



City of Baytown Newsletter



www.baytown.org

Volume 1, Issue IX

November 2006

New Wastewater Treatment Plant Under Construction

The City of Baytown and the Baytown Municipal Development District (MDD) have begun construction of the new Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant at 8808 Needlepoint Road. The \$20.0 million wastewater treatment plant along with the estimated \$8.5 million in offsite improvements combine for \$28.5 million in estimated construction costs. These improvements are being financed through low interest loans from the Texas Water Development Board, using revenues from the Municipal Development District 1/2% sales tax and City of Baytown utility fees. When completed, the wastewater treatment plant will have the capacity to treat 4 million gallons of wastewater per day and is designed to be expanded to a maximum of 16 million gallons per day of treatment capacity. Once operational, the plant will handle wastewater from developing areas north and east of Baytown and will divert 1 million gallons per day of wastewater from the East District wastewater treatment plant service area, providing capacity from that facility for growth in the south and southeast portions of the city. The offsite improvements component of the project, under design by Pate Engineers, will install the infrastructure necessary to connect the new plant to new and existing wastewater lines. This project is part of a ten-year \$136 million Utility Capital Improvements Program to address the needs of existing customers and accommodate new development.

The contractor of the wastewater treatment plant is CSA Construction, Inc. The new Northeast Wastewater Treatment plant is scheduled for completion in late 2008.

Did You Know?

City Council meetings are re-broadcast on Channel 16 at 1:30 AM, 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Message From Mayor Stephen DonCarlos

Fellow Citizens: This publication is the first of what we hope will be many in a series of efforts to update you on what is happening in our city's various departments and Districts. We believe that the more informed you are, the more you will participate in the community we call home and the more we can structure our efforts to serve you better. Please read this information, and direct any questions you might have to your elected officials and our employees. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for messages from each City Council member.

These are exciting times for our City-times of growth, challenge and change. We must all work together to make Baytown a "destination city" for visitors, new residents, and shoppers, and we must continue to improve our standard of living for long time residents. You are our most valuable resource, and you all can make a difference in improving the image of our City. Be proud of Baytown, and work with us to make it better!!!

Committees, Commissions & Boards

The City of Baytown depends on volunteers to serve on its various boards, commissions and committees. The City's boards, commissions and committees assist City Council and staff in developing policies and governing the City. In order to facilitate the volunteerism of our citizens, we have created an application for you to submit to volunteer to serve on a board, commission or committee.

Anyone interested in serving on a City committee, commission or board can either fill out an application in person at City Hall, 2401 Market Street during business hours or complete an application on the City's website, www.baytown.org by clicking on "Baytown Government" and then clicking on "Committees, Commissions & Boards." The link to an application form is located at the bottom of the page. Once the application is completed, please return it to us via e-mail, fax, mail, or drop it off at City Hall located at 2401 Market Street.

The committees, commissions and boards of the City include the Baytown Municipal Development District, Baytown Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Civil Service Commission, Community Development Advisory Committee, Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals, Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Board, Sign Committee, Reinvestment Zone Number One, Urban Rehabilitation Standards Review Board, Baytown Library Board, Tow Truck Committee, Housing Authority, Animal Control Advisory Committee, and the Youth Advisory Commission. The selection process varies for each board, commission and committee. We want to know of your interest. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 281.420.7152.

Senior & Disabled Transportation Programs



The Senior and Disabled Transportation Programs provide non-emergency transportation services to eligible low/moderate income senior and/or disabled citizens within the city limits of Baytown, and to Houston for medical appointments. Participants are required to prove eligibility and must apply in person at the Community Development Office.

The Harris County Coordinated Transportation Program (HCCTP) is also sponsored by the City of Baytown Community Development Block Grant program in collaboration with Harris County. The goal of the Program is to provide eligible senior and disabled citizens non-emergency non-metered transportation services within the city limits of Baytown and to and from Houston for medical appointments.

If eligible, a participant will be issued a ride card for the taxicab in Baytown and ride coupons for contracted selected providers. The taxi ride card affords the eligible participant two (2) one-way taxicab rides per month not to exceed \$6.00 depending on income and other eligibility criteria. The participant must pay any portion of the fare over \$6.00. Ride coupons would be issued upon enrollment. Red Top Cab Company and Baytown Express Taxi are the two (2) participating taxicab companies. American Red Cross, Harris County Social Services and Mustard Seed Ministries are the transportation providers for the coupon service. For more information, call 281.420.5394.

