



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

March 2016 – Comprehensive Plan Update

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends,

At February's City Council meeting, Council passed Ordinance 2016-14 adopting a final Comprehensive Plan for Jersey Village. The final document was the culmination of almost two years' worth of work and research. As I have written before, the Comprehensive Plan is a visionary document that provides direction for City government with a series of multi-year community improvement initiatives. It was a product of consultant and community input in addition to efforts by the citizen led Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Planning and Zoning Committee, City Staff and City Council.

The final plan contains fifty three goals and initiatives, twenty of which are elevated to priority recommendations. Those initiatives fall into the categories of Future Land Use, Transportation and Circulation, Economic Development, Parks Recreation and Open Space, Community Character, and Community Facilities. In addition to forward thinking initiatives, Council and staff determined that it was important to add a section covering the continued sustaining of core activities. In other words, what are the core elements of Jersey Village community life that must be preserved as new initiatives are implemented. According to the plan, JV City government must "maintain certain aspects of city operations that residents regard as centers of excellence [and] the operations and programs associated with the Sustainment Goals not be compromised by future actions." The core operations are maintaining police and fire department excellence, continue infrastructure replacement and renewal efforts, recruit and retain competent staff, maintain the city's AA+ bond rating, promote the long-term financial stability of the city and ensure the city preserves its family-friendly characteristics.

Another important feature of the Comprehensive Plan and the adopted ordinance involves the continued implementation of the initiatives. Plans such as this often fail to achieve goals and initiatives due to a lack of implementation commitment. A significant amount of work and thought will go into a plan only to have it set on a shelf and collect dust. Jersey Village drafted a Comprehensive Plan in 1989 that in many ways did such that. To ensure continual adoption and review of this new Comprehensive Plan, the adopted ordinance calls for an annual review of the plan as part of the annual budget process. Furthermore, the ordinance establishes a Comprehensive Plan Update Committee to meet no later than July, 2020 and at least every four (4) years thereafter.

I again want to thank everyone who had a hand in the development of this important and forward looking document. This is an excellent time to be living in Jersey Village and this plan will harness our upward momentum. I look forward to this year's budget meetings and our initial foray into Comprehensive Plan implementation.

All the Best,

Justin Ray, Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas