



# City of Burton News

## **Water Well Updates!!!**

**Funding** – On Tuesday, November 21, we received word from the Texas General Land Office that the City of Burton has been awarded \$593,800.00 of the Regional Mitigation Fund. This money will be used to drill the secondary water well that the city has needed since 2013. This is fantastic news to celebrate! Woo-hoo! However, this grant will only cover a portion of the actual cost of the water well. So, we will need to continue to pursue additional funding to cover the rest of the cost of the well... along with the additional much needed water line upgrades down the north end of Main Street and up FM 1697 (where the water lines continue to break).

**Addition Funding Being Sought** – Presently, we are waiting for a grant to open with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). We are seeking additional funding via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) where we can seek funding with below-market fixed interest rates. There is also an opportunity for Burton to qualify for principal forgiveness because we are a “very small system” and have “an urgent need”. Mayor Karen has already been researching what demographic information is needed for the application process and found that Burton needs **YOU** to help the TWDB update their data! She has put in a request with the TWDB to have a third-party community survey be done for the town. Right now, we are awaiting word for that approval.

**How You Can Help** – *Should* the city receive permission from the TWDB to do a third-party survey, we would ask that when the surveyor comes by that you answer his questions as truthfully and honestly as possible. **IF** we are allowed to do this survey, you will receive a letter from the City of Burton regarding information about the firm, the surveyor, the dates he will be visiting, as well as what kinds of demographic questions he will be asking. Until then, **NO ONE** will come to your door regarding a survey on behalf of the City of Burton.

**AMPSS Application** – In late September, Mayor Karen submitted an application with the TWDB to participate in the Asset Management Program for Small Systems (AMPSS) for both the water well system as well as the wastewater system and treatment plant. This program will help the City of Burton “achieve long-term sustainability and make

managerial/operational decisions that utilize the resources of the system as efficiently as possible”. We await word for admission to this program.

### **Buzzard Management**

By now, you have heard or read that the City of Burton is engaged in an aggressive bird management campaign focused on the removal of buzzards here in town. This is a two-phase approach.

Phase One is already underway. We have asked *all* businesses and entities who use dumpsters for trash disposal – whether they are used for food disposal or not - to keep their lids closed at all times.

Phase Two involves a wildlife biologist with the Texas Wildlife Services. This is the “aggressive” part of the bird management. It is a two-stage process that begins with pyrotechnics (flashes and booms) and ends with lethal removal of the stubborn and undeterred. This is a 3-5 day process, taking place mostly an hour before sundown. Should the wildlife biologist need to address issues on private property, he will contact the landowner.

Please know that the city will do our best to let you know when the process will begin so that you can bring in any pets that might be afraid of loud booms (like fire crackers). This process will begin as soon as the paperwork is in order.

### **Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Every five years, the county’s Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed and updated. Mayor Karen has been working with a team of county leaders to evaluate and update this plan, focusing specifically on the needs for the City of Burton. A community meeting to review this plan will be held on Thursday, December 14 from 6-7:30pm at the Washington County Expo Center at the Fairgrounds. You are invited to attend.

### **Utility Bill Payment Options**

- 1 – Receive paper bill in the mail. Mail or bring payments to City Hall.
- 2- Use the City of Burton over the phone payment number – 1-888-401-1891
- 3 – Pay bill online via City of Burton website or the link below.
- 4 – Go AUTO-PAY and/or PAPERLESS using the following link -

Link: <https://nextrillpay.net/burtoncityutilities/BillPay/SignIn>

### **Follow the City of Burton on Facebook!!!**

Search for...The City of Burton- Burton City Hall...and click on “Follow” to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events going on in town.

**Cold weather is upon us. Remember to wrap your pipes!!!**

# City of Burton Highlights of 2023

## *January*

Nathan Kalkhake continues to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem in the absence of an elected mayor.

## *February*

On-site generator purchased for Water Well #4 with Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Texas Dept. of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant 2021-2022 was awarded for water line replacement and improvements in South Burton.

Water & Sewer changes including payment procedures, line extensions, rates, policy updates

Resolution Adopting and/or Reaffirming Civil Rights Policies and Procedures to include the HUD Section 3 Presentation (required per application for a Texas Dept. of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant)

## *March*

Resolution to submit application for the 2023-2024 Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant

## *April*

Approval of “No Thru” Truck signs as well as an ordinance prohibiting the use of “Jake” brakes in the city limits.

## *May*

Elections were held. New mayor elected; councilmember elected.

Resolution declaring May as Fair Housing Month in the City of Burton (required per application for a Texas Dept. of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant)

## *June*

Open Meeting Act & Public Information Act training completed by all elected officials

Mayor completes required training with Texas Division of Emergency Management

Creation of protocols for Water Well Failure

Creation of Information/Update grid for wall on funding projects for the city

City Secretary attends workshop with Texas Water Development Board Financial Assistance Program

## *July*

Bid process and approval of contract with Jason Jaster to maintain city owned property

Approval of contract between City of Burton and Brenham ISD for Assessment and Collection for Property Tax (This makes Washington County CAD a central, single place for property tax collection.)

Appointment of the Washington County Emergency Management Coordinator as the City of Burton Emergency Management Coordinator

Presentation – Burton Volunteer Fire Department Chief Billy Jasinski & Amy Jasinski with the Fire Department Auxiliary.

Mayor attends a two-day training event for newly elected officials; sponsored by the Texas Municipal League.

Mayor attends a workshop with the Texas Water Development Board Financial Assistance Program

### ***August***

Approval of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit of the City of Burton

Presentation – Burton Chamber of Commerce – Susan Kiel and Stephanie Jarvis

City of Burton entered Stage 1 Drought Contingency Plan due to extended drought

### ***September***

Approval of a ***new*** Drought Contingency Plan based on the TCEQ model plan.

Approval of Water Outage Protocols

Approval of updated Water Well Failure Protocols

Presentation – Washington County EMS Director – Kevin Deramus

City of Burton applies to Texas Water Development Board to participate in the Asset Management Program for Small Systems (AMPSS)

### ***October***

City of Burton hosted State Rep. Kyle Kacal. Focus: Water well needs; learning about City of Burton, Burton ISD, Burton's Chamber of Commerce

Presentation – Burton ISD – Dr. Edna Kennedy

Proclamation for World Teacher's Day on Thursday, October 5, 2023

Proclamation for Small Business Saturday on Saturday, November 25, 2023

Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Washington County Sheriff's Department

Mayor attending Washington County Hazard Mitigation Team Meeting, working on updates to the parts of the plan pertaining to the City of Burton

### ***November***

Mayor working on grant with Texas Division of Emergency Management to complete funding for an on-site generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mayor working with Texas Water Development Board in regards to statistics for the City of Burton

Contract is awarded for the water line work in South Burton. (Begins in early 2024)

City Secretary reviewing and updating Employee Policy Manual

Aggressive Bird Management of Buzzards in Burton Begins

**City of Burton is awarded Texas General Land Office Regional Mitigation Funds for Water Well #5!!!**