



# Town of Waco



August 10, 2020

Greetings All,

The last few months have proven to be a challenging time and we all have experienced many changes in our daily lives. While wishing you the best we also wanted to bring you up to speed on some current projects.

As you may have noticed there was a discrepancy in the 2020 recycling calendar that was sent out that affected our recycling pick-up dates. I apologize for the error and have attached a new corrected calendar with this letter. As I stated back in February the Board is committed to continuing to offer curbside recycling as long as the cost remains affordable. We did vote to fund the program again in our 2020 – 2021 budget and we will again reevaluate this program during our budget discussion next spring. Also remember that we are charged based on the number of containers being used, so if you aren't participating in the recycling service, we can save money if we removed your address from our account. You can email us at [townofwaco@gmail.com](mailto:townofwaco@gmail.com) or call 704-769-4147 and leave a message if you would like us to have your container picked up.

Speaking of our 2020 – 2021 budget; we're extremely proud to say that even with all our recent renovations, purchases, road projects and technology upgrades we were able to put together another revenue neutral budget that allowed us to leave our tax rate unchanged. We are finding new ways to do more with your money.

Our Community Center renovation project is very close to being completed. The new ceiling, paint, molding, blinds, and new vinyl plank flooring have made a dramatic difference in the look of the interior of the building. We still have a few small projects on-going and hope to complete those in the next few months. Our plan is to hold an open house to show off the new look once we move past the current Covid 19 crisis. We really look forward to showing off all the changes.

The Board also just approved the purchase of an awning to cover the picnic tables that were donated in memory of Hugh and Ora Lingerfelt that are located to the left of the Community Center. The awning should be installed later this month.

We're still having trouble finding a contractor to help us with the Town Hall window replacement project. If anyone has the name of a good general contractor that is reasonable and does windows, please contact me.

Earlier this spring we were faced with an erosion issue at the foot of the hill on Phillips Dr. This issue had been progressing for a few years and the heavy spring rains forced us into action. After several truckloads of dirt and rock the problem seems to have been remedied. Thank you to the residents of Phillips Dr. for calling this to our attention.

We also just completed some much-needed tree trimming on Mill Ct. that we chose to put off until we finished with the paving project. This project did sit on the books for a year or so but it's now finished and looks great.

Thanks to a grant from Cleveland County in July of 2019, the Town of Waco was able to secure the funds to replace all our pole mount Christmas lights and to upgrade the supporting electrical grid. In October 2019 the Board began looking for a vendor that could supply a style of lights that would be cost effective, energy efficient and nothing like any other municipality in the area has. In early 2020 the Board reached out to all the citizens in Waco to offer ideas and suggestions on the designs of the lights to purchase. After months of discussions and countless reviews of designs the Board approved the purchase of 26 new LED pole mount lights. The Board also awarded the electrical grid upgrades to Dedmon Electric out of Lawndale. We took delivery of the new Christmas lights in mid-June and Dedmon Electric has us on their schedule. Now we have to sit back and wait 4 months for the big reveal. We sure hope everyone will be pleased. I do want to say "Thank You" to the citizens that met with us and helped in the decision-making process. Your ideas and visions will brighten Waco for years.

The NCDOT has put all bridge and road projects on hold for now. We will pass along any new information as we get it.

Everyone is aware that we have taken many steps over the past 4 years to improve and enhance the appearance of our great town by tackling vegetation overgrowth, sidewalk repair and roadside grass maintenance and litter control. Now we want to take this a step further with the re-development of our "Town of Waco Community Appearance Code Commission" that will help us address some more specific concerns. Currently a draft of the ordinance is being reviewed by our attorney and we want your input. We've uploaded a copy of the draft ordinance to the Uploads / Ordinance page of our website [www.townofwaco.com](http://www.townofwaco.com). The ordinance is going to address a wide array of concerns such as un-kept lawn maintenance, damaged and broken-down vehicles, yard waste and unauthorized accumulations. This ordinance was originally approved by the town board in the late 1990's and we are reviewing and updating the language and adding sections to address some current concerns. We are also looking to appoint 3 (three) citizens to serve along with 2 (two) board members on the commission. We encourage you to go to the website, review the draft and contact a Board member to make suggestions or share some ideas. We do plan to have a public hearing on the ordinance when we can safely gather and do so. For now, we want your input. If you would like a printed copy of the draft send me a message and I'll get one sent out to you.

For the time being we want to encourage every homeowner to do their part to help make all of us proud of our hometown. If you need help taking down an old shed or hauling off some old appliances or other demolished or discarded items, let me know. We're a close net community, so I'm sure I can find someone with a truck to help. If you have an unused or broken-down vehicle that's taking up space, we can contact someone to haul it off for you and they may even pay you something for it. If your mower's broken or your bushes need a trim, I'm sure I can find a neighbor to help out. Our vision is all about neighbor helping neighbor and we know that by working together, we're building a better community.

We know how easy it is to let things pile up, and then after a while, you don't even notice it. Unfortunately, your neighbors do. Help us help you by reaching out. Whether it's picking up trash along a town street, mowing your neighbor's lawn, cleaning up a back yard or hauling off an old couch, everything we do helps someone else. Ask yourself this question. What part am I playing in my community and can I make a difference? The answer is "Yes you can!"

Lastly, as you are aware, the Cleveland County Board of Elections moved our local polling place to Buffalo Baptist Church. We were very disappointed with this move and made a direct appeal to the Board of Elections to have the voting held at the Waco Community Center. Unfortunately, our appeal was denied due to "parking concerns". We were assured that voting would be moved back to Waco for the 2021 election cycle. We encourage you to voice your opinion on this move and contact the Board of Election's at 704-484-4858 or by email at [cleveland.boe@clevelandcounty.com](mailto:cleveland.boe@clevelandcounty.com).

You can reach any of us by email at [townofwaco@gmail.com](mailto:townofwaco@gmail.com) or feel free to give us a call. We'd love to hear from you.

Best regards and stay safe,

John Barrett, Mayor  
Town of Waco  
[jbarretttownofwaco@gmail.com](mailto:jbarretttownofwaco@gmail.com)

Judy S. Thompson, Alderman

Pete Sauls, Alderman

Mike Scism, Alderman