

## **From the Mayor's desk - 2/6/26**

Happy Friday!

### Human Resources:

First round interviews started at our recruiting parter, Clear Career Professionals, this week for the new City Administrator position. They interviewed 11 of 18 applicants and selected 4 finalists to be brought to Surfside for in person interviews at City Hall, scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 1pm. Again, the recruiter has suggested that we have an open forum with citizens as part of the process to allow the candidates to meet and hear from residents, and for you to ask questions of prospective City Administrator candidates. More to come.

Beach season is right around the corner and we are getting geared up to hire for seasonal positions. If interested, please contact Human Resources at City Hall.

### Grants & Major Projects:

Now that the contract is in place with TxGLO & HGAC, the Sewer replacement project will have its kickoff meeting later today with TxGLO, HGAC, Lynn Engineering, GrantWorks, and representatives from VOSB. As I've mentioned before, we will publish a project timeline like the Groin & Beach Nourishment Project above once we have one in place.

High praise going out to Alderman Jon Gerber who has been in contact with a company that has redesigned several components of the vacuum sewer system (AIRVAC) and is prepared to share at an upcoming City Council meeting in March. I would urge people to attend in March and listen to this potential sewer improvement that Jon is planning to put on the agenda. It could be a game changer for sewer operations.

Also high praise to active residents Wanda Petree, Ruth Forkel, and Bart Forbes who plan to update Council in March on work that they have been doing to research water quality solutions. Their work with Moonshot Missions has produced 3 detailed reports on our water, including a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), valued at \$150k that is free to us. An engineer report is the starting point and basis for applying for most grant funds. Please look for the release of these documents coming from Moonshot Missions soon.

The crabbing pier will be undergoing its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final phase of reconstruction over the next few weeks. It will include a concrete ADA compliant ramp, a new "boardwalk" deck, and another small pier extending into the water. This project is funded by Hotel Occupancy Tax which is designated to bring in tourism and overnight guests.

### Tourism:

Surfside is hosting a kick-off 2 day event at the Stage on March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. "Surfside Sunset and Sound". We will have Vendors, Live Music, History, Food Trucks, and possibly Kite Flyers. Anyone who would like to be a vendor please contact David at [tourism@surfsidetx.org](mailto:tourism@surfsidetx.org).

Our new Short Term Rental software upgrade has been very difficult. The new system has had many issues with the Tax collection portion of the software offering that is causing problems with STR owners/operators and our management of the STR and HOT at City Hall. We have worked with the software company daily on a long punch list of solutions and it appears that in the end we will be severing ties and cancelling their services. That said, research is currently underway to find and test other STR software solutions.

Thanks to all who donated Christmas trees for Dunes Day to help build back beach dunes. We appreciate the volunteers who came out to help, including SOBA members. Thanks to everyone who got involved.

Upcoming we are also looking forward to the Irish Costume Party at Stahlman Park @6PM on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Then, the 40<sup>th</sup> annual St Patrick's Day parade on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, from David, he would love to connect with more people and hear about your ideas to promote Surfside tourism. We have a Tourism Committee meeting every second Tuesday of each month, 5:30PM at City Hall. Please stop in.

As always, I hope that you have a great day in wonderful Surfside Beach!

Thanks,

Zach