



City Accomplishments

Falfurrias, TX Prepared
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<http://ci.falfurrias.tx.us/>

MAIN ST. FALFURRIAS, TEXAS.



Building Relationships



- City established interlocal agreements with Brooks County i.e (emergency management, landfill services, public works)
- Important interlocal agreement with Brooks County and Brooks County ISD for the consolidation of ad valorem tax collection services
- In January 2013, the City of Falfurrias became a member of the U.S. Highway 281 Coalition.

**** The U.S. 281 Highway Coalition is composed of key stakeholders extending from Live Oak County to Hidalgo County and aims to promote projects and initiatives that benefit cities and counties on the US 281 Hwy corridor of the future I-69C.

Working Together

- The city held its 2nd annual 4th of July Celebration & Rodeo with community and private support.
- The City sponsored the Pan de Campo Celebration, Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheon that included employees' families
- City transitioned its building inspection services in an effort to provide citizens and developers a business friendly environment. City staff has established an excellent relationship with Mr. Rene Hinojosa.
- Introduction of new City website to better promote citizen communication. The user-friendly website allows citizens to report code violations, submit anonymous tips, submit a work request and staff is constantly looking for improvements.

New Team, One Goal

- City Administrator : Noel Bernal : The City Administrator is responsible for the development of program and policy alternatives for consideration by the Mayor and Council, as well as the implementation of those policies and programs adopted by the Mayor and Council.
- City Clerk : Melinda Garza : The City clerk is responsible for clerical duties such as maintaining records, collecting data, and providing information to citizens.
- Building Inspector: Rene Hinojosa: Construction and building inspector ensure that construction meets local and national building codes and ordinances, upcoming zoning regulations, and contract specifications.
- Code Enforcement Officer: Lamar Villarreal: The City code enforcement officer is responsible for evaluating private properties and public grounds against local codes, answering citizen questions about the codes, and issuing citations for code violations.

Professional Development/Licensing/ Training

Building a Professional Staff

- Melinda Garza started the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP) sponsored by the (TMCA) and the University of North Texas.
- Mr. Bernal is completing the Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program sponsored by the Texas State University William Hobby Center for Public Service
- Mr. Bernal is also apart of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Emerging Leaders Development Program and (ELDP) Class of 2015. He intends to become an ICMA- Credentialed MAnager
- Mr. Bernal attended the Texas City Management Association (TCMA) annual conference
- Code Enforcement Inspector, Lamar Villarreal, attended a training in June 2013 to begin certification for Code Enforcement Officer
- Mr. Villarreal also attended a code enforcement continuing education course in December 2013

Public Works and the Future

City Foreman Bobby Gomez

Park Improvements

- 2014 Budget to allocate funds for improvements to Tony Lemus Park including: building new restrooms, building new little league football field.
- Potential Multi-year improvements include jogging trail, splash park, addition of adult men's and women's softball field, and rehabilitation of tennis courts
- Exhibit listed under Parks and Recreation tab on New website

Street Improvements

- Purchase of overlay machine to begin street rehabilitation
- Implementation of 5-year Capital Improvements program (CIP) that includes purchase of a new dump truck & front end loader
- City Council approved Certificates of Obligation for street improvements to high traffic areas in the city not to exceed \$600,000

Utilities and Future Efficiency

Drainage, Water and Sewer

- Falfurrias was awarded a 1 million drainage grant by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for improvements to Cibolo Creek
- Summary of Improvements and exhibit are available in the City website under the “Drainage” tab
- Falfurrias will be applying for a Flood Protection Planning Study grant via the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the development of a Drainage Master Plan
- Water- Plans are in sight for the development of a new water well & elevated storage tank rehabilitation in Encino.
- Sewer: Application to be submitted to the TWDB Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) for improvements
- Scope of sewer work will be reviewed by the City Engineer for potential to include all costs for a comprehensive Utilities Master Plan

Community Development Initiatives

Comprehensive Planning

- Appointment of a Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) by the Council to analyze strategies and actions to be included in 20 year plan
- Efforts to present plan to community should get underway in early 2014 and result in 3 public meetings





Community Development Initiatives

Zoning

- Completion of a preliminary zoning map with updates to neighborhood zoning, the town “core”, and the Hwy 281 frontage - (City had no zoning prior)
- In redefining some land uses and requiring specific permits, the City will be able to guide strategic development
- Strategic Development will promote both short-term and long-term goals
- City Council will act as the planning and zoning board but will invite interested citizens to hear zoning cases
- Planning and zoning requirements will lay the groundwork for the City’s Economic Development Strategy

Organizational Development

Code of Ordinances

- The City will consider digitizing the ordinances for public accessibility
- The development of the Code of Ordinances would come before the Council for final review and approval

Permitting

- The city plans to fine-tune the Building and Permits Department
- The City added the position of a Building inspector which eliminated contracted services
- The City Council approved an Ordinance requiring a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) for all City Structures
- Certificate requirement will strengthen development standards and compliance throughout the City

