



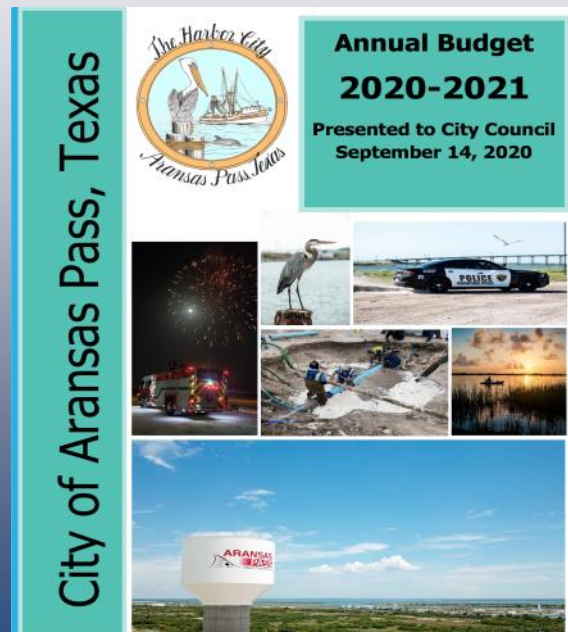
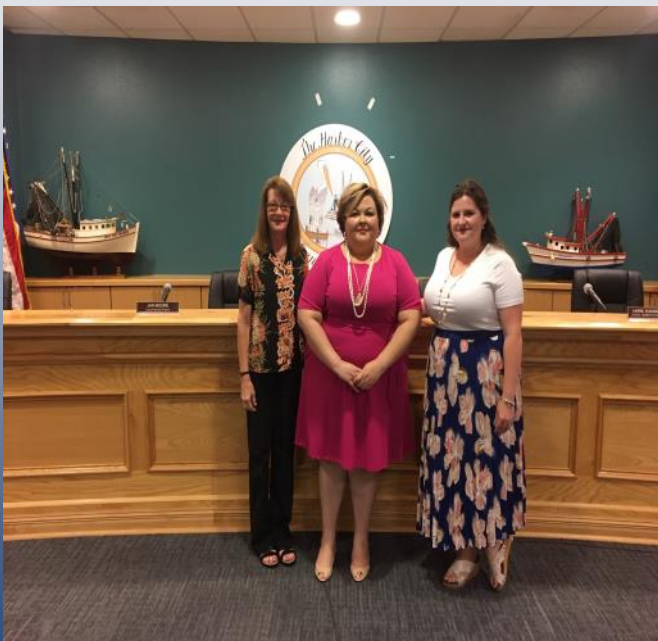
ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 36

October 2020

ARANSAS PASS FY 21 BUDGET IS A WATERSHED DOCUMENT

The FY20-21 City of Aransas Pass Operating Budget is a “Watershed Event.” A Watershed Event is a turning point. After years of hurricane recovery, the budget that was approved by the City Council on September 14th, primes the City for the future. It separates the past from the future. It is a budget that has one of the strongest, if not the strongest, General Fund Balance in many years. A Fund Balance is a measurement of a City’s financial stability. Over three (3) years ago, prior to Hurricane Harvey, the General Fund Balance was in the low single digits. The minimum for a City should be 20% to 25%. In this FY20-21 Aransas Pass budget it is just under 40%. Those kinds of numbers better prepare the City for the future. The recently approved budget is a watershed document also because it reflects progressively decreasing debt beginning in just one year. That debt has been on the books for years. Less debt may give the City an opportunity to repair or replace long-neglected city infrastructure. This budget was approved at the time the City is wrapping up most of the post-hurricane FEMA projects, taking us into the future with a large portion (but not all) of its hurricane damage now repaired. This budget also takes into account already approved grants that will address some additional long-neglected infrastructure work. In sum, the 314 page budget, which can be seen on the city webpage, helps prepare the City for the next several years and beyond. See picture below of the Finance team that prepared the budget while partnering with the Mayor, City Council and City Manager. L-R Patty Impens, Accountant; Sandra Garcia, Finance Director; Angela Jenkins, Accounts Payable.





The old round city water tank at Deberry and Lamont is now down. This project was part of the City's ongoing community clean-up/demolition program.

City Receives Millions in Grants

Since Hurricane Harvey, the City has received over \$33 million in grants from public and private sources...so far. More grant dollars are anticipated. For example, our grants team is working to apply for a very sizable governmental grant that could total as much as \$20 million. If received, those funds will be used for infrastructure improvements.



2020 Trunk-or-Treat Procedures

Due to COVID-19 the following safety procedures must be followed:

Trunk Participants:

- Vehicles participating in distribution of goods will be limited to two individuals per vehicle. No other children or adults will be allowed in or out of the vehicle.
- Participants must wear a face mask/shield at all times
- Goods being distributed must be individually packaged. No small individual candies allowed, they can be combined in pre-packaged bags.
- Vehicles may be decorated

Children Trick-or-Treating

- All children and adults must remain in vehicle at all times
- Vehicles will not be permitted to line up until 6:15 pm
- Children from 15 years of age and under may participate
- Children must be present in vehicle to receive goodies
- Staff will mark each vehicle prior to entering Trunk-or-Treat event with number of children in each vehicle
- All individuals in vehicle must wear a face mask/shield as they approach distribution line.
- Vehicles may only go once through the distribution line
- Event starts at 6:30 pm and ends at 8:00 pm or while supplies last
- Children do not have to be in costume, but highly encouraged



City Manager Edwards Accepts Another Position

City Manager Gary Edwards has accepted the position of St. Joseph, Mo. City Manager. He begins work there in early November. Gary was appointed Aransas Pass City Manager two weeks before Hurricane Harvey hit A.P. Much of his work here has been related to hurricane recovery.

