

Volume 3, Issue 2

A letter from the Mayor

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We hope you are enjoying
“The Strawberry Jam”
 the City of Poteet’s official newsletter.

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**

The City Council has worked diligently and professionally making decisions for the betterment of our community. The most pressing item for this quarter is COVID-19. However, there are a few highlights to mention before going into the pandemic issue.

The Council initiated the process to move forward on a major freshwater project to replace approximately 80% of the main fresh water lines in the city. Considering the magnitude of the project, it’s estimated to take approximately a little over a year to complete. Due to federal red tape, the project has been delayed until sometime in June.

The Council approved the appointment of Elsie Guerra, an Associated Municipal Judge for the Poteet Municipal Court. Ms. Guerra will be assisting Municipal Judge B. Gamez in presiding over municipal court issues.

I had the honor of swearing in K-9 Officer Kira as a duly sworn officer and protected under the law as a police officer.

Bernadette Quintero was hired as the Accountant for the city’s budget department.

City Mayor (cont.)

My wife, Diana and Shawnene started the “Beautiful You” project to collect several gently used and clean formal dresses, dress shoes and jewelry for young ladies who would like to attend prom, but are unable to for many reasons. The community provided a great response in donating over a hundred dresses to the project. A few girls from across the county took advantage of the donations.

We are in negotiation to bring “Meal on Wheels” program back to the needy in our community. We need volunteers to develop a support program for the project.

The Council approved to allow the city administrator and city staff to enter into negotiations with Alamo Rural Transit for a public transportation system with Atascosa County.

The Poteet High School Art Club did an outstanding job painting four murals on the city hall building. Hopefully more projects in the future.

As for COVID-19, a Mayoral Declaration of a Local State of Disaster and Public Health Emergency was issued on March 16, 2020. The City of Poteet is actively monitoring and keeping abreast of the changing conditions surrounding COVID-19. As of April 8, 2020, Atascosa County reported 5 confirmed cases of COVID-10. There is mass hysteria related to COVID-19 causing unnecessary shortage of basic foods and sanitary items. Everyone should remain calm. If you experience flu-like symptoms, please call your primary health provider for guidance before going to the doctor’s office or any medical facility. High risk individuals should take extra care in avoiding potential exposure areas. That does not mean self-quarantine. Everyone should exercise good judgement and not live in fear.

City Mayor (cont.)

On March 23, 2020, the Poteet City Council held a special meeting ,which was broadcasted live on Facebook. During the meeting, the City Council approved the amended and extension to the Mayoral Declaration issued on March 16, 2020. The declaration limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people. There is an Exhibit attached to the amendment. One item on the Exhibit is Item #10: During the effective period of this Exhibit ,water services shall not be disconnected for non-payment. Information regarding city operations, meetings, and closures are subject to change

The Texas Governor issues a Proclamation suspending certain sections of the Texas Election Code. During the special meeting, the City Council approved a Resolution to postpone the City's May 2, 2020 General Election until November 3, 2020. I encourage all Poteet voters to make a well educated decisions; vote for the candidates they trust will do the best for the WHOLE community and will BEST represent the city.

In all this COVID-19 craziness, we are fortunate that we have experienced a low amount of cases in our county. We all need to continue to be vigilant in doing our part to help prevent the possible spread of the virus. Everyone's life depends on it. If you are not working or can work from home, please stay home. If you NEED to go out for a necessary trip, please remember social distancing and practice good hygiene, and if possible wear a face mask. All these actions and missed events are but a small price to pay now compared to the consequences of spreading and/or contacting the COVID-19 virus, causing serious health issues, possible death for ourselves, our families and others.

The City of Poteet has an emergency management policy and plan. As the city's designated Emergency Management Coordinator, I remain informed and abreast of the developments regarding COVID-19, especially those which impact our community. To stay informed, I encourage all of you to visit the City of Poteet website at <http://www.poteettx.org> or the City of Poteet's Facebook page for information.

Eventually we will return to semblance of normalcy, however our lives will never be the same after this experience. Poteet people are strong, working together we will overcome this tribulation and become stronger.

City Administrator's Corner

Hello Poteet,

The last three months have been challenging; especially with this COVID-19 crisis. This crisis is new for all of us in city government. We are doing our best to keep you, our citizens, informed. My staff has been updating information on Facebook and our city's website as much as possible. I have been relaying information to the Mayor and City Council as it comes in. We receive information just as most of you, and that is through the news media, CDC or the Governor's website. We also communicate with other city and county leaders to see what they are doing for their communities as well.



