



“HOMETOWN WITH A HEART”

Fall 2006

Volume 14, Issue 1

HOMETOWN *Link*

New Firestation



The Tomball Fire Dept. is pleased to announce the opening of its Southside Fire Station, located at 11675 Holderrieth, across the street from Houston Polybag. The station will serve eastern and southern portions of the Department’s response district. The 7,500-foot building is home to an engine, tanker and a brush truck.

It is anticipated that the station will be manned by three part-time paid firefighters during daytime hours and by volunteers during remaining periods.

The station will accommodate both male and female firefighters and has limited office space.

The building was constructed with a fire sprinkler for additional safety, has its own backup power system, and was built to withstand 115 mph

winds. Carl Joiner Partnership, Architects designed the building and it was constructed by Thomas E. Rack Company. The Fire Department is looking forward to a “Grand Opening” in late September.

New Meters!

The Utility Department has implemented a new Meter Replacement Program which involves the installation of the Automatic Meter Reading System (AMR) for water and gas meters. With automation, manual reading, writing and keyboarding errors are eliminated. Meter-reading time is also reduced. Within the last month, the Water and Gas Department has installed approximately 760 new AMR meters.



Department Phone

Numbers

City Hall

281-351-5484

Community Center

281-255-6221

Fire Department

281-351-7101

Police Department

281-351-5451

Public Works

281-290-1400

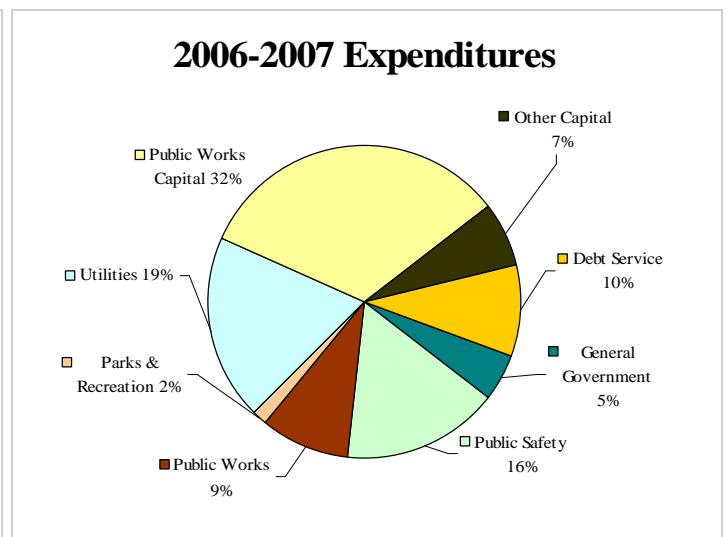
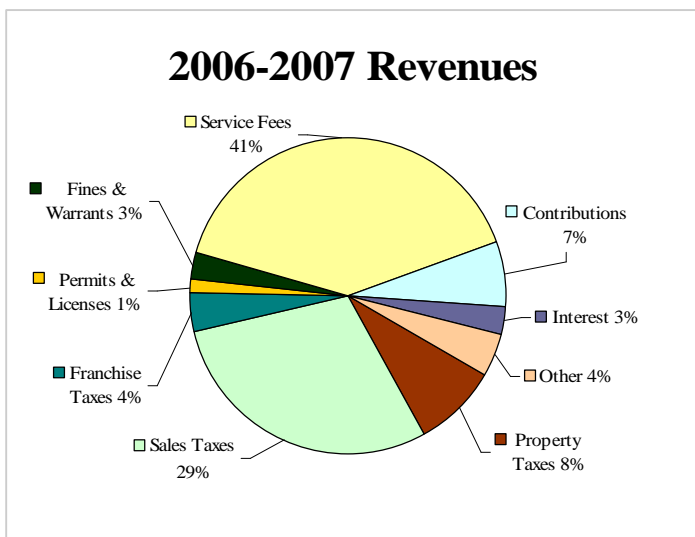
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City of Tomball Prepares for a New Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget

City Council prepared the budget based on two major goals, to keep the property tax burden low and to provide the highest possible service. Adoption of the proposed budget is scheduled for September 5, 2006.

