



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter September 2020

FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET- GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

The Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget was presented to the City Commission on August 10, 2020. The Budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communication device for the City. It is the foundation for the City’s allocation of resources toward a service delivery plan for providing quality services, additional improvements, and addresses Commission priorities.

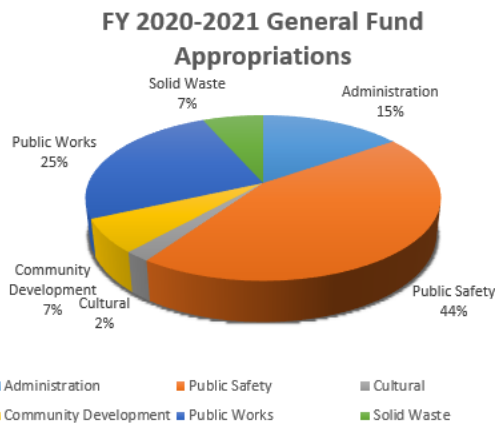
The total FY 2021 Proposed Budget is \$11,817,082 and is composed of four (4) parts: General Fund, Utility Fund, Restricted Funds, and other Funds. The City’s largest operating fund is the General Fund with a proposed budget of \$5,144,787 in FY 2021. The General Fund supports most basic City services: Police, Street & Drainage, Solid Waste, Code Compliance, Community Development, Municipal Court, Building Inspections, Animal Control, Parks, and Administration. To view the FY 2021 Proposed Budget visit our website at www.cityofhitchcock.org.

The FY 2021 Proposed Budget is based upon the City adopting a tax rate of \$0.550131 cents per \$100 of assessed evaluation, a **decrease of 5.96%** from the City’s proceeding year’s tax rate of \$0.585. The average taxable value of a residential homestead this year is \$144,989. Based on the tax rate of \$0.550131 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of tax imposed on the average homestead would be \$797.63 or a daily cost of \$2.18 for city services.

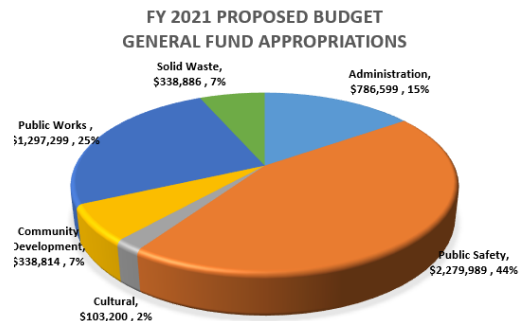
General Fund Budget Highlights:

- Allocation of \$420,000 for street rehabilitation projects;
- Allocation of \$50,000 for drainage improvements;
- Allocation of \$30,000 for a CDBG-Mitigation grant match;
- Allocation of \$88,391 for the annual lease payment for street & drainage equipment;
- Allocation of \$96,704 for funding of traffic patrol officer position for 6 months, equipment, and vehicle to increase traffic control along our roadways;
- Allocation of \$214,431 to fund an interlocal agreement with the County to perform emergency 911 dispatch services;
- Reclassification of a part-time Street & Drainage Worker to a full-time position, a net increase of \$9,336; and
- Maintains continued funding of \$75,000 for the EMS Services contract; \$92,400 contribution to the Hitchcock Volunteer Fire Department; and \$97,200 contribution to the Library.

Where does the money come from?



Where is the money spent?



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 9/10/2020 Special Called City Commission Meeting and public hearing at 6:00 p.m.
- 9/21/2020 City Commission Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 9/29/2020 Planning and Zoning Meeting at 5:30p.m.



NEW UTILITY RATES

Last year the City adopted the five year utility rate structure developed and recommended by our utility rate consultant to ensure that water and wastewater rates would fund operations, capital improvements, and future debt service and to ensure that each service is operating at a self-sustaining basis. The second year of the rate increases for water and wastewater are incorporated in the budget and will provide adequate revenues to meet the systems operation and maintenance expenses, while providing necessary funds for system capital improvements.

