

Volume 1, Issue 3

The Strawberry Jam

May - July 2019

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A letter from the Mayor

Hello from the Mayor.

This is my first message as Mayor in our city’s quarterly newsletter. It has been a very busy 90 days. I hope to provide information and updates relative to your concerns, city issues and developments. During my campaign, I said my platform was to initiate action, accountability and transparency. This article is part of the transparency.



My office is located at the front of the Poteet City Hall as soon as you walk in on the left. Unless I have another commitment, I will try to be in the office on Wednesday afternoons between 1:30pm-3:30 pm. My office telephone number is 830 742-3574 ext. 108. My email address is mayor@poteetexas.gov.

Food for thought: “The day soldiers (in my case, the citizens) stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure in leadership” General Colin Powell.

I started the action during my first council meeting as Mayor. I proposed some amendments to a few ordinances via the agenda to the City Council. Some of the proposed amendments were related to the “Junk Vehicle”, “Security Alarms Fees”, and “Utility Fees” ordinances. The Council members voted to suspended the “Junk Vehicle ordinance and appointed a committee to review the ordinance and present, if any, recommendations. The “Security Alarm” ordinance was amended to exempt the permit fee for non-profit organizations, to include the Poteet ISD and any religion organizations. The “Utilities” ordinance was amended by reducing the disconnect fee from \$45.00 to \$25.00. The Council also approved a \$.50/hour pay raise to all the city police officers.

During my first 30 days as Mayor, I received several calls from numerous citizens regarding different concerns. I made inquiries into their concerns for accountability. There are a lot of city related issues and citizens’ concerns that need to be addressed. During our regularly scheduled monthly city council meetings, the Council worked together as a team diligently towards developing solutions to the issues and concerns. I encourage all Poteet citizens to attend the council meetings so they can be best informed and express their views on city issues.

(cont. on next page)

We hope you are enjoying —
“The Strawberry Jam” —
 the City of Poteet’s official newsletter.
 Your input is always welcome.

Elected Officials

Willie Leal Jr., Mayor

Nick Sanchez, Council Member

Jesse Leal, Council Member

Rick Castillon, Council Member

Denise Sanchez, Council Member

Rick Flores, Council Member



Letter from the Mayor continued

During our council meeting we had a guest speaker, Atascosa County Judge Bob Hurley, who made a presentation on the Atascosa County Election Board (ACEB) establishing county wide election polling places and electronic election voting. Judge Hurley hopes to have one county election polling place in Poteet. The Council expressed its support to Judge Hurley and the ACEB. During the meeting, the City Council approved a bid of \$77,000 for phase II for the Poteet sewer plant improvement. The grant for this project had been previously approved.

The Atascosa County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) has organized an air fan donation project and they graciously invited the City of Poteet to participate in the program. If anyone knows of any senior citizens or special needs persons/family who is in need of an air fan, please contact the Poteet city office at 830 742 3574 for assistance. The Poteet Police Department (PPD) will deliver a fan.

I have reached out to the Atascosa County Emergency Coordinator to organize a table top exercise with area Texas Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Bexar County emergency officials, Atascosa County emergency officials, Atascosa EMS, Poteet city officials, Poteet Police Dept. Poteet Volunteer Fire Department, Poteet ISD officials and other agencies to address a possible man made incident in our city. As Mayor, part of my duties and responsibilities are to ensure our city and its employees are prepared/trained as best as possible to serve our community during an emergency. In the near future, I will designate a city emergency management advisor/coordinator. This person will be the city's point of contact for information regarding city's emergency preparedness and personal/home emergency preparedness. More information on this to follow.

I met with Father (Fr.) Albert of St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Poteet. Fr. Albert asked his parishioners to submit any concerns they wished to be presented to the mayor. Fr. Albert presented me a list of concerns garnered from the parishioners. We went over the list and discussed the items in depth and step forward to address the concerns.

We have completed construction on a council chamber dais. Several citizens who have attended our council meetings have expressed they had difficulty hearing the council member speaking during the meeting. We will be adding a sound system with a microphone for each council member on the dais and the speaker's podium. The city council met twice in July in an Open meeting at the city hall to review the proposed city budget and projected revenues for the upcoming budget year. The Council went over each department's proposals. No decisions were made. There will a date for an Open Hearing to allow the public an opportunity to ask question/make comments regarding the budget before the councils adopts the budget.

