

City of Corsicana 2009 Highlights



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From the Desk of
C.L. "Buster" Brown
Mayor, City of Corsicana



Dear Citizens of Corsicana:

In some respects, 2009 was a difficult year for our nation and our City. We feel that the City responded well to the revenue reductions that we experienced and were able to minimize reductions in the services we provide to our citizens.

We believe the worst is over. Our sales tax revenues have begun to improve. Several of our local manufacturing industries are expanding and adding jobs and tax base. The future of Corsicana looks good.

With the continued help and support of all our citizens, Corsicana can continue to prosper and grow into the community we all want it to be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buster Brown".

Buster Brown
Mayor

A Note From the
City Manager



To the Citizens:

The past year has been a challenge. During a time that saw one of the worst recessions in United States history peak, the City of Corsicana managed to emerge bruised but not devastated. Budgets have been adjusted to address the economic condition but with an eye on better times. Corsicana continues to offer a great quality of life and progress is being made in our efforts to beautify the City. This 2009 Annual Report represents a list of highlights documenting our progress toward this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Standridge".

Connie Standridge
City Manager

Investments in Quality of Life:

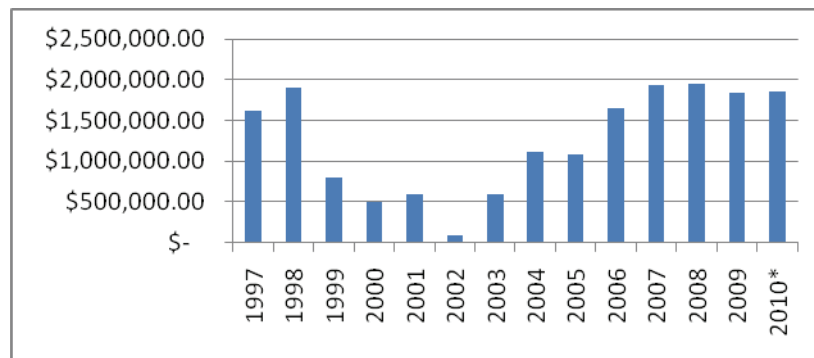
- The Council adopted a comprehensive No Smoking in Public Places ordinance. This ordinance limits smoking in all public places and work places with very few exceptions.
- The Social Club Ordinance was adopted to address gatherings and to lay out guidelines for organized events.
- The 305 Interurban Car returned to Corsicana. It has been secured under a protective awning and outside restoration has been completed.
- In 2007, the voters approved a \$17.0 million dollar street bond program. This represents the first capital investment in streets since 1990. The first of the street projects was completed in 2009 with the completion of 12th Avenue from Business 45 to Main.
- The City made progress on the plan for drainage improvements along Post Oak Creek and the South Fork of Post Oak Creek. This study represents progress toward a Corps of Engineers matching program to minimize flooding and property damage along the two creeks.
- The City participated with County Officials in two separate cleanup days. The first was the State of Texas sponsored Keep Texas Beautiful in March and the Navarro County Clean up in June of 2009. Both days were a success and made noticeable improvements on city streets and neighborhoods. In addition, in partnership with the County Extension service, the City hosted an e-waste Day. Citizens were able to dispose of electronic waste at no cost. Items such as computers, monitors, printers and televisions were collected, packaged and shipped for recycle.
- Patrons are enjoying new improvements at the Municipal Library. Through a grant from the Navarro Community Foundation, the Library now has an updated Community Room, recently named the Nancy Roberts Civic Room, and nice restroom facilities.
- The voters approved the construction of a new Central Fire Station in 2007. The City Council partnered with the Youth Baseball Association and the Navarro Community Foundation to purchase 44 acres on North 45th Street. This acreage will be the home for a new baseball complex, a new Fire Station and a new Animal Shelter. It will also include several park amenities. Adjacent to the 44 acres, The Dream Center donated to the City 1.44 acres on which the old Corsicana Nursing Home was located. As part of the master plan for the area, the City funded the demolition of the old nursing home. The additional property will be added to the 44 acres to facilitate the ultimate development to include a walking trail, playground, pavilion and an animal shelter.
- The Mayor purchased and donated to the city a piece of property that had long been an eyesore for the public. The site has been cleaned up and a plan for a future public space is being developed.
- Councilwoman Ruby Williams continued her dedicated effort to improve the appearance of the Bunert Park entrance. She held fundraisers and purchased plant material to beautify the entrance to the park.
- The Parks and Recreation Department, with assistance from private foundations, resurfaced the Mertz Tennis Center courts. These repairs will provide for many more years of tennis play.