UTILITY RATES

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 2020 CONSUMPTION

WATER BASE FEE:

Water	BASE FEE
Meter size:	Base fee is determined by meter size.
5/8"	\$19.00
3/4"	\$20.90
1"	\$26.60
1.5"	\$34.20
2"	\$55.10
3"	\$209.00
4"	\$266.00
6"	\$399.00

WATER VOLUMETRIC CHARGE:

Water	Rate
Volumetric Rate, Non-Residential	
	\$5.69
Volumetric Rate, Residential	
0-2,000	\$4.07
2,000-5,000	\$4.28
5,000-10,000	\$4.92
10,000-20,000	\$7.13
20,000-50,000	\$10.34
ABOVE 50,000	\$15.00

WASTEWATER VOLUMETRIC CHARGE:

Wastewater	2020
Base Fee, per month	\$19.00
Volumetric Fee, per thousand gallons	\$4.10
Freddieville Fee, per LUE, per month	\$37.90

City residents can save on monthly costs by conserving water during winter averaging. Winter averaging for wastewater is set using November, December, January, and February metered water consumption for each customer (removing the highest consumption month). New averages are set each year and are used to calculate the wastewater bill for the following year. This average determines your sewer charge for the 12 month that begin in March 2020.

STREET CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Attention Hitchcock residents. The time is drawing near for the City, accompanied by Galveston County to commence work for the 2020-2021 Bond Road Project. A brief description of the scope of work for this project are as follows:

- Mill & Overlay for Jackson, Neville & Bulldog Lane.
- Base reconstruction for Hacker & Burns.

For those residents who will be directly effected by upcoming construction, please be reminded that if there is any personal property near or in the proposed work/construction zones, please cooperate with the city to relocate all personal belongings & vehicles to a safe location to prevent any immediate hazards & damage to any personal property. We are nearing the opening of the Bidding Process for this project which opens on September 10th and Bid will be awarded on September 15th. Work will commence between October & November. Again, your tax dollars are at work to better & beautify our city. Thank you for your Cooperation.

SUMMER CLEAN UP SUCCESS

On behalf of our City Commission, City Administrator, Police Department & the Public Works Department, we'd like to personally thank each and every resident that participated in the Citywide Cleanup event that took place on August.29th.

It was a very productive day as we had 200 trucks & trailers that filled roll off dumpsters with trash & debris. Not to exclude the Public Works Department who picked up 5 dump truck loads of debris from various locations throughout the city. A special thanks to our Police and Code Enforcement departments who played a huge role in keeping this day on the minds of citizens.

AmeriWaste of Texas partnered with the city to make this effort a huge success. Hitchcock let us continue to work together to keep our city clean and beautiful. The next City clean up will be near the Springtime of 2021. Of course, we will keep you updated on exact dates & times as the day draws near.

CITY OF HITCHCOCK

2020 – 2021 UTILITY DEPARTMENT - BILLING DUE DATES

WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL

Online at cityofhitchcock.org
By Phone at (833) 282-0826
In Person at the City Hall at 7423 Hwy. 6
Drop Box located in the
 parking lot of City Hall

*Cash, Check, Money Order,
Credit Card*

If you have not received your utility bill within 5 days after the mail out date contact the Utility Billing Clerk at (409)986-5591

If you are set up for automatic bill pay with your bank or through the City website, please make sure to set the transaction date to insure timely payment.

BILL	DUE DATE	PENALTY DATE	CUT OFF DATE
AUG.	AUG 28	AUG 31	SEP 8
SEP.	SEP 28	SEP 29	OCT 8
OCT.	OCT 28	OCT 29	NOV 9
NOV.	NOV 27	NOV 30	DEC 8
DEC.	DEC 28	DEC 29	JAN 7
JAN.	JAN 28	JAN 29	FEB 8
FEB.	FEB 28	MAR 1	MAR 10
MAR.	MAR 28	MAR 29	APR 8
APR.	APR 28	APR 29	MAY 10
MAY	MAY 28	MAY 31	JUN 8
JUN.	JUN 28	JUN 29	JUL 8
JUL.	JUL 28	JUL 29	AUG 9
AUG.	AUG 29	AUG 30	SEPT 8
SEP.	SEP 28	SEP 29	OCT 11

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

9/18/2020 Mail in ballots begin to go out.

10/5/2020 Last Day to register to vote in the Nov. 3rd Election.*

10/13/2020 – 10/16/2020 Early voting (8:00am – 5:00pm)

10/19/2020 – 10/23/2020 Early voting (7:00am – 7:00pm)

10/24/2020 Early voting (7:00am – 7:00pm)

10/25/2020 Early voting (1:00pm – 6:00pm)

10/26/2020 – 10/30/2020 Early voting (7:00am – 7:00pm)

11/03/2020 Election Day (7:00am – 7:00pm)

Early Voting Locations In Hitchcock:

Greater St Matthews	Hitchcock City Hall
6333 Highway 6	7423 Highway 6
Hitchcock, TX	Hitchcock, TX



*Voter's Registration cards can be picked up at the Hitchcock City Hall at 7423 Highway 6, Hitchcock, Texas

2020 CENSUS: TIME IS RUNNING OUT—GET COUNTED NOW

The 2020 Census asks a few simple questions about you and everyone who was living with you on April 1, 2020.