Eric A. Jiminez

I personally want to thank our business owners and restaurants for doing their part during this crisis. Staying open and following executive orders has been a challenge for our local businesses no doubt. They have had to adapt and are providing our community with essentials needs.

I also want to thank the community as a whole. As I drive around conducting assessments, I do not see many folks out in the public. This is a good thing; it means we are all doing our part in "Social Distancing". If we can continue to do our part; we can continue to be successful in not having any confirmed cases in Poteet.

I know many of our residents have been affected by this virus. We are trying to help save you money during this process. We have waived cut off and late fees until further notice. We have turned off Utility Bill credit/debit card fees. Court credit/debit card fees have been lowered and have not been turned off, since we use a third party vendor for court.

Some citizens have asked why the decision was made to close City Hall and other city facilities. This was done to protect our employees and the public. As city government employees, we are bound to take every safety precaution to safe guard our employees and the community we serve. We can only do this by staying healthy and making sure we decrease any opportunity for city employees to become infected or forced to stay home and quarantine for 14 days.

It is times like this, that my staff and I buckle down and continue to provide the best services possible to you. I asked that you continue to be patient with us and give us the opportunity to respond to citizen complaints or concerns. I assure you we are doing our best to serve you. We are servants and our sole purpose is to serve.

I ask that you and your families continue to pray for each other, your friends and the community as we continue to stand together and do our part during this COVID-19 crisis. We will come out ahead and will return to normalcy. As always, I am proud to serve this community and to be City Administrator.

**GREAT LEADERS
BELIEVE THEY WORK
FOR THEIR TEAM,
AVERAGE LEADERS
BELIEVE THEIR TEAM
WORKS FOR THEM.**

Public Works



POTEET PUBLIC WORKS

Ruben Quintana
Public Works Director



Hello again, the first quarter of 2020 has really been something. As I'm sure you all are aware of the current COVID-19 Pandemic, this has really thrown a wrench into our great start of this new year. My team continues to serve our citizens to their fullest, tackling the day to day demands as they arise. We here in Public Works have been working to safely and efficiently keep our water and wastewater utilities up and running for our citizens and businesses alike. We acknowledge the importance of well running utilities, especially in such a crisis like the one we are facing at this time.

I would like to ask the help of our citizens at this time in aiding us to keep a clean and flowing sewer collection system. I ask that no wipes, of any kind get flushed down into the sewer system. Also, that no grease gets dumped down either. This will help to prevent blockages and clogs in our sewer mains, and ensure that no one experience any disruptions in their services.

Let's all stay safe out there.

Community Compliance



John Seda

Community Compliance Officer



Hello Poteet and welcome to Spring! Officer Seda, the Community Compliance Officer here with some updates for you all.

The City has seen several projects over the course of the last few months ranging from city street improvements, to new collection efforts by our waste management vendor. These were all due to your influence and input with the City. We thank you for your support.

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring we are having. We may not have had the Poteet Strawberry festival this past weekend, but we sure did get an overwhelming amount of rain that weekend.

That being said, the Spring and rain bring growth and increase the work we have to do in our yards and on our property. With the current shelter in place policies adopted by most cities and the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of the population is at home and this would be ideal down time for most of us to take care of our property.

A lot of our citizens are stepping up and taking care of their responsibilities regarding junk vehicles. Out of the dozens of vehicles we have either spoken with them about or sent notices for, we have only had to abate a total of THREE vehicles. This is the same number as last quarter but over twice as many contacts were made and letters mailed out. I can't express enough how much I appreciate the cooperation everyone demonstrated. Thank you!

I highly encourage everyone to follow the City and the Police Department's Facebook pages to stay up to date with any pertinent updates regarding operations and safety/health protocols regarding COVID-19. Most importantly, should you see something that would pose a concern, please contact the appropriate officials. Call the ACSO dispatch for Police Officer response and the City website to report Code Enforcement concerns.

If you have any questions or simply want clarification on any issues regarding City Ordinances or state statutes, please feel free to call.

Thanks,

Officer John Seda

Library

Poteet Public Library

Keep calm and
read a good book!

The Public Library had a fun spring break. Spring breakers came by for some fun arts and crafts. During this time, it was Dr. Seuss week. So, what better way to celebrate then to make a popsicle hat! We also made Oreo/lifesaver hat cookies and birdseed sunflowers.

The Public Libraries community room stayed booked. People rented the room for birthday parties, paint parties, social gathering and even town hall meetings.

Currently, all activities are cancelled due to COVID-19. The library is currently closed to the public. However, we can check out books for you. You may call the library and we will pick out your books and you may meet us at the door to pick up or drop off.