Street Maintenance Sales Tax

The 1/2 cent Street Maintenance Sales Tax was approved by voters on May 15, 2004. The sales tax funds can only be used on streets that were in existence on the date the tax was approved by the voters. Since that time, 9.87 miles of streets have either been resurfaced or are under contract to be resurfaced using the sales tax funds.



Block Grant Program You Might be Eligible!

Did you know that you might be eligible for the City of Baytown's Community Development Block Grant Program, which provides a maximum of \$4,500 in assistance for eligible homebuyers? The funds can be used toward the purchase of a single-family existing home priced at \$105,000 or below within the City limits of Baytown. The eligible homebuyer must meet some qualifications including being income-eligible and able to obtain mortgage financing with a lender. If you are interested in purchasing a home, contact the Community Development Office at 281.420.5396.

Initiative Smoking Ordinance Election Results

On November 7th, voters in Baytown went to the polls to determine whether an initiative ordinance prohibiting smoking in public places should be approved or denied. The initiative ordinance was passed by a majority of the voters. The effective date of the ordinance is December 1, 2006. The City anticipates an educational period about the ordinance requirements through January 1, 2007.

Smoking is prohibited in:

- Enclosed public places;
- Enclosed places of employment;
- Outdoor arenas and stadiums;
- Enclosed City-owned facilities;
- Vehicles while used in the course of employment; and
- Any establishment, facility, or outdoor area declared as non-smoking by the person in control of the property where there is proper signage.

Smoking is allowed in:

- Private residences, except when used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility;
- Private vehicles, except when used in the course of employment;
- Hotel/motel rooms, designated as smoking rooms (not to exceed 20% of total rooms);
- Retail tobacco stores;
- Private and semi-private rooms in nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- Private clubs that have no employees;
- Outside areas (except within 15' of a door or in an outdoor arena or stadium); and
- Areas designated in a hospital psychiatric unit.

Questions about the ordinance requirements can be addressed to the City of Baytown Health/EMS Department at 281.420.5384.

Birth & Death Records Available Through Municipal Court

The Baytown Municipal Court provides certified copies of birth certificates for any individual born in the State of Texas. Each certificate is \$22.00. In order to obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate, the person requesting the copy is required to fill out a form listing the individual's name, date of birth, father's name, and the mother's maiden name.

Death certificates are available only for individuals who died in the City limits of Baytown. The first certified copy of a death certificate is \$20.00 and each additional copy is \$3.00. The form requesting a death certificate requires the individual's name, date of death, parents' name, and social security number.

The person requesting either certificate must present a valid picture I.D. Once the form is complete, and the information is accurate, the certificate is processed. The certificate is issued on the same day it is requested.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call 281.425.1017.

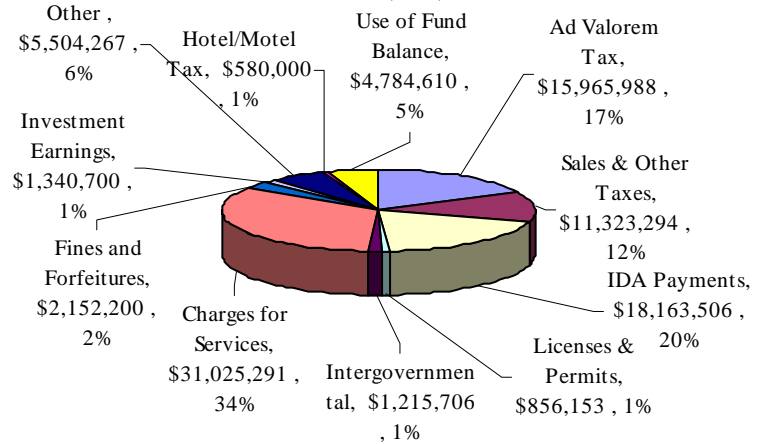
Highlights of the 2006-07 Budget

The Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Annual Budget was approved by the City of Baytown City Council on September 14, 2006. The total budget is \$92,911,715 for all City funds. The new budget was passed with a property tax rate remaining at \$0.73703 per \$100 of valuation.

