



CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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MAYOR'S LETTER APRIL 2013

Written by Mayor Russell Hamley

Words of Advice to the Next Mayor

In May, citizens will elect the next mayor of Jersey Village for a two year term. There are two qualified candidates, both of whom have served on City Council and have a taste of what city government is like. I have been a part of City Council for 12 of the last 13 years and have a little advice for my successor.

In many ways the job will be somewhat easier than it has been for previous mayors. As mayor, you will not have to worry about buying the golf course, building new structures for the Fire Department, expanding the police building, replacing worn out water and sewer infrastructure or building new roads where previous streets have lived their useful life. The major work of the Harris County Flood Control District, which will lower the threat of residential flooding in Jersey Village, is almost completed. The Police and Fire Departments are among the best in the state with both response time and crime statistics as low as you will find in any town. These departments have the latest equipment and are well funded with reserves set aside for replacement equipment when it is needed. The city is on good financial footing and you will inherit adequate reserves to allow continued maintenance of the infrastructure.

The job will still be challenging, however. There are numerous issues to be addressed including decisions regarding developments south of US 290 and along Jones Road. The sewer plant and City Hall are nearing the end of their useful life and replacements will be both necessary and expensive. Unfunded state and federal mandates continue to force cities to spend more money for marginal benefits. In the last year alone, Jersey Village spent \$1 million upgrading equipment to state mandates.

The monster problem on the horizon will be the expansion of US 290. While it will provide much needed mobility in the area, there will be drainage, noise and right-of-way issues. Construction will be dirty, noisy and congested as roads and access closures occur frequently. In addition, Jersey Village will be losing property and sales tax and the convenience of certain retailers along the expanded roadway. When the highway is complete you can reap the praise and enjoy the benefits.

To the individual who ultimately steps into office, I wish you good luck.