Financial Condition:

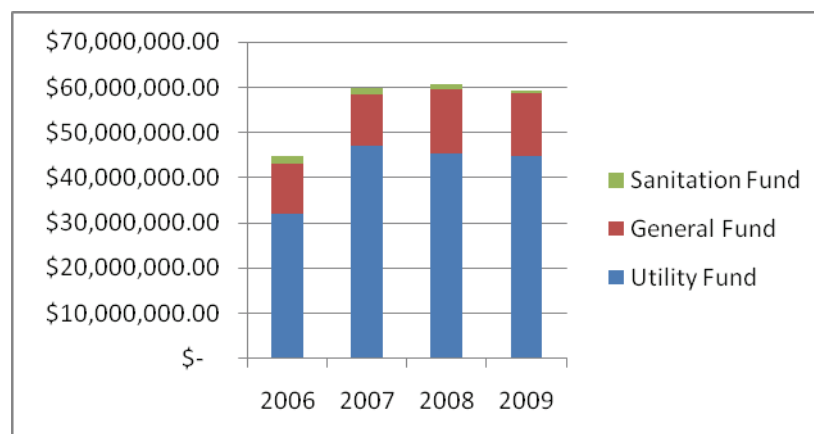
The past year represented a difficult financial year for the City and the entire country. However, the City of Corsicana fared better than many Texas cities.

- The General Fund budgeted revenues exceeded actual revenues by \$518,719. This decrease in revenues is attributed to a \$338,182 decline in sales tax and a \$486,318 decrease in franchise fees. Both reflected the decreased local, state and national economic activity. Despite the significant decline in revenues, the expenses were only \$111,000 less than revenues. The fund balance is projected to increase slightly in 2010 given predicted tough economic times.