Proposed Budget	\$ 40,237,532	vs.	Current Budget	\$ 40,744,034
General Fund Budget	\$ 23,865,622	vs.	Current General Fund Budget	\$ 21,082,926
Enterprise Fund Budget	\$ 12,027,364	vs.	Current Enterprise Fund Budget	\$ 15,701,199
Total Capital Projects	\$ 14,535,885	vs.	Current Capital Projects	\$ 18,706,285



Major Capital Items and Projects Completed 2005-2006



Road and Utility Improvements

Asphalt Overlay - various streets

Foster Street - water, sewer, gas, and asphalt paving from Willow to cul-de-sac.

Lizzie Lane Extension - new asphalt roadway, utilities and drainage.

F.M 2920 Utilities Extension from Calvert Road to Tomball Cemetery Road.

Southside Utilities along Holderrieth Road to Hufsmith-Kohrville and extensions from Theis Lane along S.H 249 to Holderrieth Road.



Changes in Utility Rates

The City’s Fiscal Year and new budget start October 1, 2006. Effective October 1st, the City will be implementing new utility rates in order to recoup the increased costs of operations, including fuel, energy and construction costs. Water and sewer rates will increase by 5%, garbage rates by 5.8% and natural gas will be at the current market rate. The city had a fixed contract rate for natural gas for the previous three years, but with the increased prices of oil and natural gas, we have not been able to lock in at a below market rate for the remainder of 2006 and 2007.

The chart below shows the impact on the **average** utility bill. By taking totals for a year and dividing by 12, this averages for seasonal differences. Sewer rates are based on your average usage between November and February of the previous year, when water usage is normally at its lowest.

	Current Average Residential Bill	Annualized Average Proposed Bill	Difference In Dollars
Garbage	\$ 12.94	\$ 13.69	\$.75
Water	33.56	35.24	1.68
HCRWA	2.36	3.35	.99
Wastewater	18.77	19.71	.94
Gas	33.13	50.15	17.03
Total	\$ 100.76	\$ 122.15	\$ 21.39

Utility Customer Options

Senior Citizen and Disabled Program

The City of Tomball is aware of the fixed income status of our Senior Citizens that are over 65, and our citizens who are disabled. Because the majority of these citizens receive their income after the billing due date, the City may dismiss, at their discretion, the late penalties for the current billing cycle. A copy of your Texas Driver’s License or Texas Identification Card will be required. For the disabled, a copy of your papers from Social Security showing the disability status is needed on file in the Utilities Department. Please see one of the clerks at Public Works for more information.

Average Monthly Payment Plan

The Average Monthly Payment (AMP) Plan is designed so that the program will average your bills over a twelve (12) month period. In order to qualify for enrollment, you must have lived at your service address for at least twelve billing cycles. Please see one of the clerks at Public Works for more information.

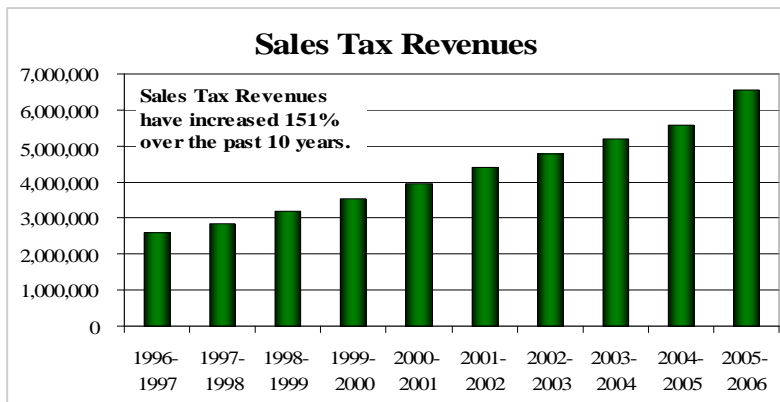
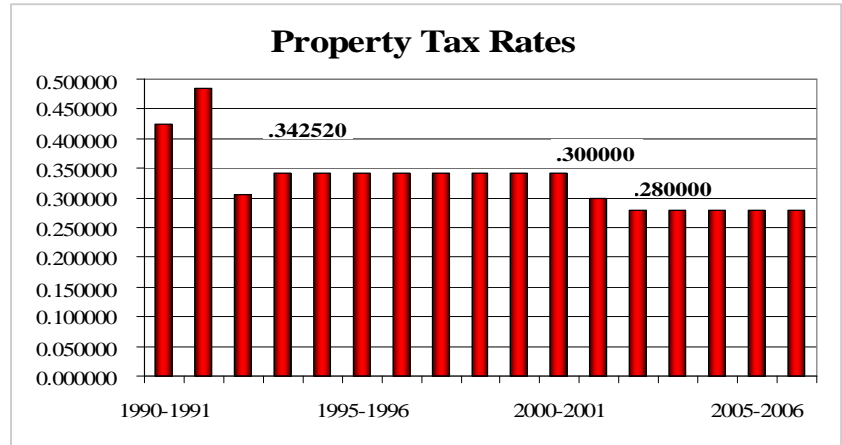
Automatic Draft

