

City of Tool Newsletter

September 2021



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Election Ballot Order

Nov. 02, 2021

Office of Mayor

1. Tawnya Austin
2. Tommy Lawhon

Office of City Council

1. Mitzi Storey
2. Michael Fladmark

Candidates for office of City Council are unopposed.

What's New?

In two special called August meetings, Tool City Council approves a replat and right of way abandonment for the Miller's of M&M BBQ, passed a resolution formally dedicating the new city park area (behind city hall) as park land, reviewed preliminary design and layout for new City Hall Building, had general discussion on how to use COVID relief funds received from the American Rescue Act, adopted budget and tax rate for the 21/22 fiscal year and ordered the November 2021 General Election for the purpose of electing one Mayor and two City Council Member each for a term of two years.

Overview

Admin

- 94% - Budgeted Revenue Collection
- 66% - Budgeted Expenditure

Police

- 97 – Monthly Calls for Service
- 1,298 – Year to Date Calls for Service

Building Department

- \$719,895 - Total Monthly Construction Valuation
- \$8,496,393 – Year to Date Construction Valuation

Code Enforcement

- 21 Opened Cases / Annual Total – 197 Cases
- 28 Closed Cases / Annual Total – 148 Cases

Maintenance

- 4 – Monthly Work Order
- 52 – YTD Work Orders

Animal Control

- 14 – Monthly Calls for Service
- 162 – Year to Date

Municipal Court

- \$167,172 – YTD Assessed
- \$114,912 – YTD Collected

Grant

Texas Parks & Wildlife

Amount:

\$1,500,000

Match:

50/50

Completion Deadline

2024

Park Progress

The Park Engineers have been hard at work performing Boundary and Topographic surveys!

Meanwhile the City has been participating in grant management webinars and checking off compliance boxes!

Next steps:

- Pre-Construction Requirements
- Contracts
- Plans, Specs and As-built
- Procurement & Permits
- Groundbreaking

Park Gala Fundraiser

Register / Donate Here: birdease.com/The8atTool

When: October 9, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Registration at 5:30)

Where: Cedar Creek Country Club; 18392 Country Club Dr. Kemp TX

- Per Ticket Cost: \$100
- Per Table Cost: \$750 (10 per table)

Ticket includes dinner and two drink tickets and access to silent & live auction.

To register or donate go to: birdease.com/The8atTool

Sponsorship Opportunities

\$100	Engraved Memorial Brick
\$700	Tree
\$1,500	Park Bench
\$2,500	Picnic Table
\$5,00	Volleyball Pit
\$17,500	Botanical Garden
\$30K	Dog Park
\$35K	Fishing Pond
\$50K	Mural Wall
\$150K	Splash Pad / Amphitheater

Senior Housing Development - Update

The rain has subsided, the ground is firm, and construction is under way!

Currently Under Construction

- Retention Pond
- Road Access

Tax Rate History

2016	\$0.460694
2017	\$0.460359
2018	\$0.490160
2019	\$0.465434
2020	\$0.436092
2021	\$0.411299

2021-2022 Budget News

- Budget Amount
- Adopted tax rate - **\$0.411299** per \$100 valuation has been adopted by the governing body of City of Tool.

TAXES OWED CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

- Budget & financial information can be found at www.tooltexas.org/budget.

*** THIS IS THE LOWEST CITY TAX RATE IN 14 YEARS***

Employee Spotlight

Debbie Arender: Debbie has been with the City of Tool since May of 2014 and earned her Advanced Telecommunicator License last month and is working towards her Master License with hopes to complete before the end of the year.

Chris Watson: Chris started with the City of Tool as a Reserve Peace Officer in October of 2019, came aboard fulltime in December of 2020, and recently earned his Advanced Peace Officer License through TCOLE.

Jeremy Lyons: Jeremy is celebrating his fifth year with the city this month and in this time has obtained certifications for Code Enforcement basic and level two. More recently Jeremy has achieved the status of a Certified Residential Inspector, Certified Mechanical Inspector, and a Certified Electrical Inspector. Jeremy also serves as the City's Building Official and Floodplain Administrator.

DISPATCHER

DEBBIE ARENDER

POLICE OFFICER

CHRIS WATSON

BUILDING / CODE

JEREMY LYONS

Other Staff News

Welcome

- **Ashley Reed** – Comes to us from Henderson County Sheriff's office. She is a certified police officer and has two years of experience. Ashley has not only performed the duties of a police officer, but she has also served as an animal control deputy with the Henderson County Sheriff's office. Crystal has two daughters that are active in sports and Ashley is as equally active as her daughters.
- **Crystal Howard** – Comes to us from Smith County Sheriff's office. She is a certified telecommunicator and has two years of experience. Crystal has also served with the city of Levelland Police Department as a telecommunicator, as well as an animal control officer. Crystal has a son and two daughters that she is very active with. Crystal enjoys working however, she would rather be fishing.
- **Cheryl Odom** – Cheryl has served as the City's Clerk since June of this year. Cheryl came to us from a twenty-year long career as a business manager at Dr. Lisa Jones Veterinary Clinic. Cheryl is efficient, solution driven and self-motivated which made her an excellent candidate for promotion to City Secretary.

Oh hey,
we're hiring!



Come Join our Team

- City Clerk
- Court Clerk

More Info Here

www.tooltexas.org/jobs

Birthdays

Frank Martin	Sep 02	(Maintenance Super)
Makenzie Lyons	Sep 16	(City Administrator)
Summer Harrison	Sep 26	(Council Member)

Anniversaries

Jeremy Lyons	5 Years	(Building & Code)
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Sep 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Upcoming Events

Garden Club Meeting	Sep 02
Labor Day (Closed)	Sep 06
Regular Council Meeting	Sep 16
Chair Yoga	Every Saturday
Park Gala Fundraiser	Oct 09
Meet the Candidate	Oct 14
First day of Early Voting	Oct 19
Regular Meeting	Oct 21
Last Day of Early Voting	Oct 30
Election Day	Nov 02
Veterans Day (Closed)	Nov 11
13th Annual Fall Festival	Nov 13
Thanksgiving (Closed)	Nov 25 & 26

Oct 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Nov 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Complete event details here:
<https://www.tooltexas.org/events/>

Grins & Giggles:

What do you call a deer with only one eye?

A: I have no eye deer!

Want to be featured in our next edition of "Grins & Giggles"? Submit your joke to: contact@tooltexas.org and if you are chosen, you'll appear in our next edition.