



What's In The Works

City of Belton Public Works Department

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Belton Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Ballot Issues

Turning on the tap or flushing the toilet is as simple as turning a knob or pushing a handle. What you don't see is the vast infrastructure — 120 miles of water pipe and 130 miles of sewer line — that takes over from there. These systems have worked silently for years, in some cases more than a century, without major interruptions, but now they need your attention. Your investment is needed to keep infrastructure functional for current and future generations.



To respond to this need, the Mayor appointed a task force in April 2012 made up of citizens, employees and

councilmembers to tackle the challenges associated with funding necessary water and wastewater improvements. That task force provided a set of recommendations to the Mayor and Council in September 2012 that were based on master plans of capital improvements needed and complementary studies conducted since 2005. The recommendations included ways to operate more efficiently and reduce water consumption.

The task force also

recommended Belton have an alternative and/or redundant water source. Currently, Belton's water comes from Kansas City, Missouri's water system.

The recommendations also included practical ways to fund the improvements needed which include three questions for voters on the April 2013 ballot. The ballot questions propose a Use Tax and the issuance of bonds for both water and sewer improvements. All three issues require a simple majority vote for approval.

Problems to be addressed:

The task force identified the following problems to be addressed:

- Because of the aging infrastructure, Belton has experienced more frequent water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows and increasing operating costs.
- Inadequate water pressure from fire hydrants makes fire response more difficult which is a public safety concern and could result in higher insurance rates for property owners over the next ten years.

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Belton Tap Water is Cheaper, Safer, and Greener than Bottled Water...Do the Research

Tap water is cheap and in fact many times cheaper than bottled water. Tap water is held to strict testing requirements not required of bottled water. And tap water is more environmentally responsible. Just to get you started, look online at National Geographic (Green Living) which states "In 1976 Americans drank an average of 1.6 gallons of bottled water every year. Roughly 30 years later consumption increased to 30 gallons per person, according to the Earth Policy Institute --- despite the fact that bottled water can cost anywhere from 240 to 10,000 times more than tap water, which is brought right to your home for pennies a gallon. Bottled water also creates its own share of pollution --- the production of plastic bottles requires millions of barrels of oil per year and the transportation of bottled water from its source to stores releases thousands of tons of carbon dioxide."

Emergency Snow Routes

In the fall of 2012, working closely with the Police Department, the Transportation Division updated the existing emergency snow route ordinance. The ordinance was last updated in 1979. Staff is in the process of installing signs along the routes. For more information please visit the City's website at www.belton.org or contact the Transportation Division at 816-331-9455.

- Just like other communities across the country, federal clean water regulations are becoming more stringent which means higher costs for rate payers.

Water System Improvements:

The proposed water bond issue is for \$13,925,000. It will fund the following improvements:

- Build a three million gallon water tower that would be located in Markey Park to ensure adequate water supply and line pressure for fire hydrants.
- Upgrade existing pump stations to allow for expanded capacity from City of Kansas City, Missouri water source.
- Make improvements to the water system and water lines.

Wastewater System Improvements:

The proposed wastewater bond issue is for \$14,475,000. It will fund the following:

- Make improvements at the treatment plants to operate more efficiently, meet new stricter state and federal regulations and protect water quality.
- Make improvements to the pump station to reduce sanitary sewer overflows – untreated diluted sewage released into the environment.



Use Tax:

The City operates the water and wastewater systems as utilities. Costs to operate each system are covered by the water and sewer rates paid monthly. Among those costs are the costs related to administration and overhead for the water and sewer utilities. The Task Force recommended that voters be asked to approve a “Use Tax.” The “Use Tax” revenue would be used to cover a significant portion of the Water and Sewer Administration and Overhead Expenses thereby holding water and sewer rates as low as possible.

Unlike sales tax, which requires a sale at retail in Belton, a use tax is applied on transactions that

individuals and businesses conduct with out-of-state vendors, including catalog, and direct market sales that are not subject to sales tax. A use tax does not apply if the purchase is from a Belton retailer and subject to Belton sales tax. It is not an internet tax.

For example, if a Belton business purchased office supplies on-line from an out-of-state office supply store that is delivered to the business in Belton, the office supply store would collect a use tax for Belton and Missouri, if the out-of-state office supply store has a facility in Missouri. If the out-of-state office supply store does not have a facility in Missouri, the Belton business must file a use tax return with the Department of Revenue, but only if the business has more than \$2,000 in such purchases during the calendar year.