Lisa Burbridge

Poteet Librarian



Lisa Burbridge
Library Director



Andrea Faz
Library Clerk

Look on the Library
Facebook page for
upcoming events.

Police Department



Chief

Bruce Hickman

Greetings Strawberry Pickers,

Well spring is here, and unfortunately so is COVID-19. I know that it feels odd, that instead of being outdoors doing activities we would normally do during this season, we instead find ourselves having to spend a lot of time at home, but please understand that it is VERY necessary. I have a feeling that we will have some new champion of the board games at the end of this. Feel free to share your pics of what your family is doing to make new and fun memories during this time together. Please stay home and stay safe. Let's all do our part to help stop the spread of this virus. If you have to go out remember to keep your distance. Wash and sanitize your hands regularly, and don't touch your face, don't touch other peoples faces. Not even those cute babies that are heard to resist touching.

I would like to share with you something a church member shared with me:

TRAFFIC is gone, GAS is affordable, BILLS extended.

KIDS are at home with their families (should be, with the daytime curfew in place), PARENTS are taking care of their children.

FAST FOOD is being replaced by HOME COOKED meals; hectic SCHEDULES replaced by NAPS.

The AIR seems CLEANER, the WORLD QUIETER, PEOPLE are conscious about HYGIENE and HEALTH again.

WE finally listen to authorities and head home when they say so.

MONEY doesn't seem to make the WORLD GO ROUND anymore.

And WE now have time, finally, to stop and SMELL the ROSES.

And lastly, WE become closer to GOD & more evidently praising Him every day of our LIVES.

It seems like this COVID-19 is a RESET BUTTON for HUMANITY.

I don't know who wrote that, but it seems fitting. We are all trying to find a silver lining in this cloud that covers us. Fellow Strawberry Pickers, it is our responsibility to make sure that we are not taking more than what we *need*. No one needs 90 rolls of toilet paper or 5 gallons of milk and all the eggs they can hide. There will be plenty to go around if we just stay calm. Let's not contribute to that kind of nonsense that will just make things worse.

Police Department-Continued

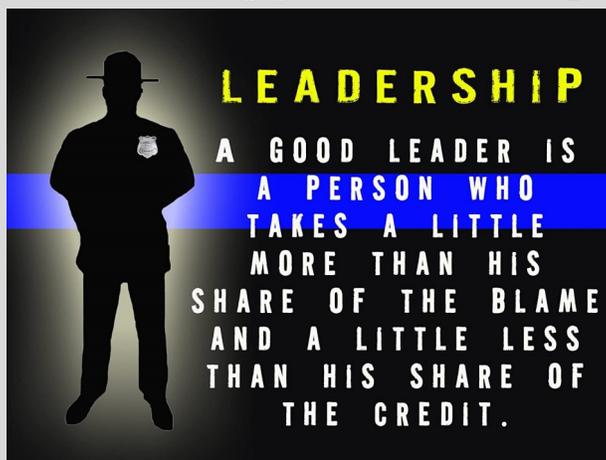
Along with Spring, comes warmer weather. With that said, please remember that it is **NEVER** safe to leave a toddler, disabled person or pet, locked in a car, even in the winter. On another note, if you have a toddler in your household, lock your cars, even in your own driveway. Kids play in cars and can get locked in. Cars can heat up quickly when left in the sun. [Please Visit www.weather.gov/safety/heat](http://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
- Pay attention to other cars in the parking lot as you are walking into and from the business.

Our mission is to continue moving forward in a positive direction; in order to assist the citizens of our community and improve our quality of life. With that said, I would like to remind you about our daytime curfew for those under 18. Please refer to our city website or Facebook pages for more details.

Until next time, be safe, stay sanitized and enjoy our South Texas spring.

Chief Hickman



Police Department-Continued



I would like to mention that we hosted an open house to show the progress of the construction of the Sheepdog Training field (shooting range). We have a pistol range with a concrete slab and a 250-yard rifle range. We set up a building to clean firearms and a multi-use track. We have plans to add stretch and workout stations along the track. We will also be adding a classroom and restrooms in the near future. Currently, the Sheepdog training field is open to all Atascosa County Law Enforcement First responders. Agencies can contact the Poteet Police Department for details. It is NOT open to the public. We have had preliminary talks with Poteet ISD about a skeet range. This project has come together by building partnerships between our local business, Atascosa County Pct. 2 and several individuals in our community.



Building Official



Building Official

Bill Lay

Good day City of Poteet. There is so much going on in our world right now, but the building department is still going strong and serving our city. We will continue to serve each of you daily.

