

July 18, 2020

Dear Community,

This week we had some job interviews. Kelly, Bart, Gwyn and I sat on them and were able to interview some very competitive candidates for the Community Development and Economic Development boards Administrative Assistant. I believe with Bart and Kelly's advice and counsel we selected the best candidate. What a privilege to be able to sit with esteemed colleagues which all have the same vision for our city and its future. Awesome job and thank you.

This week Governor Abbot has put out more guidelines for our state. Keep reading them and stay up to date. I know that many do not want to wear the mask as I have said before. It is a new way of life to preserve life and respect others health. We will get through this, hang in there. I am reminded all week the hymn It Is Well with My Soul. The history behind that hymn and so many more by that author is a testimony of survival and getting through the hard times. Thank God he wrote them for us to sing and enjoy and find peace during uncertainty.

The ladies in the office have been so kind and ensure we can get through all these variables and they have been working very hard for the city. Thank you, ladies, I want to say a Great Big Shout out to them this week. The audit is in progress. This is number four for us in two years. Awesome job to the auditor and her team. We are entering the budget season and tax rate season for the city as well.

We will have a City Council meeting this coming Tuesday it will be a called meeting. This will be for two variances and to approve a Resolution for a grant. The Board members are doing a great job on getting items in their area of emphasis done. We have more to come. Thanks team.

This week Brandon and his team on Monday worked on streets and water leaks. Tuesday, they started meter reading for billing, Walnut Street repair and maintaining the city's water wells. Wednesday they continued reading meters. They also had to work on a well booster pump. Installed AC's in Well #3 and #4 booster pump room to keep heat off the pumps. Thursday, they finished up meters. They also worked on two leaks. Friday they were out mowing and doing some pothole work. Brandon also brought up if you have things of yours on our city easement please move them. They need to mow in those areas and maintain those streets as well.

From the EMS Captain Desk Jeff Bridges, they worked to get three new EMT PRN Employees added. This will save money on our payroll budget. Grant process is moving forward as planned. Jeff submitted a quote for a Horton ambulance. COVID-19: No new news. Continue recommended hand washing, hand sanitizing and mask wearing.

Police Chief has been busy sending out letters for city ordinance violations including high grass and weeds. Sgt. West is currently taking online police courses. Chief Scott will be taking the class "Why Teens Kill". It has been rescheduled for August.

#### **Tips for citizens from the Whitewright Police Department:**

Imagine for a moment that you go on a "date night" with your spouse. You leave your 15-year old home alone. You do this many a time and your child is a responsible teen. Your child calls and tells you someone is trying to get in the house. Right now, you live in a city where the police are usually just a minute or two away, but let's do what someone said we should do, earlier in the week. Let's defund the Police Department and get rid of it all together. Now that response time in the city that was a minute or two is now going to hopefully be just 15 to 20 minutes for the Sheriff's Office to respond.

I heard someone, last week, tell of a protest to defund the police, that was going to take place in a city. The protester who was putting it together contacted the local police department wanting them to provide protection for the protesters because they found out that a pro-police rally was also to take place. The Police Captain told the Officers who were about to get off of work that they had to stay over and protect the citizens at the protest. What happened is mind boggling. What happened? The Police Officers went and stood between both groups of protesters. No one was injured and no one was taken to jail. The officers did their jobs while the citizens argued for and against their jobs.

I want everyone to know your police department is here so you can go and enjoy your "date night" and we will continue to be here whenever you need us.

Dear Lord, I pray for our community, its needs mentioned above and not mentioned. Lord, I ask and kneel before you as your servant and ask for your forgiveness for our nation, state, our county and community. I pray that we will humble ourselves before you and we graciously thank you for all your mercies and protection on our nation. We ask you to be with us, guide us with all your leadership and wisdom. I pray over all the farmers and ranchers that have worked so hard to feed our nation. I pray for the oil drillers, road construction crews, those building our nation, military men and women and those who fought and died for our nation. Pray for teachers and staff and their leadership. Pray for our magistrates, lawyers, prosecutors, and district attorneys being always challenged

or questioned on morals and ethics and values. Pray for our churches and pastors and Sunday school leaders and all those attending. Pray for those that have lost loved ones from COVID-19 and otherwise. I pray for healing and courage, I pray for all those that have been sick or in the hospital for various surgery's and needing healing, I pray for healing from suicide ideation or those who lost from it, drug or alcohol addictions child abuse, foster families, I Pray for Israel and all their daily battles and for protection. I thank you Lord for our many blessings we have received in the past, and current. Pray for all the missionaries and nations who do not have your peace. In Your mighty name Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Serving You Respectfully,

Jamie Lawrence  
Mayor, Whitewright, Texas.

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"Dream to Keep the Down-Home Feeling"

"House divided cannot stand" Abraham Lincoln

Greater love hath no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:13