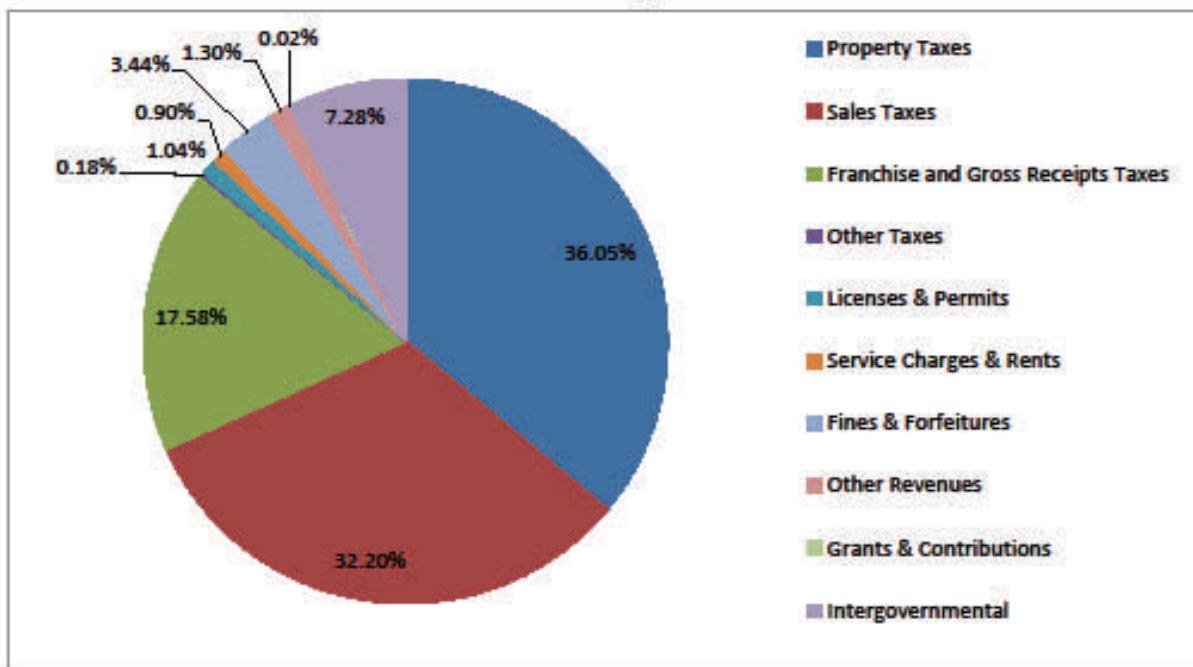


*Estimated

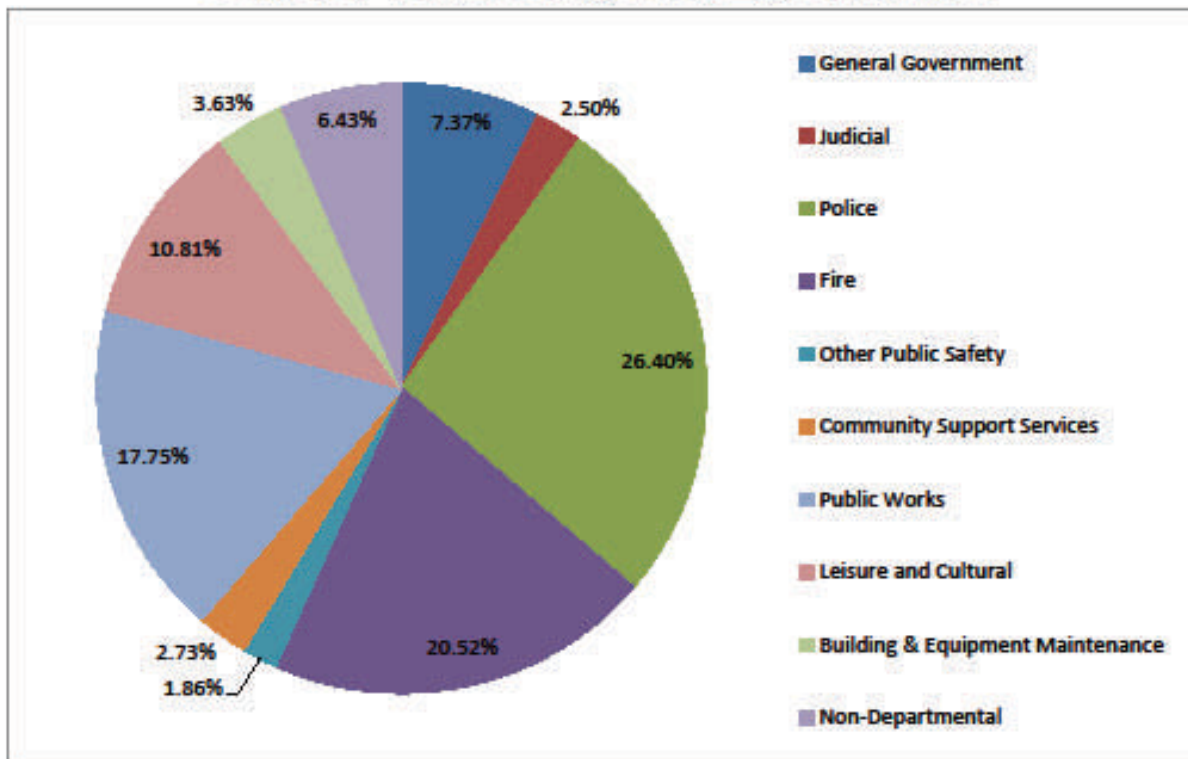
- The 2009 year showed an increase in the tax base for the City of \$88,368,108 for a total of \$1,183,423,253 in property value inside the City of Corsicana.
- The tax rate has been constant over the last 6 years at 0.6272 cents per \$100 value.
- City bond ratings have been increased. The rating agencies, Standard & Poor's and Moody's, spent a great amount of time analyzing and studying the financial data of the City. By recommending these increases they have demonstrated that the professionals in the field have confidence in the City's current financial policies and condition. The City is currently rated an A3 by Moody's and an A by Standard & Poor's.
- The City's total net assets increased by \$584,422.
- The total debt of all funds decreased from \$60,600,261 to \$59,389,597. Currently the City carries \$44,860,000 in the Utility Fund, \$751,236 in the Sanitation Fund and \$13,778,361 in the General Fund. Additional debt will be issued in 2010 for four utility projects. This represents \$2,200 per capita assuming a population of 27,000 for all debt and \$510 per capita for General Obligation debt.
- The 2009-10 budget year represents the first full year with restructured water and sewer rates. Rates were increased to meet rising debt service requirements for prior water and sewer system expansions and renovations, and rising operating cost for the utility system.



