

WEST U ESSENTIALS MAGAZINE – JULY 2019

WEST UNIVERSITY MAYOR INSIGHTS

Right out of the gate, charting a new course for West U

By Mayor Bob Higley

Some might think that, with an uncontested election, West University's City Council candidates would have just waited until their official term began on June 1 to take their seats and get started. Not this group.

Each member met with the city manager multiple times between March and the end of May to establish a rapport and to learn more about city operations as decision-makers rather than as candidates.

Additionally, these new councilmembers did not wait until June 10 to hold their first official meeting. They chose to meet for three days — June 1-3 —to work together on an ambitious goal-setting and strategic visioning project for the city.

The City Council members' dedication to their new roles and responsibilities is truly impressive, and, between their holding one-on-one meetings with the city manager, talking to residents, and completing this visioning process, these new councilmembers had more than 40 hours already on the clock by the time their first regular council meeting was held on June 10.

What did the community receive from all this initial City Council work? We now are operating with a strategic vision plan for the city, which includes a 15-year outlook of where we want to be. Simply put: We want our city to be recognized as the "best suburban community" in the nation and a "best place to live."

In order to plan 15 years down the road, an action agenda was also established that lays out specific priorities for the City Council and city management for each upcoming year, coupled with a five-year work plan that will be revisited and updated each year.

Due to space constraints, I cannot provide all of the action agenda information here, but a few of the priorities for this City Council include reviewing the Harris County Flood Control District's reconstruction plans for Poor Farm Ditch, completing the design for drainage improvements along Buffalo Speedway, implementing Phase I of the Virtual Gate project for public safety, reviewing the zoning code and its enforcement, and finalizing a crime trend analysis and Safe Community Action Plan.

To learn more about our vision and priorities for our community, please visit our website at www.westutx.gov.

Once again, I am proud of the City Council's hard work over the last few weeks, and I am excited for what the future will bring!

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