

September 1, 2015

Dear Citizens:

It's time for school again and that means the summer is coming to an end and cooler weather is just around the corner. I hope everyone had a good summer. I would like to keep you posted with updates from my last newsletter.

I am happy to report that we were able to lower our tax rate just slightly to \$0.371529/\$100 for 2015. This will generate about the same amount of tax revenue as we did in 2014. Our Sales tax for 2014 improved from last year and we anticipate an even better year in 2015. The Council also decided to raise the over 65 Exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000. This means the tax payers in Orchard over the age of 65 will now enjoy an additional tax break on their city tax. We have made several improvements at our Town Center. Most of the outside areas have been painted and cleaned up including all the entrance areas. We are also remodeling our City office inside and will be expanding the space as well and extending our office hours. We hope to have our new office facilities ready by the end of the year. Starting in September we will be open from 8AM to 2PM Monday Through Friday. We are in the process of replacing the old Town Center sign with a new one, it will look similar to the bulletin board sign at the corner of Galveston and Missouri Street. We also have a major road project approved and should be started about the time you get this newsletter. We will completely resurface Missouri Street from Hwy 36 going south. The road is in need of repair and we have negotiated a good price for the material with the County. I ask for your patience while the work is being done, there may be some slight inconvenience but will be worth it. We will also be doing some work on drainage this year, we asked the County for a new drainage profile and there are some areas we can make some minor improvements. We will be checking for areas where culverts are holding back water. In most cases we will just have them cleaned but we may also be replacing some culverts. There is a lot going on this year and your council has been very busy. Don't forget to use the city Information line "832-390-0910" for updates and issues that may impact the city. We have a new web site and while it is not completely updated, we are making great progress. The city agenda, minutes, ordinances and information on permits are all on the web site. The web site is at [www.orchardtexas.org](http://www.orchardtexas.org)

I have been contacted by Fort Bend County to discuss plans for finally getting a full time Paramedic in Orchard. We are currently in discussion on where it will be located in town. This will be great for Orchard and I was told it will reduce response time from 12 to 15 min to about 2 to 3 min. This has been discussed for a few years now but it appears that it is finally moving forward and should be in place early next year.

This newsletter is an attempt to keep everyone posted on some of the projects and activities the city is involved in. Please feel free to call me or any of the council members to learn about other activities the city is working on. Our objective is to continue improvements to our city services, facilities and to the quality and safety of our city.

Rod Pavlock, Mayor  
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