

Mayor's Column

Just as many of you are experiencing difficult financial times, the city is also facing challenging times. Many challenges will continue to face us in the upcoming year as we move forward to rebuild the foundation of our city so that it can succeed in the future. For decades, we have neglected our basic infrastructure and now it is time to take the right and most prudent approach to maintaining the City's public infrastructure investment.

Last September, during the budget process, City Council and I demonstrated our commitment to our goal of improving the City's infrastructure, reducing service impacts to our customers and having a utility system which is safe and reliable while adhering to all regulatory requirements. Over the past 90 days, we have made strides toward meeting those goals. So far, we have completed projects that include: replacement of the water line on Hamilton St.; replacement of the lift station pump suction lines at the wastewater treatment plant; replacement of the aerator motor and wiring at the Dahlman St. Pump Station and the aeration system improvements; and the replacement of two pumps and motors at the Alexander Pump Station.

More visible improvements that you may have noticed include the construction of Bailey St. and street re-surfacing being performed as approved in this year's budget. You may have also noticed that old, rotting, wooden poles are being replaced to insure system reliability for all our customers. Over the next few months over 100 poles will be replaced throughout the city. Tree trimming around power lines is also occurring as needed.

On Thursday's City Council agenda (January 29th at 5:45 p.m.) City Council will consider awarding an annual contract to replace water meters, awarding a contract to repair the Prison well, and awarding a contract for improvements to the Gibbs Carter Aerial Sewer Crossing. There are other projects which are currently under design and over the next several months will be placed on City Council agenda for award of construction contracts. These items are to include the following:

Replacement of waterlines in various locations throughout the City.

Replacement of sewer lines in various locations throughout the City.

Replacement or repair of various fire hydrants.

Installation of new fencing around a softball playing field.

Upgrading buildings and replacing fencing at the waste water treatment plant as well as at two (2) water production facilities.

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month at 5:45 p.m. I encourage all residents to attend and to get involved. Earlier this month, Council supported my request to initiate the move toward the telecasting of our Council meetings. Soon the Council will be meeting to discuss the goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. I look forward to working with my

colleagues on the Council and all of you in improving our community and planning Cuero's future.

As always, it is an honor to have the many dedicated departments of the City of Cuero that work 24/7 to make sure the citizens of the community are not without water, sewer, electricity and garbage pickup. Each department is recognized for their commitment and striving to be the best at every task completed!

Lastly, one of the most valuable resources that any city has is the input from its citizens. Please contact me with your concerns or input regarding city services to Mayor Saenz, P.O. Box 660, Cuero, Texas 77954. I want the opportunity to follow up and ensure that citizens of the community are taken care of in a timely manner.

Sincerely,
Mayor Saenz