



Town of Waco



June 25, 2022

Greetings All,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Town Board members to provide updates on some of our on-going projects and to pass along other relevant information we wanted to share.

In June the Board passed their annual budget with no increase in taxes. We will continue to focus on the renovations to the Community Center and Town Hall. Renovations to the Community Center during the 2021-2022 budget year included updated bathroom fixtures, a new furnace, the addition of outside electric outlets, and new exterior guttering. We still have a plans to replace the exterior storm doors and add a new range hood in the kitchen. The Town Hall renovations during 2021 -2022 included new vinyl soffits and fascia, exterior painting and new guttering. We recently approved a bid to replace the rest of the windows in the building to match the new shop windows. Long term we plan to replace the flooring, paint the interior of the meeting and office areas and replace the awnings over the front and side doors.

The Board also voted to continue our curbside recycling program for another year. We believe it's a popular service for most households. That said, if you are not interested in participating in the recycling program, please let us know. We are charged per bin so we can save your tax dollars by having the bins not being used picked up. I have included a 2022-2023 recycling collection schedule with this letter. Also, Republic Services has asked that we encourage all households to please review the recycling guidelines on the "Uploads page" of www.townofwaco.com that explains what are the acceptable items to place in the recycling bins.

We continue to address the appearance of the town by keeping the grass cut along the side streets, cutting back over grown vegetation, edging the sidewalks and addressing the CSX Railroad right-a-way. We plan to address this annually in an effort to keep it from getting out of hand. We are also hoping to have some additional work done along the tracks on Cherryville Rd. We hope you are all happy with the progress we've made in this area. When each home owner does their part in the upkeep of their property, collectively we all win. We continue to hear positive remarks on the overall appearance of the town. We take pride in how the town looks and encourage each homeowner to join with us in making the Town of Waco a place others want to live.

Last year the Board committed to developing a long-term plan to evaluate and address street repairs on a yearly basis. Last July we contracted with Smith Paving to apply a layer of sealcoat to A.W. Black St. which will help to extend the life of the street by protecting it from oxidation, oil and other chemicals. We plan to continue with this process on all town-maintained streets over the next 5 years. Currently we have identified 3 separate areas on Mill Rd. that needed asphalt repair and we are awaiting a quote for the work.

In other street related news, we continue to work with the Cleveland County Planning Department to replace the street name signs that are missing in town and we have purchased and will be installing new speed limit and Community Watch signs on our town-maintained streets.

There is no new information from the NCDOT on the S. Main St. bridge replacement or on the widening of Cherryville Rd. project. We will pass along any new information as we get it.

In November we held a dedication ceremony for the new "Welcome to Waco Home of Floyd Patterson" signs along Cherryville Rd. We were pleased that NC Senator Ted Alexander, NC Representative Kelly Hastings, Commissioners Bridges, Whetstine and Hardin joined members of the Patterson family and guest to hear NC Boxing Commission Chairperson Valerie Dorsett speak about Patterson's contributions to the world of boxing. We are very happy that we were finally able to honor Waco's most famous son.

The Town has joined in partnership with Cleveland County Water to begin construction of a new above ground pump station. The pump station will be an enclosed building with a roll up door that will house pumps that

supply water further south into their distribution system. The new pump station will be built on town property behind the Town Hall and will replace the 40 year old pump station on Costner Rd. We are proud to be a part of this project and to help service all the Cleveland County water customers south of us.

As I stated in my last letter, the Town of Waco was awarded a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Covid Relief in the amount of \$73,572.18 which can be used for investments in infrastructure, investments in outdoor recreational spaces and for a variety of other projects. After much discussion the Board voted to spend some of the funding on building a playground area on the lower portion of the lot behind the Community Center. The playground will be 40' x 100' and include swings, monkey bars, a climbing dome, a see-saw and a play tower. We see this as a great place where parents can bring their kids out to play. We hope to begin work on the playground this summer. Long term, we hope to add a small walking track with lighting and benches to the same area.

In March we joined together with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department to develop the Waco Community Watch program. The program consist of people living in the community that want to make their neighborhood's safe by working in conjunction with local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve their quality of life. The program is funded by donations from local businesses and civic minded citizens and has continued to grow since our first meetings. I have included the brochure we created that explains why the program was developed; what to watch for in the community; provides a Home Security checklist; and highlights how we plan to make our program a success. The program has an active private Facebook group where we share information, and for our non-Facebook crowd, we have an email group to where we can share important news. Please read through the brochure and we encourage every household in Waco and the surrounding communities to join us in this effort to keep our town and community safe.

The Community Watch program will be hosting a "FREE" "Get to Know your Neighbor's Block Party" at the Community Center on Saturday August 27th 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. We will be offering "FREE" hotdogs, drinks, chips and a sweet treat. We plan to have a bounce house and activities for the kids as well as Bean Bag toss and Disk Golf for the adults. We really want this to be a success and hopefully it will turn into an annual event. Please mark this on your calendar. Again, did I mention that everything's "FREE"?

Due to the sudden passing of Town Alderman Judy S. Thompson, there is an open seat on the Town Board. North Carolina General Statute states that the Board shall appoint a citizen who is a registered voter and resides in the town to fill the seat and hold it until the next election. Anyone interested in being considered for the appointment to the Board needs to attend the July 18th Town Board meeting. Interested citizens should prepare a short statement to explain why they should be considered for the seat and Board members will be given an opportunity to ask follow-up questions. The Board will vote to fill the seat at their August 15th meeting. The appointment will last until the next General election is held on November 7th, 2023. This is an opportunity to have a voice on issues that affect Waco and its citizens and a chance to make a difference. If you like what we are doing and want to be a part of it or if you disagree in the path we have taken and want to see change, I encourage you to consider this opportunity to join the Board.

Thank you for taking a moment to read this letter. You can reach us by email at townofwaco@gmail.com or from the Town of Waco Facebook page. Our monthly Community Watch meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Community Center. Our monthly Town Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall and both meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you.

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