

City Page
March 18, 2010

City Council to Consider 2010 Priorities at March 18th Meeting

The City Council will consider and act on a resolution establishing priorities for 2010 and beyond along with the long term City goals, organization mission statement and values during their March regular meeting. The Council held a planning session on March 4th to discuss 2010 action items as well as ways to improve Council and staff operations. The priorities, goals and mission statement outlined in the resolution are the results of the March 4th planning session. The Council meeting agenda and back up materials, including the resolution mentioned above, can be viewed via the City web site, www.cityofjoshuatx.us, through the Paperless Agenda link on the right side of the home page.

City to Issue 1st Round of Bonds Approved by Voters in November

During the March 18th City Council meeting, the Council will act on an ordinance to issue \$3.8 million of the \$6.7 million in bonds approved by voters in the November 2009 bond election. These bonds will cover the cost of projects approved in Proposition 1, design and construction of Joshua Fire Station No. 1; Proposition 2, street construction projects in the Mountain Valley neighborhood and along Pear Court, Apple Street, and Plum Street. The bonds will also cover the design costs related to Proposition 3, design and construction of drainage/storm water improvements in the areas of Cofield Drive, Mountain Valley/Village Creek, and Joshua Meadows. Construction of the street projects in the Mountain Valley neighborhood is expected to begin in May of this year and be complete in October. Construction of the street projects on Apple, Pear and Plum is expected to begin in August of this year and end in December. Design work on the new Fire Station will begin in April of this year, and will take 6 to 9 months to complete. Construction of the new Fire Station will begin in 2011. Design work related to the drainage and storm water improvements will begin in April of this year, and is expected to be complete by December 2010. The remaining bonds for construction of the drainage/storm water improvements will be issued in 2012.

City Sales Tax Up 26% in March

The March 2010 City sales tax allocation was up 26% when compared to the March 2009 allocation. This is the first period to period increase the City has seen since the October 2009 allocation. Joshua is one of only 2 cities in Johnson County to report an increase this period. Although total 2010 year to date sales tax payments are down almost 15% compared to the same time period in 2009, this number has improved each month. Total Joshua sales tax allocations for the 2009 calendar year were up 8% compared to total 2008 allocations.

Community Cleanup Scheduled for March 26-28, 2010

The city's Spring Cleanup has been scheduled for March 26-28, 2010. Gates of the City Service center will be open from 7am – 7 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Residents will be required to show proof of residency. Residents are reminded that they may not drop off chemicals, paint, car parts and appliances with a compressor. Tires and batteries have a \$5.00 disposal charge. Persons should enter off of 6th street to drop off debris.

Mulch Available to Residents at No Cost

Residents are reminded that mulch is available to those who would like it from the city at no cost. Fresh mulch is available currently for pick up at the city street department service center. For more information please call 817-558-7447 or visit the website at www.cityofjoshuatx.us

Protect Yourself and Your Family Today With Smoke Alarms!

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning alarm to your household in the event of a fire. Residents should be sure smoke alarms are installed in their homes, and check the batteries regularly. Day light savings time is a good reminder of when to check and replace smoke alarm batteries. A properly functioning home fire alarm could save your life and the lives of your loved ones by providing the chance to escape.

What Types of Smoke Alarms Are Available?

There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market but they fall under two basic types: ionization and photoelectric.

Ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs.

Photoelectric alarms are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. There are also combination smoke alarms that combine ionization and photoelectric into one unit, called **dual sensor smoke alarms**.

Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, the USFA recommends the installation of both ionization and photoelectric or dual sensor smoke alarms.

In addition to the basic types of alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

Okay, Where Do I Put Them?

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Where Would I Get Smoke Alarms?

Many hardware, home supply, or general merchandise stores carry smoke alarms. If you are unsure where to buy one in your community, call your local fire department (on a nonemergency telephone number) and they will provide you with some suggestions. Some fire departments offer smoke alarms for little or no cost.

How Do I Keep My Smoke Alarm Working?

If you have a smoke alarm with batteries:

Smoke Alarms powered by long-lasting batteries are designed to replace the entire unit according to manufacturer's instructions.

In standard type battery powered smoke alarms, the batteries need to be replaced at least once per year and the whole unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

In hard-wired, battery back up smoke alarms, the batteries need to be checked monthly, and replaced at least once per year. The entire unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

What if the Alarm Goes Off While I'm Cooking?

Then it's doing its job. Do not disable your smoke alarm if it alarms due to cooking or other non-fire causes. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm after cooking. Instead, clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place. The alarm may need to be moved to a new location. Some of the newer models have a "hush" button that silences nuisance alarms.

Anything Else I Should Know?

Some smoke alarms are considered to be "hard-wired." This means they are connected to the household electrical system and may or may not have battery backup. It's

important to test every smoke alarm monthly and replace the batteries with new ones at least once a year.

The U.S. Fire Administration would like to remind you of some important fire safety and prevention information.

- Plan and practice escape plans several times a year.
- Make sure your whole family knows when and how to call emergency telephone numbers.
- Obtain and learn how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors.
- Consider installing residential fire sprinklers in your home.

Contact your local fire department on a non-emergency phone number if you need help or have questions about fire safety in your home.

Upcoming Meetings and Events.

City Council Meeting March 18, 2010 at 6:30 pm

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Meeting March 23, 2010 at 6:30 pm

Community Clean Up March 26th – 28th from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearing March 29, 2010 at 7:00 pm

Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting April 5, 2010 at 6:30 pm

Type A EDC Board Meeting April 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm

Type B EDC and Parks Board Meeting April 13, 2010 at 7:00 pm