

Message from the mayor

April 1st 2026

Greetings Citizens

It has been much too long since my last message, but I feel a bit more confident in the information that I am able to relay to our community, we have several projects in motion by both our staff, and our engineers and liaisons from the USDA. It has been an unusual start to our spring time and the usual signs of the turning of our seasons were met with some unexpected cold which seems to have stifled many of our early bloomers.

Water line replacement: Our staff has started replacing some antiquated water lines in order to prevent water loss in certain parts of our community that will not be replaced during the water project, most of these are lines that do not make it down a full street or dead end at residences.

Water Way improvement: We have also started ditching projects to help move some of the storm water down streets, I recognize that it may not be popular since the efforts create bare soil that may not be able to be mowed or maintained as easily, but it is a necessary process to aid with storm water efficiently being helped out of town.

Equipment Replacement: The city chose not to replace the backhoe with a newer version due to the limited ability to do some of the tasks that were required, instead opting to purchase a skid steer loader and an excavator, both pieces of equipment were purchased with a reduced replacement cost of the backhoe which was over 20 years old and was going to need substantial maintenance on both the front end, and hydraulic system. A very fair trade in value for the old backhoe \$20,000 was also included in the deal.

Water Project: We have finished all of the required documentation for the water project and it is now awaiting final signatures from the government to move on to final design and bid, unfortunately at this time I am unable to give a time frame for this to be completed due to the complexities of our government process and various delays in the approval process for funding. This has been a very long process, but we are confident that the end or beginning is in sight. On the bright side in preparing for the increases in water bills that the grant required for our funding that would not typically have taken place until the project had ended which would have resulted in a large jump in cost to consumers at that time, the city has implemented smaller increases based on the cost of living, what this means to you? After analysis of the already implemented increases, the city will not have to increase the full measure of the increase as it was initially laid out by the grant requirements.

Ordinance violations: nuisance abatement remains a full-time initiative as we have some houses that we will be asking residents to remove or tear down in order to remedy issues with the structure or property being unkept, we have the ability to condemn the property at the expense of the city. The city looks at all options before employing these measures, there are currently 5 structures that will be scheduled for such meetings and processes.

Upcoming election day April 7th there are several local elections and a couple of ballot measures to vote on, one has to do with the Barton County Ambulance District, the ballot measure is to re-establish the ambulance districts Use Tax which was left off of the County's Use tax, this is not a new tax it is the

ability of the district to recoup its Use Tax that had expired. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barton County Commission or the Barton County Ambulance District for more information.

The 2nd one has to do with our assessments for our property taxes, as I understand it our property taxes went up midyear last year and in order to balance the increase, we will be able to vote in a proposal to receive a tax credit for the additional property tax. I strongly urge you to contact the Barton County Assessors officer to obtain information about your individual property and process if this measure passes.

I apologize for the length of this post, but as I stated there are many things in motion, God Bless and take care.

As always, I look forward to your feed back and continued support of our community, and improvements to our town. Please feel free to contact me, or stop by City council 1st Monday of every month.

Shannon Higgins

Mayor

City of Golden City

Rember to Vote April 7th