



September 4, 2013

Dear Citizens:

No doubt you have seen in the local media that the City is struggling to prepare the budget. As of the last budget work session, the budget is balanced and moving forward. With all of this discussion, please don't think that planning and work has stopped on the 2007 Street Bond Program. Utility work is nearly complete on Collin Street. You will soon see major street work begin. There have been questions asked as to why Collin Street is the first project. There is a reason. Collin is the location of a major drainage way for a large portion of the area. Good engineering practice is to start downstream and improve the drainage and then move upstream. This is exactly why TxDOT started the 7th Avenue reconstruction at 18th Street. Thus, 24th Street should not be constructed until the drainage work on Collin is completed.

In the past, some utilities were placed in the roadway. This causes a long-term problem when the water line leaks or the sewer line collapses. In order to avoid this issue, projects are underway to relocate utilities before the roads are reconstructed. Utility work is underway on Dobbins Road. Utility work is planned and funded on 24th Street. This work will start soon. By the time the City is able to issue more debt, these streets will have the water and sewer lines moved and ready for construction.

Plans for the reconstruction of Roane Road are nearly complete and right of way is being acquired for future construction. Plans are also being developed for South 15th Street.

The City is going full speed ahead to prepare for the next projects. All of this is to avoid a tax increase to keep the City tax rate low. Corsicana's City tax rate is one of the lowest compared to cities of similar size. The Council is working to keep it that way. This strategy was outlined in the 2007 Bond election to build the streets without a tax increase. If that thought has changed and you, the citizens, would like to see more streets constructed in a shorter time period, please contact your Council Member and share your ideas about the idea of a tax increase. An increase in tax does impact the ability to attract and retain businesses. The tax rate is one of the main considerations for new businesses that may consider Navarro County for relocation or expansion.

I hope this information is helpful in explaining the process of our street reconstruction projects.

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor