



## **Office of Mayor Victor Contreras' Newsletter**

**Hello Marion Residents;** we welcomed State Representative John Kuempel to our June 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting, where he honored us by swearing in myself and Councilmen Shane Pawelek and David Bauch. Councilman David Bauch was voted in by the council to be the new Pro-Tem. The council also voted to give a variance to the homeowner on E. Klein St. and to Reappoint Darrel Hunter as our municipal court Judge. I can't say this enough; it is a Glorious Time for the City of Marion and our residents, as reported earlier this month we received some very good news on a project we have been working on for over a year. The City of Marion was awarded \$9,946,174.00 dollars from the Government Land Office CDBG-MIT Grant application for Citywide Water and Wastewater Improvements. This will bring in much need upgrades to our aging infrastructure and alleviate the rainwater infiltration in our sewer system. Which means if there is too much of the rainwater going through the sewer it makes it hard to manage the system. Another plus is we will be adding in a 12" Water Main for the South Side of the city and a 500,000 Gallon Elevated Water Storage Tank, these will help to sustain the water levels especially if there is an interruption from our ground water source. We will be updating the Sewage Plant Head Works which on its own would have cost the city an estimated \$440,000, replacement and refurbishing Manholes and installing all the Manhole Covers throughout the city, this will help prevent rain water going into the sewer system, Sewer line replacement on Seidel Street and replacing of the street and 10,000 linear feet of sewer pipes in the city. Without this grant opportunity we would not have had the resources to handle all these projects at

one time as it is these will cost the city over a two to three year period 1 % of the total award. I would like to thank the City Council, City staff, especially City Secretary Maria Hernandez and all the individuals that believed in this project. I can't express enough gratitude to the GLO for awarding this to our city, it truly will be life changing for the citizens and our business community. We owe a great deal to the staff of Grant Works and Utility Engineering Group for using their expertise in writing the grant for us. Look for more news in the coming months as these projects begin. Even though we are receiving this grant that does not mean I will stop working on more grants for the city. The next round I am looking forward to be awarded is the CDBG-Tx grant for radio read water meters. I am also working on the TPWD grant opportunity for the parks as well as the COPS Hiring Program grant. I am actively looking for grants that will help our citizens. As I have stated before, I will be looking for as many resources as I can so our citizens do not have to bear the burden with a higher tax rate. We heard a report from city secretary Maria Hernandez on the CARES Act funding reimbursement that we received. Like most other governmental agencies we are coming into budget season. I have asked the individual Council members to supply me their top 5-7 budgetary items they feel should be included in next year's budget. We will be having a budget workshop meeting on June 22 at 6:30pm.

Mayor Victor Contreras

830-305-7852