It's not too late to complete your 2020 Census.

Please complete your form online, by phone, or by mail. Visit my2020census.gov to begin.

Please note that if you are responding online, you must complete the census in one sitting, as you don't have the ability to save your progress. You can see [the questions the census asked](#).

Even if you did not receive an invitation to respond from the Census Bureau, you may respond online or visit our [Contact Us](#) page to call our phone line.

The Census Bureau began mailing paper questionnaires in mid-April to homes that had not yet responded. If you have not already responded, please complete and [mail back](#) your form as soon as you receive it. And if you prefer, you still have the option of [responding online](#) or by phone instead.

Call a Census Bureau enumerator at (844) 330-2020 (English) or (844) 468-2020 (Spanish) to respond by phone. The call is toll free.

CITY ORDINANCE UPDATES

Animal Ordinance

We are not only committed to the safety and welfare of our community, but also to our animals. An amendment to our Animal Ordinance was added on 08/05/2020 that all animal owners need to be aware of.

Animals are not objects and need property care and attention. It does not constitute a healthy environment to have any animal anchored or chained. Many times the animal is unable to protect itself from weather elements and it restricts reasonable movement. The following is now in effect:

“No person shall at any time, fasten, chain, or tie any animal or cause such animal to be fastened, chained or tied while such animal is on the animals property, or on the property of the animals owners landlord, or on any property within the limits of the city unless the animals owner or caregiver is within immediate view tending such animal.

Nothing in the amendment shall be construed to prohibit owners from allowing dogs to be attached to overhead runs or to prohibit owners or others from walking animals with a hand held leash.”

Commercial, Oversized and Recreational Vehicle Regulations.

1)No person shall place, park or permit to be parked any commercial, oversized vehicle or recreational vehicle on a city street, alley or other public way with the exception of parking for the immediate purpose of loading or unloading goods, merchandise, material or other haulage.

(a)For the purposes of this subsection, a commercial, oversized or recreational vehicle shall be defined as any which includes a bus, truck, truck-tractor, trailer, or boat which is designed to be used to, transport passengers or property which by itself or together with other structure(s) or vehicle(s) attached to it has a length greater than twenty-four (24) feet from bumper to bumper or bumper to tongue.

2)No person shall park, place, or permit to be parked, any commercial, oversized, recreational vehicle on any city street, alley, or other public way except in accordance with the following regulations:

a. Notwithstanding the regulations above, a recreational vehicle may be temporarily parked in city street, for trip preparation, loading, and unloading, or occasional services (i.e. landscaping, lawn care, construction, home maintenance, or similar services) for a timeframe not to exceed twelve (12) hours.

b. The parking of any oversized or recreational vehicle must maintain unobstructed vision clearance for traffic safety between two and one-half (2 ½) feet and eight (8) feet in height within 10 ft of all street intersections or driveway intersections (where the driveway meets the street). Also, parking of any oversized or commercial, oversized or recreational vehicle may not block any public right-of-way or public sidewalk.

The complete ordinance can be found on our website www.cityofhitchcock.org.

HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RANDY STRICKLIND	MAYOR	rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)927-0058
MARY COMBS DEMBY	CITY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1	district1@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-7171
CHRIS ARMACOST	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2	district2@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)519-9646
Wayne Newton	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3	district3@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)770-3297
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CANDIE SERNA	CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	cserna@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5559
NATALIE WILSON	ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATOR	nwilson@hitchcockpd.com	(409)750-1517
FRED WELCH	INTERIM EXEC. DIRECTOR OF HEDC	hedc@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)502-7331
HENRY DEBORD	BUILDING INSPECTOR	inspector@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-0822
JANIE AVILA	PERMIT CLERK	javila@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
RUTH ANN SORRELL	MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK/ASSISTANT CITY SEC.	rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-9702
ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERVISOR	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(409)986-5591
LEROY THOMAS	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT	lthomas@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)761-0737
BILL GARVIN	WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR	billgarvin@yahoo.com	(409)986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE		(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409)986-5559
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559