According to Missouri state law, the use tax rate must be equal to the sales tax rate, currently 2.75% and is expected to generate roughly \$450,000 annually.

Water & Wastewater Rates:

Water and wastewater rates will need to increase to fund the necessary improvements. The City is asking voters to decide whether to fund these improvements by approving two bond issues or to fund the improvements through rates only.

The bonds are like a mortgage on a home. The City would be taking out a loan and spreading the responsibility for reinvesting in the system over 20 years. This approach keeps rates much lower now than funding the improvements entirely out of rates. The City will make application with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Revolving Fund Loan Program to access low-interest loan funds. This program will save the rate payers millions of dollars in interest costs over the next 20 years.

If the bond issues and use tax are approved by voters, the proposed increase is \$12.50/month for each residential customer and \$25/month for commercial customers to cover the new debt service. This would increase annual revenues by \$1,230,600. If the use tax is not approved by voters, rates will need to go up by several more

dollars to cover these administrative and overhead costs.



Why?

The benefits of water and wastewater infrastructure are clear - infrastructure

delivers health and prosperity and supports our quality of life. Delaying work to rehabilitate and expand infrastructure will only increase future costs and risks. Significant reinvestment is critical to keep pace with growing needs and environmental challenges. In Belton, water is worth the investment because:

- Clean water isn't free but it is affordable. Even with the rate increase, Belton citizens will pay less for water and sewer service per day than for a bottle of soda.
- Belton could face water restrictions if new storage is not built.
- Without adequate water pressure/ fire flow, homeowner insurance could go up as the ability to fight fires is compromised.
- Without wise infrastructure planning, there could be a moratorium on new development.
- Improvements will protect area lakes, rivers and streams from pollution.
- Improvements will reduce operating costs in the long-run.

For more information about the ballot questions, go to www.belton.org or contact Jeff Fisher, Director of Public Works at 816-331-4331 or email jfisher@belton.org.

Interesting Facts:

- Americans use 5.7 Billion gallons of water every day just to flush the toilet
- The majority of pollution in our urban waterways can be linked to common lawn care practices such as over applying fertilizers and pesticides or not properly disposing of pet waste.

Cleveland Avenue Regional Lake

Progress on the Cleveland Avenue Regional Lake project continues with construction of a dam running parallel to Cleveland Avenue. The dam is expected to be complete, weather permitting, by early February. The project will proceed with site grading, construction of lake amenities and a parking lot, and plantings. The project is expected to be fully complete by early summer 2013!



Water Services

Winter has set in and the Water Services Division has had a few water breaks to repair because of the lack of precipitation and now colder temperatures. Fortunately, there has been a minimal amount of sewer line repairs to respond to recently. As is the norm, the guys at the Sewer Treatment Plant continue to maintain and monitor the different processes and procedures with little to no issues, especially with the lack of precipitation.

Accomplishing Projects

The Mullen Road Widening and Park to Berry Drainage Projects are completed! Through a partnership with Pyramid Construction, the project widened Mullen Road from a two-lane country road to a four-lane divided arterial section with sidewalks and lighting.



The Park to Berry Drainage Project upgraded the old storm sewer system to current standards and provides protection of homes during large storm events. The Public

Works Department appreciates your patience during construction of these projects.

Keeping Belton Clean

The Annual Fall Clean-up Days was held October 12-14. Over the three day period, 100 vehicles utilized the household debris drop-off site disposing of 315 cubic yards of debris. We would like to encourage you to utilize this program. Look for the next one in the spring.

Storm Water Pollution

Did you know the City of Belton must acquire and maintain a permit to discharge storm water from its City limits? Storm water picks up pollutants such as pesticides, auto fluids, litter, and pet wastes before entering streams. The Environmental Protection Agency seeks to reduce the contamination of storm water runoff and, where appropriate, passes this responsibility on to municipalities, the generators of this contamination. Tools utilized are public education, enforcement of ordinances, monitoring of construction sites, good housekeeping practices by City departments, and monitoring of storm water at points where it exits the City. With new development, you will notice alternate applications with the goal of improving the quality of storm water. For example, rain gardens were incorporated in front of the new Price Chopper to detain storm water for an extended period of time, allowing pollutants to settle out before being discharged to a natural stream. Everyone can take steps to improve water quality such as the smart use of lawn chemicals and properly disposing of auto fluids and pet waste. In the coming months, the City of Belton will be developing a web page which will provide educational resources for the public. The City of Belton will also be starting a stream team program which will allow residents to “adopt” a section of streams in the City for scheduled litter pickups.



