



Mayor Victor Contreras Newsletter Update for February

I want to first say that we should all stop and reflect on the senseless violence that befell our Nation this past month. I pray for our Country and all the families that have been affected by these actions. We are Americans and live by a set of rules (The United State Constitution) that should be followed by us all.

Hello 2021, this should be an exciting year for the City of Marion. In our January meeting the Council passed a resolution to hire the Utility Engineering Group PLLC so we can proceed with the next steps to possibly secure a \$350,000 CDBGTx Grant. The City Secretary Maria Hernandez, the grant writer GrantWorks, the Engineer from UEG and I met to explore the infrastructure improvement projects that we want to write the grant for.

As you might know I am always looking for ways to be more transparent and get information out to the citizens of Marion, so I asked the sales representative from TextMyGov to give the council a presentation on their services. They say it is the simplest way to communicate with citizens. We will be able to contact our citizens in an emergency, they will be able to report issues (Water line break, animal control and others) that we have in the city. I want to thank the council for giving us their blessing to move forward with the service, it is going to be invaluable to the citizens and city staff. We will have it up and running on our website in about a month.

We have a new employee that has come to us, he is Mr. Tomio Calhoun who is retiring from the United States Army. He is an ICMA Fellow in their fellowship program, which is a federally funded program that helps retiring military personnel transition in to the workforce and help those that are interested in going to work in city government and then pares them up with a governmental agency.

I gave the council a report on the status of our aging sewer plant and a recommendation on what type of work needs to be done. We will be discussing it further at a later meeting.

When you drive south on FM465 you'll notice a sidewalk being built that will connect the Woods of St. Clare's Rustic Woods Rd. to the Marion middle school.

COVID Update; I had the task of informing our restaurant owners that until further notice they had to go back to 50% occupancy in their businesses, the COVID numbers spiked above the 15% positivity rate in the County. I want publicly thank our businesses and our citizens for taking the lead and responsibility to abide by these measures. Marion and surrounding communities, when you visit our businesses or just come in to town please remember to wear your Masks, wash your Hands or Use your hand Sanitizers when water is not available and practice Social Distancing.

Thank you and Be Safe,

Mayor Victor A. Contreras