City of Corsicana General Fund Budgeted Revenues



General Fund Budgeted Expenditures



Business Improvements

- A new software program was purchased and implemented in 2009 for the Finance Department. The process covered the conversion of most financial records and Utility Billing records to a new package called STW. The new software includes tools that allow for enhanced financial reports. The conversion of the fixed assets will be completed in 2010.
- The Planning and Zoning Department started 2009 with a new software program called My Gov. The program tracks inspections, code compliance violations and work efforts. The package will streamline the processes and improve efficiency within the department.
- A new City contractor emerged in 2009. Intermedix acquired Alexander Billing and became the City's EMS billing contractor. Work continues on reporting and customer service items.



Partnership Projects

- The Texas Department of Transportation appropriated funds to reconstruct 7th Avenue from Beaton to 29th Street. The City's part of the project included securing necessary right of way for the drainage improvement. The City invested in the purchase of a drainage easement at 18th Street and 7th Avenue and property at Main Street and Town Branch. The improvements will help alleviate drainage problems that have plagued the city for years, as well as give the motorists a new surface on which to drive.
- The year 2009 also saw the completion of the west frontage road along Interstate Highway 45 between US Highway 287 and Business 45. The completion of this project represents the City of Corsicana's investment of at least \$4.5 million in the economic development initiatives started in 2000 along this corridor.
- Another partnership included the collaboration between the City and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As a result of the 2007 floods, the NRCS appropriated money with a City of Corsicana match to address erosion along Post Oak Creek. The improvements consisted of rip rap and gabion baskets placed in location to minimize erosion.
- The City partnered with the Corsicana Independent School District to apply for a Gang Activity Grant. Even though the grant was not funded, this represented the willingness of the City Police and CISD Police to join forces for a good cause.
- The City was called to service with the landfall of Hurricane Ike. Approximately 250 residents of the City of LaPorte were transported to the City of Corsicana. The evacuees were provided food and shelter by the Cornerstone Baptist Church with assistance from Navarro County and the City of Corsicana.

Community Development

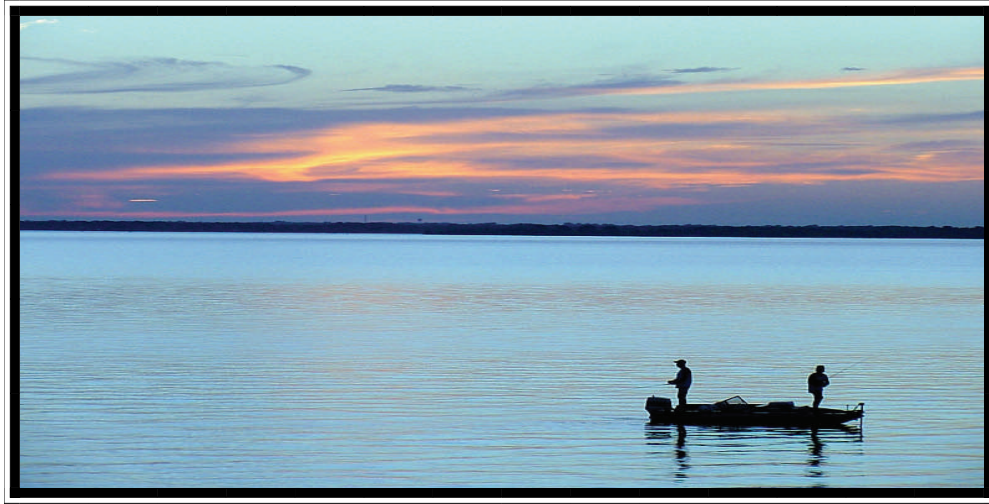
- The City of Corsicana successfully submitted and secured a grant of \$750,000 to assist in the infrastructure construction for a new location of Denny's Restaurant. This represents the City's continuing effort for economic development and job creation. Another Texas Capital Fund grant will be received for a new multi-screen movie theater and entertainment center. Cinergy Cinema began construction in January 2010. In addition, the City completed the reconstruction of 13th Avenue from Business 45 to Main Street and part of a Texas Capital Fund grant project to benefit Oil City Iron Works' expansion project. These three projects represent \$2,250,000 invested by the State of Texas and secured by the City for improvement of infrastructure to encourage economic development.
- The City Council declared the area in the vicinity of the intersection of 45th and West Highway 31 a reinvestment zone and approved an ad valorem tax freeze for the College Park Mall for a period of five years. This was targeted to incentivize more business activity in the mall area.
- The City continues to negotiate with Navarro Energy for the sale of raw water for a proposed power generating facility. The sale of water to this plant could mean revenues of \$1 million per year to the Utility Fund.
- City staff has continued to pursue the identification and processing of delinquent tax property. The purpose of the project is to insure taxes are paid and properties are accurately mapped.
- A total of \$2.2 million has been granted to the Industrial Foundation since 2004 for reinvestment in the IH 45 US 287 corridor, and this investment has created a \$31 million dollar tax increment increase.