- * No increase in Property Tax rate since 1992-93 fiscal year
- * No increase in Storm Water fees rates
- * \$1.00 increase in Solid Waste Collections rates
- * 7% increase in Water and Sewer rates
- * One additional position in Fire Department (funded by Fire/EMS Special District)
- * 14 additional Police Officers in Police (funded by Crime Control Police Special District)
- * One additional Mosquito Control Tech in Mosquito Control
- * Expansion of the Utility Capital Improvement Program (CIP) from five to ten years at \$147,804,906.
- * Pruet Addition Sewer Rehabilitation
- * West Baytown Sewer Rehabilitation
- * West District Plant Expansion
- * Replacement of Fire Station #5

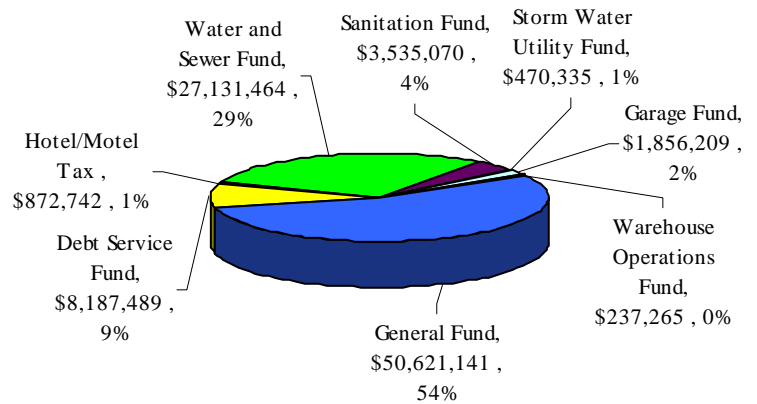
2006-07 Budget Revenues

Total: \$92,911,715



2006-07 Budget Expenditures

Total: \$92,911,715



2001 Street Maintenance Bonds Allocation by City Council District (construction costs only)



In fiscal year 2005-06, the City sold the last remaining general obligation bonds authorized by the voters in 2001. The following chart shows the amount of bond funds spent or allocated on construction to improve or repair streets. Any future bond funds for street repairs or improvements will have to be authorized by the voters.

District	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
1	\$ 2,661,861.00	\$ -	\$ 2,661,861.00
2	\$ 1,873,439.00	\$ 1,632,703.00	\$ 3,506,142.00
3	\$ 2,337,519.00	\$ -	\$ 2,337,519.00
4	\$ 1,421,147.00	\$ 311,500.00	\$ 1,732,647.00
5	\$ 1,790,178.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 4,290,178.00
6	\$ 1,611,180.00	\$ 1,867,000.00	\$ 3,478,180.00
Total Dollars	\$ 11,695,324.00	\$ 6,311,203.00	\$ 18,006,527.00
Total # of Streets	\$ 40	\$ 4	\$ 44
Miles of Streets	8.23	4.18	12.41

Did You Know?

From 2001 to 2006, the City rehabilitated more than 70 miles of sewer lines.

Mosquito Control

In addition to the City spraying for mosquitoes, you can help by emptying buckets, bottles or other water holding item; filling in or draining any low places in your yard, covering trash containers to keep out rainwater, fixing leaky pipes and outside faucets, draining unused swimming or wading pools, storing boats covered or upside down, or remove rainwater weekly, and filling in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete.

Message from Councilman Mercedes Renteria III, District 1

I am excited about being able to bring additional information to the residents of District 1 through this newsletter. Since the street bonds were approved in 2001, more than \$2.6 million has been spent on improving the streets in our district.

Last May, voters in Baytown created the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) and the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District (FCPEMSD) through approval of a 1/8 cent sales tax for each district. I am excited about these districts because the CCPD will fund 14 additional police officers to help fight crime in Baytown. The FCPEMSD will fund fire training facilities so that our firefighters are better trained to handle fires and hazardous incidents

A concern of mine has been the lack of streetlights in the City. Each year, CenterPoint Energy provides the City with an allocation of new streetlights. On September 28th, the City Council approved the installation of 82 streetlights at various locations in the City. Next year, we anticipate that CenterPoint will allocate approximately 118 additional streetlights. We expect these streetlight installations to take three to six months. The installation of these new streetlights will help make our neighborhoods safer in which to drive.



Message from Councilman Scott Sheley, District 2

As your Councilmember I want you to know that I am honored to be your elected representative. I want you to know that **Baytown is a Great Community to Live In.**

This Council has great things ahead of it and “we” are working together. We recognize the needs of our community as a whole. An example of this is seen in our distribution of the Street Maintenance Sales Tax, wherein Council decided that the areas of need would determine each district’s allotment. I applaud Council for this bold move.