Customer Input is Necessary

Your input on our performance is extremely important to the Public Works mission. The department is now utilizing door hangers not only to notify you that activities are taking place in your area like water main repairs, but also to request input from you. The door hanger provides a web link to a short, anonymous survey that you can complete to share with us your opinion of our performance. We are here to serve you and encourage you to tell us how we are doing when you receive these door hangers. Your input helps us to make improvements to the essential, public works services and programs.

It's not what happens to you that determines how far you will go in life; it is how you handle what happens to you. Zig Ziglar

Statistics: October 1st—December 31st

Transportation

- 333 potholes repaired
- 8.57 tons of asphalt used for potholes
- 250.19 tons of asphalt used for patches
- 88 signs repaired & replaced
- 27 storm drains & culvert pipes cleaned
- 319.3 tons of salt and/or sand used

Water Services

Maintenance Operations

- 180 million gallons water pumped
- 6 water breaks repaired
- 1 water tap (new service)
- 30,417 feet of pipe cleaned in the preventative maintenance program
- 14 responses to sewer backup calls
- 943 Missouri On Call locates

Treatment Plant Operations

- 67,474,000 gallons of wastewater treated by Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 100,670,000 gallons of wastewater treated by the Little Blue Valley Sewer District
- 28.2 dry tons of sludge produced by Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 5.3 inches of rainfall recorded at Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Vehicle Maintenance

- 89 vehicle/equipment repairs completed

Crowning Achievements

Donald Bays, Jeff McRoy and Josh Loehr of the Transportation Division received their Road Scholar I certification from the Missouri Local Technical Assistance Program. This program involves completion of 3 core and 5 elective courses directly related to street maintenance activities and recognizes individuals for their knowledge and expertise. Congratulations to all three for achieving this honor!

In October, the Kansas City Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association held their annual equipment rodeo and expo. This event tests operators on equipment safety and operation. Gale Lawson won the Rookie of the Year award for skid steer and Tim Kuykendall placed 10th in the wheel loader competition. Congratulations gentleman!!!

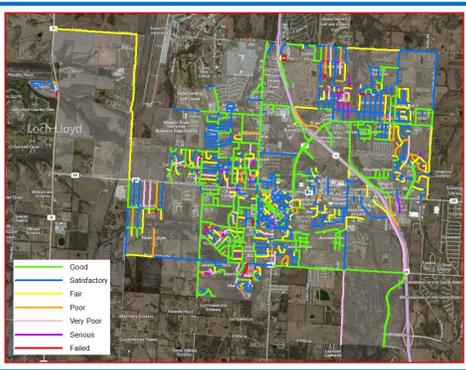
The Water Services Division is very proud that Don Tyler was awarded the Exceptional Service Award in October of 2012. Don is one of our most dedicated employees and very much deserving of this award.

Welcome Addition

We are happy to welcome Mr. Don Johnson to the Water Services Division as our newest employee. Don comes to us with several years of experience in the utilities industry. He is also a Kansas State graduate and an avid Wildcat fan. Welcome Don.



Pavement Management



The Transportation Division recently completed an inventory of the street network. The Public Works Department will be using this information to develop a Pavement Management Plan. The City is exploring all options to keep the

road network in the best condition possible. One mile of a four-lane divided road with curb and gutter requires approximately \$200,000 per year to maintain!

Community Involvement

The Public Works' employees pooled their efforts and resources to provide a Belton family, through Operation Santa, with a little Merrier Christmas. We all enjoyed sharing and receiving big smiles from the family.

Growing Family

The big news for Water Services is the new arrival at the Gerold and Ashley Stephens home. Greyson Layn arrived December 18, 2012. Mom and baby boy Greyson are at home and doing well.

Living the Dream!!!



This past fall, the City of Belton was able to follow the amazing journey of one of its own, Tate Stevens, on the popular reality show X-factor. Tater (as everyone knows him) worked for the Public Works Department since 2004, but always had a

passion for singing and entertaining. You could always hear him signing under his breath as he worked. It was such an honor to be able to watch Tater follow his dreams and win the whole thing. We know he will go far. It's just the way he is!!!

As a way to show our appreciation for Tater, private donations are being taken at the Bank of Belton for the "Paint the Water Tower fund". These donations will go to paint "Hometown of Tate Stevens, Live the Dream" on the water tower near I-49.

Give a person a fish, and you provide food for a day. Teach a person to fish, and you provide food for a lifetime. – Chinese Proverb