Community Development

- The City received a Community Development Block Grant for \$350,000 for improvements to the sanitary sewer system. This represents phase three of a continuation of the replacement of a major trunk line serving the north west portion of the city. The proposed line replacement is from Commerce Street and extends 1600 feet to the east toward Business 45. The new line will be 30" which will provide a significant increase in capacity. The project is currently in the environmental review phase. Completion of this project represents \$1 million of grant money invested in the infrastructure.
- The City of Corsicana was awarded a Home Grant of \$390,000. The funding is by the Federal Housing and Urban Development through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. This money will be used for reconstruction of five single family homes for qualified residents. The City was previously awarded \$250,000 and reconstructed four homes for qualified residents. To date, over \$640,000 has been invested in residential housing. In addition, a tax credit housing development, known as Cambridge Crossing, supported by the City Council was approved and scheduled to begin construction in 2010. The City planned and implemented the Habitat for Humanity Community. It was developed combining delinquent tax lots, replatting the lots into a cul de sac configuration, constructing the street and utilities and ultimately providing nine City lots on which to conduct the community endeavors of the group of volunteers. Located on Gioia Circle, four homes have been constructed for Corsicana residents.
- Building permits issued during 2009 represented a value of \$13,052,979. This represents a \$5,000,000 increase from 2008 and indicates an increase in building activity.



Long Range Planning:

- The construction of a new 36" raw water line connecting Lake Halbert Reservoir and Richland-Chambers Reservoir was completed in 2009 at a cost of approximately \$11 million. The line was designed to allow the City to transfer up to 24 million gallons of raw water per day from Richland-Chambers Reservoir to Lake Halbert. The installation of this line will provide for increased water demands in the future.
- The existing Lake Halbert water treatment plant was constructed in 1924 and has a limited production capacity of 4 MGD. Due to the age of the plant and the need for additional capacity, as required to remain in TCEQ compliance, the decision was made to start design of a new Lake Halbert plant in 2009. Funding as necessary for plant design in the amount of \$1.935 million was obtained from the Texas Water Development Board for design of the first phase of construction. The new Lake Halbert plant will be designed for construction in three phases of 8 MGD each with a maximum treatment capacity of 24 MGD in the future. The new 36" waterline from Richland-Chambers was designed to meet future design capacity of the new Lake Halbert plant. The new plant will allow the City to meet the current and future needs of Corsicana and the projected growth area around Richland-Chambers Reservoir.
- The Water Conservation Plan was revised and updated because the old plan had conservation triggering methods that were based on a single reservoir water level for Navarro Mills Lake. The new 36" waterline was installed, connecting Richland Chambers Reservoir to Lake Halbert, thus giving the City a third source for raw water. The new conservation plan is based on the remaining total reservoir volume for all three reservoirs (Navarro Mills, Lake Halbert and Richland-Chambers) that is now available. By using the combined remaining reservoir volumes for all three reservoirs, the conservation restraints should be greatly reduced during future drought periods. All of the long range planning projects were accomplished to provide a long term reliable water sources for the citizens of Corsicana.





Fun in the City

- Major events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department include the annual summer concerts featuring the Kyle Hunt Band, the Swim Jam opening for the City pools, Hooked on Fishing Tournament, 3-on-3 Basketball Jam for Derrick Days and the annual tree plantings. The crews assisted with numerous events and gatherings in the parks and downtown throughout the year.



- The Downtown area received visits from popular celebrities this year which drew national media attention. Separate visits from the Jonas Brothers and Billy Joe Shaver to the continuously run soda fountain and Travel Channel's Samantha Brown to Black Jack's created a stir and brought increased traffic to the area. In addition, the City of Corsicana became a "Film Friendly Community" with the Texas Film Commission, registering 100 filmable sites in Corsicana with the Agency. Other events downtown sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Main Street Project were the Christmas celebration, Easter Hop, Trick or Treat, Derrick Days and the CHS pep rally.