Your City Council is beginning work that may lead to May’s 2007 ballot for another Bond Program. The 2001 Program was a proven success, but much more work needs to be done. We cannot afford to be complacent. This bond program should allow us to get additional streets fixed in District 2.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy Committee is busy working with me on the problems we are facing with speeding traffic (more details to come).

Please remember there are many community events planned for the upcoming holidays for your shopping and entertainment pleasure. Have a safe and joyous holidays.



Message from Councilman Brandon Capetillo, District 3

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health. Some issues specific to District 3 includes the reconstruction of Fire Station No.5, to be relocated across from Baytown Jr. (groundbreaking - early 2007). Station 5 will continue to service Bayway Dr. neighborhoods, Craigmont, Ponderosa and Decker Terrace. The following streets are scheduled for reconstruction (under design now, construction estimated for mid-2007): Robin Rd, Caldwell (Robin-N. Holly), Rollingwood (Decker-N. Burnett) and Yaupon (Burnet-Lakewood). South Burnet and a portion of Timber Lane will be resurfaced in early Fall 2006 as part of the Street Maintenance Sales Tax program. Recent reconstruction has been completed in Brownwood.

I am honored to be your representative and will continue to address the needs of Baytown and District 3. Public safety is very important to me and I will continue to explore options to increase the police presence. I will also continue to monitor the progress of the Goose Creek Conveyance Improvements Project that is managed by the Harris County Flood Control District but impacts Lantern Park, Quail Hollow and Ginger Creek.

Thank you for your time. I am here to serve you, please forward any questions or concerns by e-mail to district3@baytown.org or by phone (Cell) 832-514-9928.

Message from Councilman Don Murray, District 4

I look forward to this new method of communication with friends of District 4. It will enable the sharing of city information that involves or impacts our District.

District 4 is growing at an ever increasing rate. New businesses and new subdivisions are popping up everywhere. We welcome these new neighbors and look forward to meeting and living with them all. This growth offers new opportunities and challenges. City services (police, fire, water, sewerage etc.) will be challenges as well as traffic – oh yes the Garth Road traffic. We need the understanding and support of all citizens as we manage and enjoy this growth.

The Street Maintenance Sales Tax has put new surfaces on most of Bob Smith Road. Ammons Street is next. Additional street surface improvements will be made as funds are available and as priorities of District 4 streets dictate. In addition to these surface improvements, District 4 street replacements from the 2001 Bonds are Bellview, Craig, Country Club Drive, Columbia and portions of Inwood, Ashwood, and Bob Smith . Some of these streets are completed and others are scheduled.

It is an honor to represent you on the City Council. Please contact me with comments, questions or suggestions.



Message from Councilman Lynn Caskey II, District 5

As your new Councilman, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to work for the betterment of our community. I am committed to making District 5 and the entire City of Baytown a better place to live. It is my goal to increase economic development, to enhance the safety and welfare of our citizens, improve city employee working conditions and continue to rehabilitate our sanitary sewer and drainage systems.

During our recent budget sessions, Council approved the purchase of an additional mosquito truck to combat the increased mosquito problem. With Chambers County spraying the N. Hwy. 146 corridor, the addition will help alleviate some of the increased infestation.

District 5 continues to experience growth in both residential and commercial with the addition of three new subdivisions and a Walgreen's on the North side of our city.

Future projects include: Raccoon Dr., Pinehurst Drainage and the continuation of the Street Mill and Overlay program.

Though the process isn't always as fast as we would like, District 5, as well as the entire City of Baytown, is continuously growing and I'm honored to have the opportunity to be a part of the process.



Message from Councilman Sammy Mahan, District 6

Hello to all my friends in District 6. Election day was on November 7th. Thank you to everyone who went to the polls to vote. The election process is something I feel very passionate about. Many brave American men and women are still fighting today, so that we have that privilege.

The street maintenance sales tax program has been going great! With these funds we have developed a mill & overlay process to rehabilitate several neighborhood streets that would have otherwise needed rehabilitation. Hats off to the Angel Brothers construction for the great work they are performing. We are in year 3 construction of the street bonds authorized in 2001. Briarwood Street is currently under construction with construction on Danubina starting very soon. Thanks to the other members of the Baytown City Council for their help in getting the Kilgore Road project moved up and funded in Year 5 of the street bond program. The engineering and design for reconstruction of Kilgore Road, including utility replacement, is in progress now.

If I can be of any help to you, please call me at 281-932-4969 or E-MAIL me at sjmahan@verizon.com. There is also a link to my email address on the City of Baytown website, www.baytown.org.