CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

With the retirement of Chief Mike Brodnax on Tuesday, February 18th, Rowlett Police Chief Michael Godfrey was officially sworn in at this week’s City Council Meeting.

Chief Godfrey began his career in the police profession in 1996, when he joined the Terrell Police Department. While there, he was recognized as Police Officer of the Year in 1998. He came to Rowlett in 1999 as a patrol officer and moved through the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Assistant Chief and now Police Chief. Through his 20-year career in Rowlett, he has gained experience at every level and division within the department. As Assistant Chief, he oversaw department operations including Patrol, Support Services, Criminal Investigations, and Community Services and has been instrumental in the development and administration of a $12 million departmental budget. Chief Godfrey has proven adept at managing personnel matters, enhancing staff careers, creating and updating standard operating procedures, and coordinating special department programs. He is also very experienced with department and City-wide strategic planning, creating and updating City Council resolutions and ordinances, and working with numerous multi-department City committees.

Chief Godfrey’s education has focused on a career in law enforcement. He has both a Bachelor and Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Tarleton State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He is also a graduate of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas and is a Certified Public Manager through the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service and Texas State University.

Chief Godfrey has received several awards during his service in the Rowlett Police Department:
2003 - Police Officer of the Year
2008 - Public Safety Employee of the Year
2003 - Chief’s Award for Excellence
2009 & 2013 - Supervisor of the Year

Chief Godfrey is well prepared to lead the men and women of the Rowlett Police Department. As the new Chief, he has established several departmental goals, which include:

- Establishing and maintaining a positive working relationship with Municipal Court
- Increased programs related to community involvement

Important City Meetings

City Council –
Regular Meetings: March 3 & 17; 5:30 pm @ City Hall; check agenda on website* Friday before mtg

Special Meetings: None

P&Z Commission – Feb. 25, 6:30pm @ City Hall

Animal Shelter Board – TBD, 7pm @ City Hall

Arts & Humanities Commission – March 10, 6:30pm @ Library

Board of Adjustment – TBD, 7pm @ City Hall

Community Investment Advisory Board – March 2, 6pm @ City Hall

Diversity Commission – March 18, 6:30pm @ City Hall

Economic Development Advisory Board – March 17, 8:30am @ Dev. Services Bldg. **New Time & Place**

Golf Advisory Board – March 3, 8am @ Waterview Golf Course

Library Advisory Board – March 12, 6:30pm @ Library

Parks & Rec Advisory Board – March 11, 6:30pm @ RCC **New Start Time**

Senior Advisory Board – March 16, 10am @ City Hall

Youth Advisory Council – March 16, 6pm @ RCC

2020 Census Complete Count Committee – March 12, 6:30pm @ City Hall
➢ Expand mental health and illness awareness
➢ Implement the new Rowlett First Responder Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) Program
➢ Focus on de-escalation and compassion-based policing programs
➢ Encouraging the professional growth of all employees and developing the next generation of leaders in the Rowlett Police Department
➢ Holding employees accountable for their actions and behaviors.

Please join us in congratulating our new Chief of Police, Michael Godfrey!

2020 US Census – The US Census Bureau has launched the 2020 Census – a national effort to count every person living in the United States.

Be sure to fill out your Census and encourage your family, neighbors and community to do the same. More questions? Visit 2020 Census

The 2020 Home Owners Association Legal Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 8:30am to 2pm at the Rowlett Community Centre.

The cost is $10 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Email your questions to AskTheMayor@Rowlett.com

The newest video is now available for viewing and all are on the City’s YouTube channel – @RowlettTexasVideo.

CITY SECRETARY’S OFFICE

Early Voting for the March 3 Primary Election begins Tuesday, February 18th. Click on the link for information, locations and times.

On Wednesday, February 19th, the City Manager held a Council Candidate Orientation from 12 – 5pm. These orientations are held for the candidates running in an upcoming Council election. The candidates are updated on special projects and budgetary issues before their campaigning starts so they are knowledgeable about City issues. The Facebook Live “Drawing for Place” on the May 2nd General Election Ballot is available now to watch. The candidates for Place 1 are: Incumbent Blake Margolis and Cindy Gonzales-Baker; Place 3 and Place 5 are both unopposed meaning Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Matt Grubisich and Councilmember Pamela Bell will serve on the Council for another three years. Early voting for the Council election will begin April 20th and end April 28th at 4004 Main St.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?
** You must register to vote or make any change of address by April 2, 2020 to vote in the local election on May 2, 2020. **
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

On February 11th, staff attended the Dallas Business Journal (DBJ) and Baylor University Panel on the Texas Economy, Present & Future. The panel discussed economic factors and results discovered during a recent research project conducted by Baylor University in partnership with DBJ. Read about the study results at [https://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/news/2020/01/17/business-execs-expect-strong-2020-but-talent.html](https://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/news/2020/01/17/business-execs-expect-strong-2020-but-talent.html)

