



City of Saint Hedwig

Mayor's Message

May 9, 2024

The city faces many new challenges that it has never encountered before. We have had the good fortune to exist quietly “off the beaten track” for many years, but as all changes do, change has come to us.

It is the responsibility of the those you elect and appoint to represent your wishes and directions, which may require sometimes weighing those desires against the restrictions of state legislation, federal government rules, and outside legal opposition. While the Council believes that the overwhelming majority of residents of Saint Hedwig would prefer to live in the quiet serenity of our rural heritage, it also recognizes that it has to balance that against outside pressures and ever-increasing restrictions to maintaining a rural setting. The Texas legislature has made it clear that it intends to continue to limit the ability of local municipalities to carve their own destiny and maintain control over their environment. Developers with deep pockets are intently eyeing our farm fields and ranch land for opportunities to cash in on the urban sprawl that San Antonio is now experiencing.

Unless directed otherwise by our constituents, the council will continue to defend against land entrepreneurs and commercial interests that are detrimental to our foundation. That is not to say the city is anti-development or anti-growth. It is to say that we believe we, not outside influences, should dictate and control our growth, so that future progress happens in a measured, appropriate, and symbiotic way, consistent with the city’s master plan to remain a rural community.

And we are vigilant in the struggle against our city being taken advantage of. A Special Use District’s treatment plant coming into our extra territorial jurisdiction against our wishes and building a waste plant to service communities outside of our city and distribute their waste in our land areas was devastating. Communication companies attempting to place cell towers in the middle of our historic district, unconcerned about the effects on our community is disappointing. And daily we talk to builders who seem surprised that we have building, zoning, or subdivisions rules that they must abide by. It is one thing to work collaboratively to achieve future growth, it is another to have it forced upon us contrary to the community’s wishes and welfare.

That is not to say we are able to prevail against all odds. Again, state, and federal rules, as well as deep pockets of special interests that can easily bankrupt a small city like ours can circumvent and override what the community “wants,” as evidenced by the GVSUD Wastewater treatment plant now being built despite all our legal efforts.

So, what’s my point here – it is simply to inform our community about the challenges the city is facing and the efforts we are making to maintain the rural milieu of Saint Hedwig. And it is to invite you to continue (or start) working with your elected representatives to understand the process and make known your opinions, your wishes and your concerns. We represent you, we work for you, and we will continue to do everything we can, within the law, to speak for your interests and be good stewards of the taxes you pay.

Mayor Dee Grimm RN, JD

Municipal Court Judge
City of Saint Hedwig