I met with Atascosa County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Major (Maj) M. Miller. We discussed a mutual goal to enhance our current relationship between the City of Poteet, the Poteet Police Department (PPD) and the ACSO. Maj. Miller emphasized the ACSO and its Deputies had a good working rapport with PPD. We discussed possible future corroboration and joint operations in our city.

I met the City of Jourdanton, Mayor Robert (Doc) A. Williams. I suggested the possibility of establishing a quarterly meeting to discuss city issues and solutions. I hope to invite the other Mayors of the cities in Atascosa County to participate.

Atascosa County Judge Robert Hurley requested I join a committee comprised of local Atascosa city officials to review the County's proposal/application request for county wide election.

I met with Gilbert LaFuente, Outreach Representative for U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar. We discussed the status of the new police station on Loop 282 and possibility of rebuilding/new swimming pool. Mr. LaFuente offered to conduct research into possible sources to assist the city to obtain funds for the new police station and the swimming pool.

As Mayor, I want/need to be well informed/educated in all aspects of city government. I will attempt to take advantage of any training opportunities to heighten my knowledge and develop my skills to enhance my ability to lead our city. I attended a city government seminar in San Antonio sponsored by DNRBH&Z Law Firm. The seminar topics included: Employee Discipline, Hotel Taxes, City Code Enforcement, Economic Development, 2019 Legislative Updates, Board of Adjustments Basic, Procurement procedures, and Limiting Liability. These are but a few of the activities I partook as Mayor. My aim is to project a positive image for our city and represent our city well locally and as well as to others outside our community.

See you at the meetings, if not maybe around town.

Mayor,

Willie Leal Jr.

City Administrator's Corner

Hello Poteet,

This year has been moving very quickly. The city is progressively moving forward, and we are working hard to serve your needs. I want to take this time to welcome two new members and our Mayor to the City Council. Councilman Jesse Leal, Councilman Rick Castillon and Mayor Willie Leal. These three gentlemen have been in office only two months and have jumped right in to get involved. Welcome! We look forward to working with each of you over the next two years.

Being a City employee is a thankless job. We are here to serve the public and meet your needs with quality professional services. Do me a favor and thank your City Employees for a job well done. We ALL come to work each day trying to find ways to improve our community and our city services.

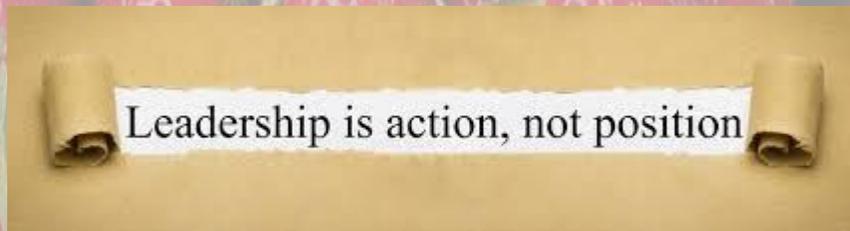
It is budget time again and city staff and council have been working hard to maintain a balanced budget.

We are forecasting a budget of about 1.9 million in General Fund revenue and operations. This is an increase from the previous years budget of 1.6 million. Increased sale tax and the prediction of sale tax from O'Reilly's has helped with this increase. This is great news for all of us and it shows that folks our coming to our little town and spending money.

I have asked the City Council to add a Community Events Coordinator in this next year's budget. The position will be responsible for coordinating events through out the year to help get visitors to our community. This person will be responsible for 5k runs, parades, concerts park activities and many other events that will draw participation from surrounding communities and even the San Antonio area. This person will also be responsible for Grant writing and applying for as many grants as possible for the City of Poteet.

We have many upcoming events, so please get out there and participate. As always, I am proud to be your City Administrator.