Downtown

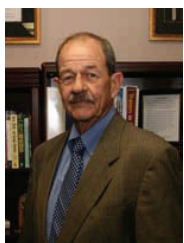
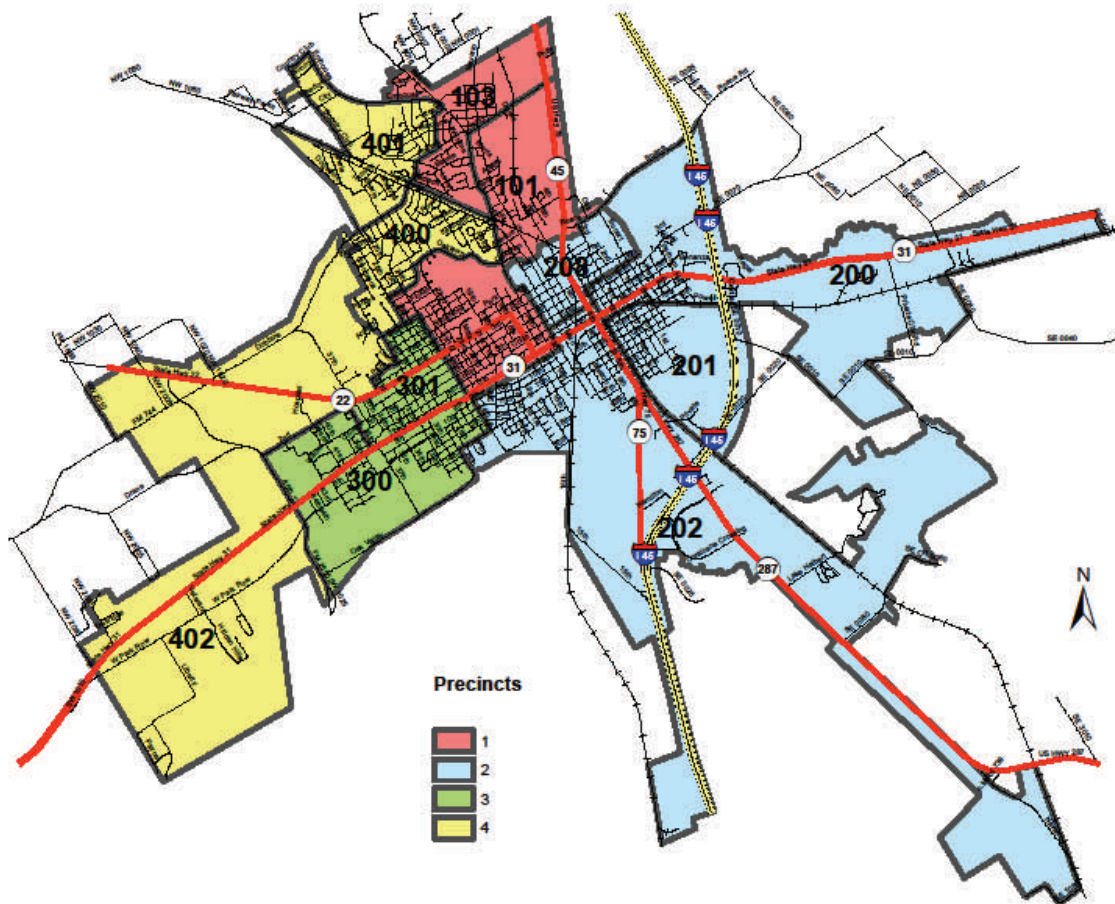
- The Mayor and City Council passed an Ordinance allowing downtown property owners to apply for tax abatement on their City ad valorem tax for any expenses associated with improvements or ongoing maintenance. In addition, they may apply for a 5-year tax freeze on their property appraisal for significant renovations. Eleven property owners took advantage of the program this year with many more expected to participate next year as the word gets out.
- The Main Street Design Committee offers several building rehab incentives: Low percentage loans offered by four local banks; Guardian Glass provides clear energy saving glass to spec for pennies; and the City of Corsicana provides free architectural and engineering design assistance. This year a small incentive grant program was established as a result of a local developer gifting the Main Street Project \$2,000 to promote good design by dedicating up to \$500 per property for sign replacement, awnings, paint, and other expenditures improving the visual impression of downtown.
- The block of brick street between Beaton and Main has been restored with new sidewalks and curbs. This represents the first complete brick street restoration ever done in the City of Corsicana.
- Corsicana Main Street recognized the need for prioritizing the reconstruction of its deteriorating infrastructure, namely the sidewalks. Local preservation groups, as well as the three Arts District groups, lobbied the City Council for the selection of Sixth Avenue as this year's block for reconstruction citing the increased evening traffic in the area as the reason. With the operation of the Palace Theatre, Warehouse Living Arts Community Theater, and Two Doors Down Coffee Shop, evening entertainment is abundant. The Warehouse Living Arts contributed \$15,000 to the project to further lift the priority of the location on the City's list. The Corsicana Preservation Foundation, Corsicana Landmark Commission, and other area downtown business & property owners supported the priority. Three blocks have been completed to date.



