

City Business
by Michael Leamons

Progress is being made on several fronts. This year's paving projects, courtesy of Express Paving of Tolar, should be completed this week. In addition to the work around the Poplar Court Subdivision and down Pecan Street, Express Paving has filled the cracks and is scheduled to put two applications of seal coat on the hike and bike trail.

At its June 13th meeting, the City Council awarded Fambro Construction of Stephenville a \$55,420 contract to install a 1,600' wastewater main from Highway 6 to the intersection of Old Iredell Road and Poplar. The line will tie into the sewer main described in the next paragraph. Construction should begin soon.

Previously, the Council awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded contract to Whitney Underground Utilities for \$214,005 for the construction of a wastewater main from the lift station next to Highway 6 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A pre-construction contract is being scheduled by KSA Engineering, after which the project will commence. The total project budget is \$279,000 (which includes construction, engineering and grant administration costs) with \$250,000 in grant funding and a \$29,000 local contribution. The project will result in the elimination of the previously mentioned lift station (no more monthly electric bills or pump maintenance and replacement expenses) and will involve the installation of 1,000' of 8" sewer line, 2,650' of 12" sewer line, a bore under Highway 6 and a small amount of street repair.

The initial junked vehicle sweep has been completed. During that sweep, residents made staff aware of an additional 5 vehicles which appear to qualify as "junked" vehicles. As a follow up, the owner's of those vehicles, too, will be asked to come into compliance with the City's Junked Vehicle Ordinance.

With the full support of the Council, staff will now begin to encourage citizens to repair or tear down dilapidated structures. The focus will be on dilapidated sheds, garages and other auxiliary structures. There are a few dilapidated, unoccupied houses which will also come under scrutiny. In addition to being eye-sores, these structures can pose threats to public health and safety. In a few instances, it looks like a good wind would knock them over, while in other instances the structures appear to be ideal habitat for rodents and other vermin. If you would like to volunteer to help with the repair or demolition work, please let me know, and I will work to connect you with someone who might need a hand.

May God bless the City of Hico.