**Eric A. Jiminez
City Administrator**



Eric A. Jiminez

Public Works



POTEET PUBLIC WORKS

Rubén Quintana
Public Works Director



The Public Works Department has been doing a great job working hard to patch potholes, cutting grass, and trying to beautify our town in general. I would like to also commend out residents on their efforts to keep up with the lawns and trees as well. This is ultimately a team effort, we as Poteet citizens need to share this common goal. Only then, will we be able to succeed and provide the opportunity for our town to grow and prosper. I am extremely happy to mention that we have received a couple of positive reports on our Public Works employees. These guys work hard every day, and sometimes through the night. I encourage citizens to speak up and let us know how we are doing; constructive criticism is a great learning tool, especially if it's some positive feedback (wink, wink). As always of course, please report any water, sewer, parks or street issues to city hall so that we may be addressed accordingly. Any after hour issues, please call 830-742-3574.

Code Enforcement



Code Enforcement Officer

John Seda



Hello Poteet!

My name is Officer John Seda. I am the new Community Compliance Officer that oversees code enforcement here in the city. Most of you will recognize me from my former role as a patrol officer here in the city.

Having recently assumed this role, I'm taking a "clean slate" approach to my observations made throughout the city. That being said, I'll be making my rounds throughout the neighborhoods here and try to meet everyone individually over time.

My expectations are extremely straight forward and basic: adhere to the city ordinances and ensure compliance with local and state laws. The primary role I have as a Community Compliance Officer is to provide education for all the citizens here in Poteet. If there are any questions regarding laws or community concerns, feel free to contact me via one of the methods I'll post below.

My goal is to provide the citizens here with the information and resources necessary to build a strong community that inspires pride and teamwork throughout the county. I will strive for excellence in my performance and look forward to the opportunity to work with each and every one of you.

On July 20th, 2019, we had our Brush Drop Off scheduled event here at the sewer plant property. We had a total of twenty people take advantage of this service. Some people made up to four additional trips with trailers full of brush. If you haven't done so already, give the Poteet Police Department Facebook page a like to keep up to date with events such as this and others as they happen throughout the year.

Thanks for taking time to read through this. Again, I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future.

Sincerely,

Officer John Seda

Code Enforcement continued

Helpful Tips:

Make sure grass is cut regularly. Tall grass invites nuisances such as rodents and bugs. We completely understand that during summer months, temperatures are at their hottest. A good bit of advice would be to use the early morning hours or late afternoon hours to handle all yard work and up-keep. Remember to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water before, during, and after exerting yourself.

Hold your neighbors accountable. If you are held to a standard and follow your local laws, so should your neighbors. If you are uncomfortable approaching your neighbor about their grass, junk vehicle, or even a potential hazardous living condition, feel free to report it to the city and allow me the opportunity to address it with them.

Get involved with your city. If you want the most current information on what is going on with the city or what is available to you, come out and join us. We host a town hall meeting every first Monday of the month at one of the local churches. City Council meets every first Tuesday and important decisions are made at these meetings. Like the Poteet Police Department Facebook page for the most current locations and details about these meetings.

Dispose of trash and brush properly. Concerns have been expressed that people are dumping their trash and brush on another's property. If proof is provided via cell phone camera, video surveillance, or witness sworn statement; the violator will be issued a citation. If the items dumped exceed a certain weight limit, the violator can be arrested per Texas Health & Safety Code § 365.012. Report any illegal dumping directly to the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office at 830-769-3434.

Report concerns through the appropriate means and channels. Make sure you document any and all concerns with as much detail as possible. To ensure something is done properly, utilize the city's online form or call the Sheriff's Office directly using the contact information provided below. Resorting to social media (i.e. Facebook) or texting a friend/neighbor to complain about a problem is exactly the opposite of what we are trying to achieve with the systems we've put into place here in the city. Make sure to leave contact information if you want to be updated on the result of the follow up. Leave an email if you wish to provide photographs that way instructions on how to submit them can be forwarded to you.

Please use the following contacts to reach out and to report any concerns:

Atascosa County Sheriff's Office 830-769-3434

Community Compliance Officer 830-742-8123 ext. 207

"A good neighbor listens. And cares.
A good neighbor makes you feel safe.
A good neighbor lifts up the community."

Poteet Library

Poteet Public Library

Our Summer Reading program is winding down. We had 36 registered participants. Rick Castillon with Biggs Pizza will be donating pizza for our pizza party on August 6th at 2:00 p.m. for those who completed the Summer Reading program. The participants got to enjoy Movies with free popcorn, board games and "Universe" crafts.