Organizational Development

Personnel Classification & Salary Study

- Funding was appropriated in the 2014 Budget for a classification system and salary study
- Findings will be presented to the City Council for their consideration

Personnel Manual

- Revisions will be made to the personnel manual to reflect updates recommended by the City Attorney and City Administrator in 2014

Organizational Chart

- Resolution No. 402 was adopted for inclusion of Organizational Chart in the City of Falfurrias Personnel Manual

Economic Development

- City appointed an exploratory committee to analyze the viability of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for the City of Falfurrias
- Preliminary recommendations have been developed and will continue in 2014
- The comprehensive plan outlines the need to focus on economic development as a means to grow the City's tax base
- Economic Development strategy will emphasize downtown revitalization, establish commercial districts, specifically the freeway commercial district
- Economic Development strategy will aim to promote local business by improving property tax and sales tax revenue
- The City submitted a second application to establish a Revolving Loan fund through Texas Rural Communities in December 2013

Finance

- During the 2012 fiscal year, the City was under the budget in expenses and over budget in revenues
- \$124,000 was added to the reserves which totaled \$1,032,000.
- The City received a clean audit report for fiscal year 2012.
- List of recommendations was offered for continued improvements to internal controls
- In 2013 Mr. Bernal successfully led the refinancing of \$5,500,000 in utility system revenue bonds; refinancing resulted in conversion to General Obligation (GOs Series 2013) refunding bonds resulting in cash flow savings of \$1.7 million and the shortening of the payback period from 33 years to 15 years.



City Achievements

1. 2013 budget includes a Special Projects Fund to segregate amusement machines revenues from General Fund
2. Refined budget departments for transparency and clarity
3. City Staff generated improved financial reports for participation in the Texas Transparency Leadership Circle sponsored by the State of Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in 2014
4. Financial reports will be made available on the New City website and will be updated accordingly.
5. Ordinance was adopted establishing General Fund reserves of 3 months operating expenses

Falfurrias Police

Chief: Ramiro Gonzalez

- City Hall operations were temporarily relocated to the Public Works building allowing for conversion into a Public Safety facility for the Police Dept.
- Benefits include an added interrogation room, personal work stations, and clerk space for more efficient
- Ramiro Gonzalez serves as liaison between the City and other county, regional, and federal organizations



Fal furrias Police Accomplishments

1. The Police Department oversees a Full-Time Code Enforcement
2. Oversaw safety operations for Bike Rally, 4th of July Celebration and participated in Christmas Toy Drive.
3. Lamar Villarreal began training as a Code Enforcement Officer and reports activity monthly to City council
4. Fal furrias Police Department joined the Judicial Enforcement Team (J.E.T) with the District Attorney, and Brooks County Sheriff's Department
5. Sergeant Blade Lozano was appointed as Lieutenant
6. City Staff has met with the Fal furrias Police Officers' Association (EPOA) and Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) for Collective bargaining for the first time in 10 yrs.

Police Accomplishments Continued

The Falfurrias Police Department increased its equipment capabilities through Capital Lease Financing.

Equipment includes;

- Two (2) 2013 Chevy Silverado pickups and accessories for vehicles
- Five (5) body cameras (Tasers) and accessories
- Ten (10) Stalker Dual Antenna Refurbished radars
- Five (5) Video cameras (Watch Guard) for units
- Two (2) p25 Icom mobile radios for units
- Fourteen (14) body armour vests and carriers
- One (1) ticket writer and software
- One (1) police interceptor Ford Taurus fully equipped





Municipal Court Progression

- Court collections are up from the previous year due to continued court efforts and collection agency efforts
- Court added Roland Garza as deputy court clerk, his previous work history with Brooks County makes him an asset to the court
- Jessica Salinas is continuing her certification to become a Certified Municipal Court administrator
- Court staff is now utilizing Lexis Nexis software for improved collections
- Addition of 2 computers, a portable docking station, and an upgraded server
- Appointment of Lamar Villarreal as Bailiff (oversees court sessions)
- 2013 marked Judge Ricardo Soliz's 5th year of service with the Falfurrias Municipal Court

Progressive Council Members

- Going Digital- Council members will have access to council packets through iPad devices
- City Council members attended a Municipal Law seminar in October 2013
- City Council members attended the annual Texas Municipal League conference in 2013
- City Council approved a resolution in support of the Brooks County Sheriff's Department designation as a Border County from the United States Department of Homeland security

Looking Forward

Conclusion

1. The City Council has provided the moral fortitude and financial support needed to provide City services and to accomplish the tasks City staff was assigned.
2. City employees are hard-working, productive, and always looking to improve in their civic role.
3. The City is led by committed Council members who always make the future of Falfurrias a priority.
4. The City Council and City Employees embody servant leadership.

***In 2014, Comprehensive planning will become the vehicle through which the foundation of the City will be based on ...