The main takeaway for the Baylor study was that business execs expect a strong 2020, but the talent challenge remains.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Annual Audit Results – Following the close of each fiscal year, the City’s external independent auditors conduct an audit of the City’s financial records. These records are presented in financial statements within a format known as the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report or “CAFR.” The goal of the audit conducted for the eighth year by the public accounting firm of Weaver and Tidwell, is to provide users of this report reasonable assurance in the form of an “opinion” that the information presented is reliable and that concerns with operations or management have not been noted. We are pleased to report that the City has again attained an unqualified audit opinion (clean) with no material findings or audit recommendations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019. An audit result of this caliber maintains the highest level of assurance to the citizens of Rowlett.

As for the financial data contained therein—In the CAFR, you will find important information regarding the City’s financial condition and the results of operation for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019. By all accounts, the City had a good year. We increased our overall net position by $12.5 million. The General Fund ending fund balance increased by $1.3 million, compared to the prior year’s increase of $2.4 million. The Water and Sewer ending fund balance also increased, by $5.8 million, compared to the prior year’s increase of $5.3 million.

Overall, the City’s financial condition at the
end of fiscal year 2019 positions us to continue to meet the growing needs of the community.

A special thanks goes out to our spectacular Finance division staff for their dedicated teamwork, meticulously maintained financial records, and their intricate participation to ensure the audit was completed seamlessly.

The CAFR may be reviewed at the City’s library, the City Secretary’s office or it may be found on the City’s website at www.rowlett.com by going to the Transparent Government page and then choosing Financial & Investment Reports.

LIBRARY

Saturday, February 22nd at 2pm, celebrate Black History month with crafts and a scavenger hunt. See our post about the Clark Sisters on Facebook.

Thursday, the Library had a special visit from Daisy Troop 8085. Five very enthusiastic Daisies learned about library etiquette, taking care of books, and how to use the catalog to look up materials.

Families can enjoy Leap Day on Saturday, February 29th at 2pm with crafts and the movie Leap.

February is Love Your Library Month. Write a poem about the Library for a chance to win a Barnes and Noble gift card. Entry forms are due February 29th, enter online or pick up one at the Library Service Desk.

Saturday, March 14th at 3pm, a representative from Hope Cottage will discuss how to be a foster parent.

Enter one of the many contests presented by the Arts and Humanities Commission! More information about the Young Artist Contest is below…check out the website for information about the Writing Contest or Rowlett Sings!

Rowlett’s YOUNG ARTIST EXHIBIT is back!! Is your youngster looking for a way to show off their talents? Look no further! Entries are due March 21st, but don’t delay in starting to work on your entry today!

ALL ENTRIES will be on display at the Rowlett Annex Building (4004 Main St.) from March 20th – April 24th. Visit the link above for more information.

We are pleased to announce that these 2018-2019 Adult Learners completed the Rowlett Public Library GED Tutoring Program and passed the GED!

CONGRATULATIONS! A special thanks to all the GED Volunteers!

GED Graduates (pictured from left to right) are Carlos Morales, Kindle Brannan, Angela Gant, Myra Catalyn, and Cathi Gilbert. Please contact the Rowlett Public Library at 972-463-3971 for more information about the GED Tutoring Program.
AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey – As part of our continued efforts to make Rowlett a welcoming place for people of all ages to live, we are so proud that Rowlett is now an AARP Age-Friendly Community. But we’re not done yet!

Are you 45 or older and currently live in Rowlett? If so, please participate in this survey (link above) and help us assess how to make Rowlett even more liveable!

The survey will be available through March 13, 2020. hard copies are available at the Rowlett Community Centre, 5300 Main Street. For more information, please call 972-412-6145.

Your feedback is very important, and we would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

REMINDER: Call 972.412.6170 FOR:

Rowlett Youth Spring Baseball League: For Ages 3-12 LAST WEEKEND TO REGISTER! Registration open through February 23rd

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League: Registration open through March 8th

Rowlett Youth Spring Volleyball: For ages 7 – 12 Registration open through March 8th

Starting Tuesday, February 11th: 6th degree black belt, Bobby Blakey, is taking on a new adventure in Homeschool Taekwondo! Bring out your kids and earn that PE credit in a new way with taekwondo Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30pm. Classes start at $35 per month with discounts available for multiple classes.

#LetsRide together to cheer on the Frisco Rough Riders! Join us for the Rowlett Parks and Rec Night, Tuesday May 12th at 7:05pm. Click the link to purchase your tickets. http://groups.ridersbaseball.com/event/RowlettParks20 Last day to purchase is May 1st. For more details contact the Rowlett Community Centre at 972-412-6170.