Can you add that Yumi also donated ice cream for our Summer Reading event

Spikey Mikey the Magician was also at Poteet Library and performed magic tricks to a standing-room only crowd.

Storyteller, Bernadette Nason was here July 19th and shared some popular stories.

We held a "Patriotic Wreath" raffle. The winners were Rachel Acuna and Eric Jiminez. Thank you to all who bought tickets.

We would like to thank Poteet VFW Post #9655 for their recent donation to purchase Acoustic panels for our meeting room. As always, Thank You for your service!!

Poteet Library also received a grant from ASRT (American Society of Radiologic Technologists) in association with the NLP (National Library Partnership). The books and other educational resources from this grant will serve to highlight radiologic technologists and the important role they play on health care. Books will be available mid August.

Brown Hearing will be at the library on September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please contact them to schedule an appointment.



Lisa Burbridge
Library Director



Library Clerk
Andrea Faz

Our Summer hours will be ending on September 27, 2019.

Beginning September 30, 2019 library hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Poteet Police Department

Greetings Strawberry Pickers,

Happy summer. We hope you are having a great time. We would like to extend an invitation to you all for this year's Fun in The Park. This year it will be held on August 17, 2019 from 5pm-8pm. A family friendly movie to follow. We look forward to hanging out, splashing around and spraying each of you with refreshing cool water, enjoying the water slides and the dunking booth.

Our South Texas Heat has proven to be deadly. PLEASE remember these tips for staying safe in extreme heat: Hydrate. Whether you feel thirsty or not, drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated, especially when you're working or exercising outside. Educate yourself. ... Know the warning signs of a heat illness, and how you can stay cool.

It is NEVER safe to leave a toddler, disabled person or pet locked in a car, even in the winter. If you have a toddler in your household, lock your cars, even in your own driveway. Kids plays in cars and can get locked in. Already 21 toddlers have died in hot cars in 2019! Cars can heat up quickly when left in the sun. (As of 7/23/2019) Please Visit www.weather.gov/safety/heat for more information.

🚫 **“Look before you lock” What can you place in the backseat that you need to get before you leave your car to ensure you double check the backseat where the car /booster seats are**

🚫 **Parking lots strategies encourage employees to pay attention to other cars in the parking lot as they are walking into work from where they parked**

🚫 **Don't leave cars unlocked at home where children may open them and then be unable to exit**

I would like to acknowledge our receipt of a grant from USDA to the City of Poteet Police Department in the sum of \$36,100. We are grateful to have been awarded this grant. As you know, our mission is to serve and protect the citizens and visitors of Poteet. This grant from the USDA will be very helpful in assisting us with keeping this mission on track. On behalf of the men and women of the Poteet Police Department, please accept our sincere gratitude for this funding. We would also like to thank Congressman Henry Cuellar's office and Senator Pete Flores for their continued support.

Having reliable transportation ensures the citizens' that calls for service can be answered in a timely manner. Police Vehicles are essential to respond quickly and safely to those calls. They also act as an officer's "office" for most of their tour of duty. The support from receiving grants like this one, helps to keep the officer mobile and able to respond to services.

We are very thankful for receiving this grant from the USDA. Our mission will continue to move forward in a positive direction; in order to assist the citizens of our community and improve our quality of life.

Please visit www.poteettx.org/2170/Ordinances to review ordinances that you have questions or concerns with. If you cannot find an answer and visiting with us during regular business hours is not convenient, please print and bring a copy of the ordinance with you, so that we can assist you during a meeting. As of June 24th, Officer John Seda has transitioned from Reserve patrol to our Community Compliance Team

Remember, we have added contact forms to the city web page under the "Report a Concern" tab. Here you will find: Brush Pickup forms, Traffic Enforcement request forms, Citizens Request for services, Code Enforcement Forms, Potholes complaint form and vacation watch forms.

Until next time, be safe and enjoy our South Texas summer.