We have finalized going paperless for all permits and applications. The way the new system will work is the person requesting any kind of building permit, alarm permit, rental registration, certificate of occupancy, or any other permit issued by the building permit will go online to the city website poteetx.org and fill out the appropriate application.

Once completed, the application and all required documentation will be emailed to blay@poteettexas.gov for review. Once reviewed and if the permit is approved, an invoice will be emailed to you with payment instructions.

Once payment is received the permit will be emailed to you. Once application is submitted, we have up to seven business days to respond to the application. All request for inspections will be handled within one week.

The health inspections will start after the COVID-19 restrictions have ended. There is a small amount of training once we go back to our normal.

Animal Control



Bill Lay

Animal Control Officer



Hello Potteet. I hope all are doing well amidst this crisis we are facing in the world right now.

Animal Control needs your help. The first three months of this year have been hard for Animal Control. We have had an animal trap destroyed and is unusable. We have had another trap that was heavily damaged, but was repairable. Then we had a secured trap stolen. The chain or padlock was cut, and the trap was removed. If anybody sees anybody around the traps or they see someone tampering with the traps call police at (830)769-3434 and an officer will be dispatched.

Animal control has been removing stray animals, but still have a long way to go. Please if you have not done so, please register your pets, so if they are found we can return them to you instead of taking them to shelter.

Community Events Coordinator

Shawneq Heather
Community Events Coordinator



Walking into 2020 sure has been eventful to say the least. As a community Events Coordinator, plans were in the making for several events to be held this spring. COVID-19 had other plans. We did manage to pull off our 2020 Block Party for the Community before everything changed drastically in our life's. We had great music, food and company. The weather was perfect and we couldn't have asked for a better evening.

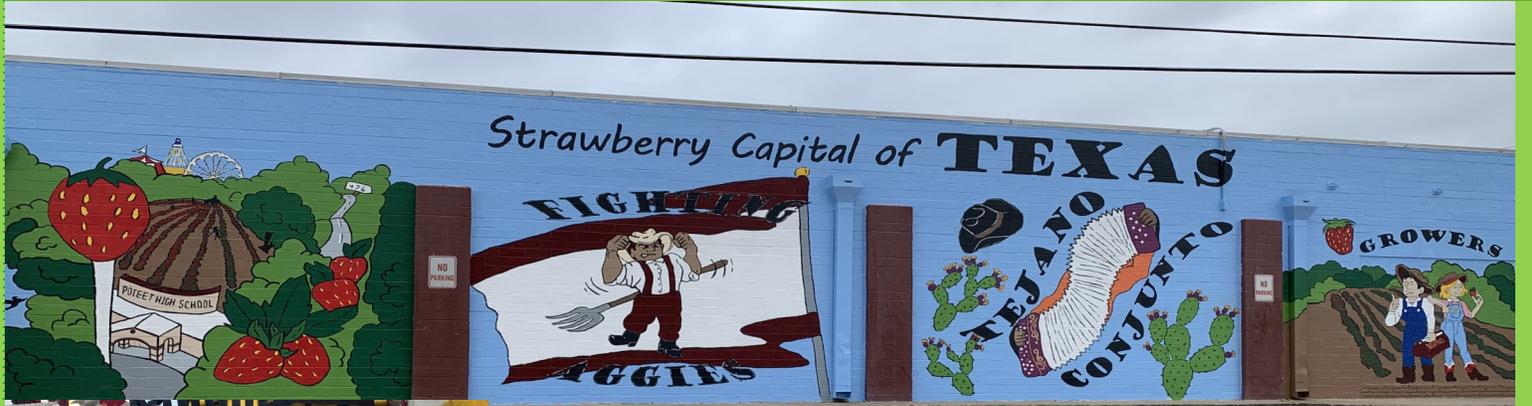
The Art Club Students from Poteet High School and some alumni painted a beautiful mural on City Hall. Their work is simply amazing. Shortly after, new mandates came down from the President of the United States and Governor of Texas. We had to do what was best for our community. That meant no Easter Egg hunt in March, No Paint parties, and no Community Resource Fair. Our Beautiful You program for junior/senior prom goers was even halted due to COVID-19.

Our focus became the well being of our citizens. We made sure to provide resources as needed and any kind of telephone numbers, websites etc. that would help the citizen's during this trying time.

I have continued to plan future events for the city. When we are clear and can mingle again, we will certainly have some great events to attend.

Stay Safe,

Events Coordinator



Election Information
Notice of Postponement of the May 2, 2020
General Election

On March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas certified that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster and, under the authority vested in the Governor by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas.

