

## **City Council's Vision & Goals for the Next Year and Beyond**

By Mayor Susan Sample

At our meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>, your City Council voted to formally adopt our goals for the City for the next year. This vote followed many nights of discussion during the strategic visioning process regarding those issues that prompted many of us to become involved in public service, as well as those topics that our friends and neighbors had brought to our attention during the campaign earlier this year. Identifying priorities will ensure that the City is able to devote the funding, resources, and attention to those issues that are most pressing for residents, and most vital for our community's continued success. While we covered a wide variety of topics that affect life in West U, there were trends among those issues we prioritized.

Firstly, this Council underscored its commitment to long-term planning for the future of our city. We committed to completing a Master Plan for City Facilities, which will identify the functions and final locations of municipal buildings, supporting the continued development of the West U community in the decades to come.

In addition, Council adopted goals to address drainage issues in West U. This includes identifying the next steps required to implement needed improvements to Poor Farm Ditch, the drainage channel that runs through the middle of the city parallel to Edloe Street. Poor Farm Ditch is one of the oldest drainage channels in Harris County, and this Council has committed to working alongside Southside Place and the County to address the replacement of the channel in a way that mitigates impacts on neighbors while ensuring the system works properly.

Finally, Council established West U's first Sustainability Task Force. This advisory body will confer for six months, identifying opportunities to build on West U's history of environmental stewardship by recommending additional sustainable practices in our community. We look forward to receiving the task force's report in spring of 2022.

The full list of policy issues adopted by Council as priorities are:

### **Top Priority**

- City Facilities Master Plan – Future Upgrades/Replacement
- Intergovernmental Partnerships: Review, Opportunities and Direction
- Poor Farm Ditch Improvements/Public Use: Evaluation and Direction
- Stormwater Detention Property Availability: Direction
- Bond Proposal and Election in 2022: Direction and Preparation

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## **High Priority**

- Sustainability Task Force: Direction, Report and Action Plan
- Community Engagement Strategy: Direction and City Actions
- City Government Transparency: Recommendations, Direction and City Actions
- Non-Profit Organizations: Contract Review, Future Funding and Accountability
- Community Greenspaces/Greenways Expansion: Policy, Plan and Funding
- Senior Services: Review, Direction, City Actions and Funding

In addition, Council adopted goals for the City's operations, such as evaluating revenue options to continue to fund West U's high level of service for residents, as well as continued improvements to the City's communications efforts. Altogether, these goals represent a commitment by City Council and staff to address the long and short-term needs of residents, and uphold our vital quality of life in West U.

For more information, as well as the complete list of policy goals, management goals, and other initiatives taking place over the next year, please visit: [www.westutx.gov/goals](http://www.westutx.gov/goals) .