Customers may elect to have their utility bill payments automatically drafted out of their bank account.

Taxes

Property Tax Rates

Property tax rates will remain at \$0.28 per \$100 of valuation. This Property Tax Rate has been in effect since the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year. The City has been able to keep the Property Taxes down because of the revenues received from taxable retail sales within the Tomball city limits.



Sales Tax Revenues

In 1991, taxpayers voted to reduce property taxes by increasing the sales tax rate by one-half cent. This change became effective in December 1991. Over the past ten years, sales tax revenues have increased 151% from \$2,612,611 to \$6,555,372. This reflects strong economic growth and is the primary reason that the City's Property Tax rate is so low.

Service Flags to Support our Troops

City Council likes to honor our Tomball area service men and women currently deployed in the war against terrorism, a blue star flag is presented to their families. The blue star flag is designed to hang in a front window of the family home.

Service Men and Women honored at recent council meetings:

- David White, 1st class Petty officer in the United States Navy
- Staff Sergeant Anderson, U.S. Air Force Unit 723
- Amanda Carver, 32d Battalion, Army
- Richard Risner, 1st Division Marine Corps
- Eric McCain. Lance Corporal in the U. S. Marines.
- Dennis John Lees, E-2, Medical Corpsman, United States Navy.

If you have an immediate family member serving in the armed forces who is a graduate from a Tomball school or is a Tomball resident and you wish to have them honored at an upcoming City Council meeting, please call 281-290-1002 to speak to Doris Speer for more information.



Recyclable Waste & E-Waste Collection Event



When: Saturday,
September 30, 2006

Time: 9 a.m. till Noon

Where: Tomball Community College
30555 Tomball Parkway
Tomball, Texas 77375

Who can Participate:
Residents from Tomball, Harris
County, and surrounding Areas

For More Information please Call
281-351-5484



Acceptable Items Include:

BOPA Waste

- Batteries
- Oil
- Paint
- Antifreeze

Recyclables

- Print Cartridges
- Cell Phones
- Automobile Tires
(5 per Household)

Electronic Waste

Televisions, Computer Monitors, Whole CPUs, Laptop Computers, Printers & Scanners Fax Machines, Telephones, Stereos, VCR's

What NOT TO BRING?

Business Waste, Radioactive Waste, Ammunition, Explosives, Compressed gas Cylinders, smoke detectors, Microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, tractor tires, trash

SAFETY TIPS!

- Bring product in original containers (do not mix products)
- Make sure containers are properly sealed and labeled
- If you don't know what it is mark it "unknown"
- If possible, place materials in cardboard boxes
- Place materials in area away from drivers and passengers
- When you come to drop off Waste DO NOT get out of your vehicle

City of Tomball
401 Market Street
Tomball, Texas 77375
www.ci.tomball.tx.us



Project funded through a grant provided by Houston-Galveston Area Council and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



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Mayor & City Council

H.G. "Hap" Harrington

Mayor

Gretchen Fagan

Mayor Pro-Tem, Position 3

David R. Quinn

Councilmember, Position 1

Roy Lazenby

Councilmember, Position 2

Mary Harvey

Councilmember, Position 4

Warren Driver

Councilmember, Position 5



Mission

To promote a healthy and safe environment of increasingly higher quality of life for all citizens, with sensitivity to the financial burden it may impose