Our seniors had a great time at the Frisco Star on Wednesday! Join us for our next Senior Field Trip to Grapevine when we check out a glass blowing demonstration. Afterwards we will head to Grapevine Mills Mall for lunch and then head to the Sea Life Aquarium. The cost of the trip is $30, for more information about the trip please call 972-412-6170.
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Crime Reports — Rowlett PD provides a link to the weekly crime reports so you, our citizens, can be informed about what is going on in your City.

At the Council meeting on Tuesday, February 18th, Chief Mike Brodnax was recognized for his service of eight years as the Chief of Police for the Rowlett Police Department.

During that time, he has developed an excellent command staff structure with well-trained officers. He has implemented the Best Practices Recognition Program through the Texas Police Chiefs Association and has been instrumental in having Rowlett ranked one of the safest cities in Texas each year.

Chief Brodnax became Police Chief for the City of Rowlett on April 9, 2012. Prior to that, he served the DeSoto Police Department for 34 years, with 15 of those being Chief. Mike holds a Bachelor of Applied Science, Criminal Justice degree and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management, both from Dallas Baptist University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

During his tenure, Rowlett has been named one of the safest cities in Texas from 2013 to 2019 — another great accomplishment for our City and citizens. Several other areas that he has promoted is 1) instituting unique programs to tackle specific needs, such as the Police Service Officers Program; 2) a PTS (Post-Traumatic Stress) Committee to develop programs and training to help identify PTS and provide assistance for our police officers with PTS, and 3) the Crisis Intervention Program to address the complexities of residents who exhibit mental or emotional distress. We see in the news every day where people are very much in need of some type of help and these committees and programs help to address that in the City of Rowlett. Chief Brodnax has also advocated for our youth by creating Summer School Programs holding five camps for youth engaging with Rowlett Police Officers and making them more comfortable interacting with police.

Chief Brodnax has always demonstrated a spirit of teamwork with other City departments and has developed excellent relationships with other law enforcement agencies. His visibility and department presence in the community has strengthened the relationship with the citizens.

He will be missed greatly by his department, the employees and citizens of Rowlett.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PROJECT UPDATE

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASE 2
Project Scope:
Rebuild streets, sidewalks, curbs, drainage systems, street trees and lighting on Cheyenne and Lynnwood. Contact: Robert Harris or Steven Wingo

Project Status:
Quality Excavation has minimal items on the punch list to finish.

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASE 1
Contractor poured Llano St. pavement and it reopened for traffic on Thursday, February 20th; both lanes of Westview Dr. pavement were poured this week.
**MAIN STREET REHABILITATION AND PGBT NORTH BOUND RIGHT TURN LANE PROJECT**
Due to ongoing weather conditions, the contractor performed limited work; working on grading the swale that conveys water off Main St. to a 3:1 slope. Weather permitting, construction of the PGBT service road right turn lane will start next week, possibly on Monday, March 2nd.

**ALLEY RECONSTRUCTION – AMBER AVE/JENNIFER LN/ANDREA LN**
Tri-Con completed both alleys and the final walk through is scheduled for next week.

**NORTH DALROCK CULVERT REPLACEMENT**
Dalrock Rd. was reopened to traffic this week and the contractor is working on restoring properties disturbed during construction.

**CBDG ALLEY RECONSTRUCTION – SHIPMAN/GRAIN**
Contractor is in the process of pouring the first 300 feet of alley pavement and drive approaches; inclement weather has delayed the concrete pour by a few days.

**ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE SIDEWALK, CURB, GUTTER, AND UTILITY CUT REPAIR-MAINTENANCE**
Austin Raymond Construction currently working on 9 repairs in Flower Hill, Dalrock-66 Waterview and Lakeview Meadows subdivisions. As of today, there have been 95 – 50/50 sidewalk locations inspected and 66 estimates sent.

**ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR PAVEMENT LEVELING SERVICES**
Staff identified locations for repair and the contractor is scheduled to be on site next week.

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**Temporary Change in Disinfection** (also known as Annual Chlorine Maintenance) Information from the North Texas Municipal Water District: “Each spring for about one month, we suspend the typical use of ammonia to allow the remaining chlorine to keep the water disinfected as it travels through the system. This temporary change in disinfectant helps maintain the system and high water quality year round. It’s important to do this before summer because hotter temperatures can increase the potential for bacterial growth in pipes.” This will happen from March 2nd through March 30th.

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_Frog parking only...All others will be toad
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The Action Center is your one-stop-shop, offered by the City of Rowlett to assist citizens. Call 972.412.6100

Our Purpose Is To Serve!

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The Friday @ 5 is published by the City Manager’s Office