

Council's 2nd Budget Work Session Monday, August 11th

The City Council got its first look at the proposed budget for next fiscal year at a budget work sessions held Thursday July 31st. They will continue its review of the proposed budget Monday August 11th beginning at 6:30 pm at City Hall in the Council Chambers. These are open meetings and all are welcome to attend to hear the discussion. Visit the City web site at www.cityofjoshuatx.us to see the agendas once they are posted. Public Hearings regarding the Proposed budget and tax rate will be held August 21st and September 4th.

4A and 4B Economic Development Boards to Hold Budget Public Hearings

The 4A Economic Development Board and the 4B Economic Development Board will hold public hearings regarding expenditures from each Fund for next fiscal year at their August 12th meetings. The 4A Economic Development Board meeting begins at 5:30 pm August 12th, and the 4B Economic Development Board meeting begins at 7:00 pm August 12th. Both meetings are held in the City Council chambers at City Hall located at 101 South Main Street.

IESI Sets Up Customer Service Email for Joshua Residents

In order to help resolve any customer complaints, IESI has established an email address for strictly for Joshua residents. Email complaints will be handled by the Customer Service Manager usually in the same day as received. If you have a question about your service, or bill please direct your concern to joshuacustomercare@iesi.com

IESI Requests Rate Increase

Representatives from IESI, the City's solid waste collection contractor, presented information to the City Council regarding a request for a rate increase during the City Council's July 31st special session. The company is citing the rise in operating costs as well as the increase in fuel costs as the primary justification for the requested rate increase. The proposal as requested would adjust the monthly collection to \$12.71 per month up from \$10.00 per month. The billing cycle would remain quarterly. IESI also requested a fuel surcharge to be assessed based on the average cost of fuel per gallon. Under the current proposal, based on today's fuel costs the surcharge would amount to an additional 3.71% increase, or 0.47 cents. Based on quarterly billing, that would adjust to \$1.41 bringing the total quarterly bill to \$39.54, up from \$30.00. The fuel surcharge is designed to reduce in cost if the cost of fuel decreases and could be eliminated based on fuel cost reductions. This is the first rate increase IESI has requested in the past 3 years. The Company cannot increase its rates without approval from the City Council. The City Council plans to take action regarding the request during the August 21 regular meeting to allow for more information to be gathered and submitted.

Recycling by the Numbers

Now after 6 weeks of re-cycling, IESI has presented the City with a summary on the performance. Based on 5 collection days, the City has recycled 18.44 tons of waste. That averages to 18.72 pounds per household that participates in the program. The average per day from each household is 3.74 pounds. IESI estimates that currently between 30 – 40 percent of households are regular participants, meaning that they re-cycle weekly. These figures are based on collection from 1,970 homes in the City. Thanks to everyone who is making this re-cycling effort successful.

Remember, the City of Joshua received a grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to provide recycling services to all residents of Joshua free of charge for one year. So take advantage of the free recycling service, and “go green” to help the environment and your community. If you need additional bins or have questions or concerns about re-cycling, contact Mike Peacock at 817-558-7447 or email at mgmtassist@cityofjoshuatx.us

Council to Continue Review of Proposed Revisions to Sign Regulations at August Meeting

During the July 17th City Council meeting the Council continued their review and discussion of the proposed revisions to the current City of Joshua sign regulations, and tabled action on the ordinance until August 21, 2008. The proposed revisions to the sign regulations are designed to clarify the requirements and make them easier to enforce. The changes include allowing for “kiosk” type signs to help eliminate visual clutter of signs advertising housing developments, a provision allowing the City to regulate signs in its extraterritorial jurisdiction or ETJ, provisions to clarify portable sign regulations, and clarification of rules related to garage sale signs. The City Council will continue discussion regarding the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance during the August 21, 2008 City Council meeting. Sign regulations are put in place in an effort to reduce distractions for drivers, which might otherwise create public health and safety hazards, and to reduce the visual clutter that may result over time with excessive signage. The overall intent of the current ordinance as well as the proposed revisions is to balance the need for a safe, well maintained and attractive physical appearance of the community with the need for adequate business identification.

City Installs Drop Off Box Outside City Hall

The City has installed a drop box outside just to the right of the front door. Information may be dropped off after hours and on weekends, and delivered to the appropriate person during regular business hours. Information for any City Department may be dropped in the box.

Planning and Zoning Meeting Cancelled

The regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission scheduled for August 4, 2008 was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

Upcoming City Meetings and Events

City Council Budget Work Session – Monday August 11th 6:30 pm

4A Economic Development Board Meeting – Tuesday August 12th 5:30 pm

4B Economic Development Board Meeting – Tuesday August 12th 7:00 pm

City Council Regular Meeting- Thursday August 21, 2008 7:00 pm