Chief Hickman



Chief

Bruce Hickman



Poteet Fire Inspector



Fire and Life Safety
Inspector
Bill Lay



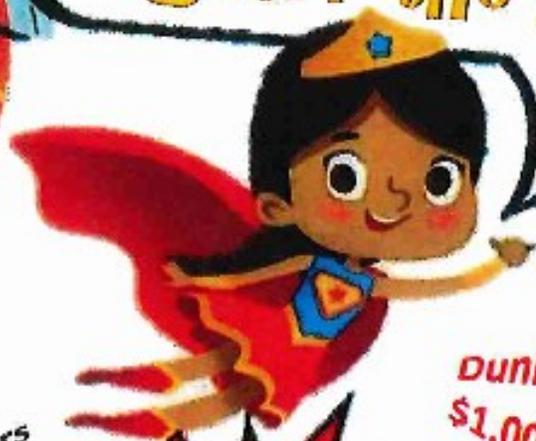
The building department has been busy. O'Reilly's is almost here! They are looking at a August 20th open date as of right now. I have been working on a presentation to city council on an updated fee schedule for all building permits. At the end of July and first of August I will be attending continuing education classes to better assist the citizens of Poteet. I am still working on talking to other businesses to see if we can have them move into Poteet. We are growing on a daily basis so be looking out for new changes in the building department. If there is anything the building department can do for you please reach out to me. Thank you.

POTEET POLICE ASSOCIATION

Presents:

FUN in the Park & STUFF the BUS

Raffle



BAM!

JOIN US

FREE
Waterblasters

dunking Booth
\$1.00 / 3 balls

POW!

Concession Available

FREE
Water Bottles

Movie @ 8:30
Sponsored by Shalom
Ministries
Free Popcorn
sponsored by
City of Poteet

**Stuff
the
BUS**



**Canyon Park
5:00 – 8:00 pm
August 17, 2019**



Free
Waterslide

What's New in Poteet!



Swearing in of New City Council Members



Pictured L-R: Ann Mosley, Mary Rodriguez, Nolan Porter and CAM Ministries Director Dan Minnich

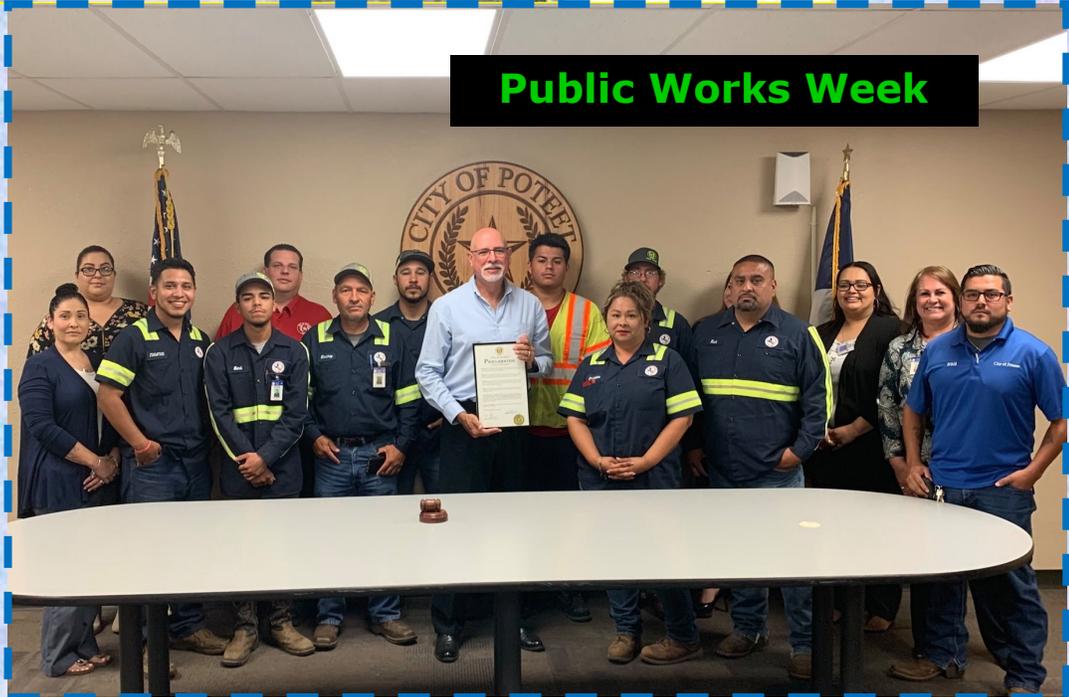


Proclamation of Peace Officers





Employee Appreciation Luncheon & Service Recognition Awards





We'll miss you!

