

City Administrator's Report



To: Mayor Alexander & City Council
CC: Staff
From: R. Scott Dixon, City Administrator
Date: October 08, 2025
Re: City Administrator's Report

Mayor and Council,

As always, there are many irons in the fire and lots happening in our wonderful Castroville! The items listed below are in no particular order and only cover some of the issues that have been inquired about or that council has requested to be kept up to date on. If you have any questions about any of these items or there are other things that you would like for me to report on, please let me know.

Drainage Projects

The Geneva Street drainage channel continues to make progress. Staff will be doing compaction and installing erosion controls over the coming weeks. Staff met with Councilman King and representatives from Lochner to discuss the scope of the Garza Creek channel improvements. Following Mayor Alexander's comments and other concerns that were raised by the council, staff is exploring methods that reduce the need for easements by limiting the project to the immediate area around the bridge. Lochner is preparing an updated design estimate based on our meeting. Staff will provide an update and possible council action at the October 28th meeting.

BMA Trail Access

Staff continues to have conversations with the BMA. The Parks Board Advisory Committee Chair – Adriana Calk will be attending the BMA Board meeting next week to convey the City's desires for a continued relationship. Staff plans to present to the BMA Board at their November meeting.

Streets Improvement Plan

The October 14th council agenda includes council action to approve a city-wide pavement assessment. This is the first step in the process to develop and address our street maintenance

plan. As shared previously, we are using the same consultants and processes that Hondo has used with considerable success.

CPSE Dispute

No Change. Staff is working to schedule a meeting with CPSE CEO, Rudy Garza, no date has been established. Staff was informed that the outside counsel that CPSE had been using to negotiate our disputed items has accepted a position with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). Castroville's outside counsel – Tom Anson, has contacted CPSE's inside counsel, Gabriel Garcia, to arrange a meeting with the attorney(s) that will be assigned our case. No date has been set but staff views these communications as positive developments that may lead to renewed discussions in the near future.

WWTP Pond Closure

No Change. Staff recently met with Councilman King to discuss the pond closures. The growth of some weedy vegetation has slowed the evaporation of the east pond. Staff will be working to empty the pond over the next couple of weeks. TxDOT has communicated that they will have significant spoils to deliver in October/ November which may be sufficient to finish this project. Staff will be creating a small berm at the northern end of the existing pond to allow for seasonal ponding. Our streets and drainage crew are prioritizing the Geneva drainage channel and other Athens-area work, so the timeline for this project is not certain.

Community Center at Regional Park

Unfortunately, the current U.S. Government shut down has resulted in a significant delay in payment to the City's contractors on the Community Center project. Staff made every effort to secure payment of the August invoices prior to the shut down but the USDA failed to transfer the required funds prior to October 1st. Staff has continued to be in communication with both the USDA and our contractors. The project is still on schedule to be completed by mid January.

Lion's Park Splash Pad

Staff met with Councilman King at the splash pad and conducted water flow and drainage tests. At Mr. King's recommendation, staff is working with the splashpad contractor – Advanced Aquatics to conduct additional site assessments including camera capture of the water and sewer lines.

County Streets Plan

The County continues to work on a draft Interlocal Agreement. City staff has begun working with County staff to estimate project scope and costs.

Facilitated Council Workshop

Following council direction, staff is working to secure a facilitator for a council workshop to establish the council's goals and objectives. The City Administrator will seek council's confirmation of this directive at the October 14th meeting.

Staffing Changes: tourism & Marketing and Gas Operations

Following Javier's resignation, staff has posted both a supervisor and technician position and received a number of qualified applicants. Staff will be interviewing and hopefully hiring, new gas employees in the coming weeks. Sadly, staff also received a letter of resignation from our Tourism and Marketing Director who has accepted a similar position in another City. Ordinarily, we would immediately post the position for hire. However, given some of the discussion that was had regarding this position during the budget workshops, staff will seek council's direction prior to doing so.

There is a lot going on in the City of Castroville! If I have left anything out of this report, it was not intentional. **If there is anything else that is of particular concern to you, please let me know so that I can include it on a future report.** As always, my door is open should you have need to speak with me. It is my pleasure to serve the people of Castroville.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Dixon".

R. Scott Dixon, MPA

City Administrator, Castroville, TX