprang into action to prepare the City for the storm’s impact. They checked the pressure at water plants to ensure our water services remained uninterrupted, fueled generators, readied emergency equipment, and cleared ditches and culverts to minimize drainage issues. Crews stayed overnight at City Hall (away from their own families) the night Hurricane Beryl made landfall to be available to clear roadways for emergency vehicles to access.



Immediately following the storm, Public Works crews cleared 21 fallen trees blocking roadways — making once impassable streets passable. The efforts helped restore services and normalcy as quickly as possible. Crews even ended up helping the county debris pickup efforts (or the debris would still be piled up!).

As we reach the apex of hurricane season, I take comfort in knowing that our Public Works crews are well prepared for emergency events. Their dedication before, during, and after emergency events should not go unrecognized. I am profoundly grateful for their commitment to our community’s safety and well-being.

If you would like to show your appreciation to our Public Works first responders, we have a few items that our Public Works folks need for the new Public Works and Emergency Response Building. Your donation will support the following:



Emergency Equipment
(chainsaws, portable generators,
lighted barricades)



Window Shades



**Tablets,
Smart TV Monitors &
Handheld Radios**



**Emergency
Food Storage**



**Additional Office
Furnishings**

Your donation will directly support Public Works. For more information, please visit www.bunkerhilltx.gov/publicworksfundraiser.

Humbly Yours, Mayor Robert Lord

Save the Date

For more information about these events, contact Management Analyst Mallory Pack by email mpack@bunkerhilltx.gov.



MVPD Decades Music Bingo

September 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Chapelwood Church



Villages Recycling & Rx Disposal

October 26, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Hedwig Village City Hall

For a list of accepted items, visit
www.bunkerhilltx.gov/event/2151-memorial-villages-recycling-event



Family Movie Night & State of the City

November 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Bunker Hill Village Front Lawn



Twinkle Light Parade & Celebration

December 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

On-Call Services

The City's Public Works crews are on-call 24/7/365 to respond to water leaks and/ or sewer stoppages on City lines. For immediate attention outside of regular business hours, nights, and weekends, contact MVPD Dispatch at 713-365-3700.

Meet the Summer Intern



Jack Dillihunt & City Administrator Gerardo Barrera

The City welcomed resident Jack Dillihunt to this year's summer internship program. Jack is a rising junior at Boston College studying business. He previously interned for the City in 2022. His projects this summer include working on the City's record management system, performing analyses to support staff in preparing the City's annual budget, and assisting in the City's municipal court.

When asked to reflect on his experience, he responded "I was surprised to learn just how much work goes into making the City function. I observed how staff managed both immediate and long-term responses to the extreme weather

events we had (Derecho and Hurricane Beryl) while also overseeing regular, daily operations like trash pick-up, construction permits, and construction projects."

The summer internship aims to offer a meaningful work experience to resident students and help them become informed and engaged community members.



Water Conservation

Typically, water consumption is highest during summer months. Finding ways to use less water will help you conserve this critical resource and to save money on your water bill. Below are proactive measures you can take to help conserve water:

- Irrigate your lawn between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.
- Check your irrigation system to verify that water is going on the lawn and not on sidewalks, driveways, or streets. Adjust the spray angles on sprinkler heads as necessary.
- Install rain sensors that will automatically shut off the irrigation system during rainfall.
- Perform routine checks for leaks. Wet or muddy areas that cannot be explained by normal watering or rainfall are signs of a leak.

For more information, visit www.bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/public-works#water-conservation

Superior Water System

The City maintains the designation of "Superior" Public Water System by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). To earn this designation, a system must meet and maintain a higher set of standards than are required of all public water systems. This designation means that the City's Public Works professionals go above and beyond to provide a superior water product to water customers.

To read the City's 2023 Annual Water Quality Report, visit www.bunkerhilltx.gov/waterquality.

Hurricane Season Preparation

Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30. Residents are encouraged to remain weather aware and have a Hurricane Action Plan in place. To prepare for Hurricane Season, download the Hurricane & Severe Weather Guide:



SCAN ME

www.weather.gov/hgx/HurricaneGuide2024