New Faces:

- There are many new faces at the Government Center. Corsicana is fortunate to have a new Police Chief, Randy Bratton. Since joining the City in December 2008, Randy has made an impact on the community in a number of ways. From reorganizing the Animal Shelter to improving crime statistics, Randy has hit the ground running. Randy also brought a new dog to town. The Department purchased a new K-9 partner to help in the fight against drugs.
- Another new face is in the Finance Department. Virginia Richardson was confirmed by the City Council to serve as Finance Director in May of 2009. She comes to the City of Corsicana from the City of Waxahachie where she was Assistant Finance Director. She brings with her extensive municipal and audit experience as well as Certified Public Accountant and Certified Government Finance Officer credentials.
- Mike Russell was appointed Municipal Judge on January 1, 2009 to fulfill the unexpired term of James Lagomarsino. Judge Russell was reelected in May 2009 for a two year term. Prior to being named Municipal Judge, he was a member of the Kent, Good, Anderson & Bush law firm. Since being reelected, Judge Russell has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Municipal Courts Assn. and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center.
- Some familiar faces can be seen in new positions as well. Jeff Schafer who was a fixture in the Police Department is now serving as the Human Resources Director. Jeff has mastered many new duties and is developing new skills. Paul Ward also moved from the Police Department to Planning and Zoning and Code Compliance. He has implemented new tracking software and is pursuing code violators with enthusiasm.





Mayor of Corsicana
C.L. "Buster" Brown



Precinct 1 Council Member
Tom Wilson



Precinct 2 Council Member
Ruby Williams



Precinct 3 Council Member
Stephen Andrews



Precinct 4 Council Member
George Walker

Council Mailing Address: Corsicana Government Center
200 North 12th Street
Corsicana, Texas 75110

Telephone: (903) 654-4800
Fax: (903) 654-4999

City of Corsicana Department Directors

DEPARTMENT	NAME	TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
Administration	Connie Standridge	City Manager	903-654-4803	cstandridge@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Municipal Court	Mike Russell	City Judge	903-654-4856	mrussell@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Police	Randy Bratton	Police Chief	903-654-4900	rbratton@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Fire	Donald McMullan	Fire Chief	903-654-4958	dmcmullan@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Engineering	Elizabeth Borstad	City Engineer	903-654-4891	eborstad@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Environmental Services	Larry Murray	Director	903-654-4889	lmurray@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Parks & Recreation	Sharla Allen	Director	903-654-4879	sallen@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Financial Services	Virginia Richardson	Director	903-654-4975	grichardson@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Library	Chad Freeze	Director	903-654-4810	cfreeze@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Main Street	Malinda Veldman	Director	903-654-4851	mainst@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Public Works	Ron Lynch	Director	903-654-4878	ron_lynch@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Planning & Zoning	Paul Ward	Director	903-654-4872	pward@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Human Resources	Jeff Schafer	Director	903-654-4822	jschafer@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Tourism & Promotions	Steve Dieterichs	Coordinator	903-654-4851	sdieterichs@ci.corsicana.tx.us
Economic Development	Lee McCleary	Director	903-654-4806	lmccleary@ci.corsicana.tx.us

City of Corsicana Boards and Commissions

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Planning & Zoning Commission * Parks & Recreation Commission * Housing Authority Commission * Library Board * Board of Adjustments * Electrical Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * City County Health Department Board * Corsicana Landmark Commission * TIF Board * Airport Advisory Board * Civil Service Commission * Building, Plumbing and Mechanical Appeals and Advisory Board |
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City of Corsicana

200 North 12th Street

Corsicana, Texas 75110

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