On March 18, 2020, the Governor issued a Proclamation suspending certain sections of the Texas Election Code, among others, to allow political subdivisions of the State that would otherwise hold elections on May 2, 2020, to postpone General and Special Elections to the next uniform election date, which will occur on November 3, 2020.

On March 23, 2020, the City Council of the City of Poteet at its Special Called Meeting voted to approve a Resolution to postpone the City's May 2, 2020, General Election until November 3, 2020.

For more information please contact City Secretary Abigayle Frautschi at (830) 742-3574 Ex:102 or email afrautschi@poteettexas.gov.

POTFEET™

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DEMAN CO.

2020

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

HOME GROWN TEXAS FUN

**Strawberry
Festival
Rescheduled!!**

**Oct. 30th-
Nov. 1st, 2020**

City of Poteet Public Notice

The World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International concern. The Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas. On Thursday, March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order that temporarily closes all Texas schools, prohibits dining-in at bars and restaurants, and limits social gatherings to 10 people in an effort to combat the novel coronavirus spread.

Effective March 20, 2020, City Hall, Poteet Public Library and all parks will be closed to the public. A limited number of staff will be on hand to serve the public's needs. In-person access to City Departments will be limited, or prohibited. Phone calls and emails will be the primary method of doing business.

City Hall Staff

City staff will continue to work and can address questions or concerns via phone calls or emails. The main number is: 830-742-3574.

Library Staff

Library staff will offer curbside service to check in / out books. Call the library for more questions regarding this service. The main number is: 830-742-8917.

Emergency Personnel

If you have an emergency dial 911.

Police. The Poteet Police Department will continue their normal duties and operations in the field. Access to the police department will be limited by nature due to the size of the entrance. For general questions call: 830-742-8123.

To file a police report, please call the Atascosa Sheriff's Department at: 830-769-3434 press #1 for dispatch.

Court

Municipal Court will be delayed until further notice. Contact the Court Clerk to see what your options are or for general questions regarding citations, warrants, and / or court dates. The main number is: 830-742-3564.

Permits

Homeowners and contractors needing to apply or obtain a permit application must submit the application and a digital copy of the plans via email to fireinspector@poteettexas.gov. General questions can be asked via email or by phone as well. Credit card payments for permits and re-inspection fees may be paid over the phone. If you have questions, please contact the Building Official at 830-742-3574 ext. 110.

Meetings

City Council meetings will continue as needed.

Other meetings will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with Order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16th, 2020, the governor has suspended various provisions of the Open Meetings Act pursuant to his state disaster authority, and the attorney general's office has issued guidance on the suspension. Tex. Gov't Code § 418.016(e). The changes are effective March 16, 2020, until further notice or until the state disaster declaration expires.

City of Poteet official meetings will be conducted via live video stream or phone until further notice.

Information on how to access the meetings by livestream or phone will be posted on the appropriate agenda.

If you would like to have your concerns voiced, there is a 3-minute limit for all public to speak to the Council at the beginning of each Scheduled Meeting. You **MUST** fill out a Speaker Card and submit it to the City Secretary **PRIOR** to the start of the meeting and you can do so via email to afrautschi@poteettexas.gov or by fax 830-742-8747.

If you have an item that you would like placed on the next Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting please submit this form, to the City Secretary no later than 5:00 P.M. the Tuesday before the scheduled meeting via email to afrautschi@poteettexas.gov or by fax 830-742-8747. When submitting an agenda item request form, please be as detailed as possible as to what it is you are searching for in the Mayor and Council, and please specify whether and action needs to be taken. All citizen agenda's must be approved by the Mayor before a citizen's agenda will be allowed to be placed on the council's agenda.

Utilities

No disruptions of utilities are anticipated.

City of Poteet customer utility bill payments should be made using the outside drop box outside City Hall, online, or automatic draft. Customers can also call City Hall and make payments over the phone at 830-742-3574 ext. 105 or ext. 106. Payments online can be made at: <https://poteettx.merchantransact.com/>.

Customers that chose to take advantage of these options; the City of Poteet will be waiving **ALL** convenience fees associated with paying online or by phone.

In an effort to ensure our residents have water, the City of Poteet has temporarily suspended account disconnections in recognition of the COVID-19 issues, however, please understand that all penalties will still continue to accrue on customer accounts not paid on time.

Trash. Republic Services is maintaining their standard operations.

Information regarding City operations, meetings, and closures are subject to change. Changes will be updated on the City's website www.poteettx.org and social media as needed. You can follow the City on Facebook.