“Now that we are on the downside of the recovery work, I felt it was time to step aside and let someone else work with this great community, Mayor, City Council and staff to take A.P. into a very bright future”, said Edwards.

Contact Us

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gedwards@aptx.gov



City Manager Gary Edwards gave the annual Chamber of Commerce sponsored State-of-the-City address on September 30th at the Aransas Pass Civic Center. Most of his talk referred to recovery progress made by the Mayor, City Council, staff and community since Harvey hit 3 years ago.

Why Are Aransas Pass Property Taxes Higher Than Surrounding Communities?

Property values in Aransas Pass are significantly lower than surrounding communities. The Aransas Pass property valuation is \$550,229,632. Ingleside is the next lowest at \$1,211,789,447. The highest values are in Port Aransas at \$2,094,925,386. All the other cities fall between Ingleside and Port Aransas. Going by the formula the Cities are required to use to calculate property tax rates, our property tax rate is the highest. That is because the lower the property valuation, the higher the property tax rate. Cities that have high property valuations will have lower tax rates. That is why all the cities around us have lower property tax rates than AP. We've had the lowest valuation—the basis for calculating property tax rates—for many years. Economic growth stalled after the shrimping industry left. That's a reason the valuations have remained low all these years. However, the economic growth is finally beginning to appear. Even though sincere attempts have been made in past years to increase the property valuations here, they have not succeeded. The current Mayor and Council are working to change that. That is one of the reasons for all the growth and development you see around town.



CITY OF ARANSAS PASS



Fact Sheet - 2020 Charter Amendment Election

The City of Aransas Pass has called an election for November 3, 2020 that will include 11 charter amendments. The following details the ballot language for each amendment. *(La Ciudad de Aransas Pass ha convocado una elección el 3 de noviembre 2020 que incluirá 11 enmiendas de carta. A continuación se detalla el idioma de la boleta para cada enmienda.)*

PROPOSITION A

Shall City Manager have sole authority to appoint and terminate city department heads? *(Deberá el Administrador de la Ciudad tener la autoridad exclusiva para designar y despedir a los jefes de los departamentos de la ciudad?)*

PROPOSITION B

May the Municipal Court Judge reside outside the City limits? *(Puede el Juez del Tribunal Municipal residir fuera de los límites de la ciudad?)*

PROPOSITION C

Shall the City Secretary or a deputy be an ex officio clerk of the municipal court? *(Deberá el Secretario de la Ciudad o un subsecretario ser un secretario de oficio del tribunal municipal?)*

PROPOSITION D

Shall a person filing as a candidate for City Council be required to have all bills, accounts and taxes owed to the City be paid before qualifying as a candidate? *(Deberá una persona que presenta una candidatura para el Consejo Municipal tener todas las facturas, cuentas e impuestos adeudados a la Ciudad pagos antes de quedar habilitado como candidato?)*

PROPOSITION E

Shall the City Manager be appointed for a definite term? *(Se deberá designar al Administrador de la Ciudad por un término definido?)*

PROPOSITION F

Shall the City Finance Director be in charge of the administration of the financial affairs of the City? *(Deberá el Director de Finanzas de la Ciudad estar a cargo de la administración de los asuntos financieros de la Ciudad?)*

PROPOSITION G

Shall the City Manager have the authority to prepare rules and regulations for the sale of City property having an estimated value of one thousand dollars or less? *(Deberá el Administrador de la Ciudad tener la autoridad para preparar reglas y normas para la*

venta de propiedad de la Ciudad que tenga un valor estimado de mil dólares o menos?)

PROPOSITION H

Shall the sale of city property valued at more than one thousand dollars be advertised for sale and request bids in the official newspaper, city webpage, and other media resources of the City of Aransas Pass? *(Se deberá anunciar la venta de propiedad de la ciudad que valga más de mil dólares para venta y solicitar licitaciones en el periódico oficial, página web de la ciudad y otros recursos mediáticos de la Ciudad de Aransas Pass?)*

PROPOSITION I

May the City Council adopt a more detailed purchasing policy which shall not conflict with state law or the city charter? *(Puede el Consejo Municipal adoptar una política de compras más detallada que no entrará en conflicto con la ley estatal o la carta orgánica de la ciudad?)*

PROPOSITION J

Should the City be authorized to expend public funds to promote state and local economic development and to stimulate business and commercial activity in the City pursuant to State law? *(Debería la Ciudad estar autorizada para desembolsar fondos públicos para promover el desarrollo económico estatal y local y para estimular la actividad empresarial y comercial en la Ciudad en virtud de la ley estatal?)*

PROPOSITION K

Should the City Charter be reviewed for possible amendments every two years as allowed under the Texas Constitution? *(Debería revisarse la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad para buscar posibles enmiendas cada dos años según lo permitido por la Constitución de Texas?)*

Copies of the current City Charter and this Voter's Guide are available at:

- Aransas Pass City Hall, 600 W. Cleveland
- Ed & Hazel Richmond Library, 110 N. Lamont
- Public Works Department, 601 N. Avenue A
- City Website - www.aptx.gov