

December 2023, Staff Update

Police Department

Chief Tighe has accepted the position of Police Chief for the Town. A comprehensive background check for Chief Tighe is currently underway, including medical examinations, work history verification, reference checks, and psychological evaluation. The background check is expected to be completed by December 31, 2023. Chief Tighe's targeted start date is sometime during the week of January 8, 2024.

Additionally, Chief Tighe has reviewed the floor plans for the Police Department's addition to the Town Hall. The staff will be working with Chief Tighe on computer setup, uniforms, and other equipment over the next few weeks.

Staff has confirmed that TCOLE has received our application and payment. We are currently working with Sergeant Jennie Jones from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to schedule the site visit for late December or mid-January, based on TCOLE schedule.

The Denton County Sheriff's Department has generously loaned the town in-car radios, which were installed in November. Town Administrator is actively working on installing additional lights, wiring, and bump guards by December 31st.

Staff are scheduled to meet with the PD building contractors (architect, landscaper, TNP, MEP) on Thursday, December 7, 2023, to review final comments.

Finance

In September, Mayor Pro Tem Steve Hill and Town Administrator reviewed our current bank statement and discovered that Independent Bank was only paying the Town a 1.25% interest rate for each of the Town's bank accounts. To explore better options, Mr. Hill and Town Administrator are proposing two alternatives to secure a higher rate and diversify town funds: TexPool Prime and Logic.

TexPool is one of the largest Local Government Investment Pools (LGIP) in Texas and is managed through Federated Hermes. Logic is an Investment Pool managed by Hilltop Securities, where the Town currently has the 2020 tax note funds invested. Both TexPool Prime and Logic meet the Town's investment policy requirements.

As of November 1, 2023, staff successfully negotiated a new 5.2% interest rate for the Town's bank accounts with Independent Bank. Both TexPool Prime and Logic currently average rates are around 5.5%. Mr. Hill and staff recommend opening accounts with both TexPool Prime and Logic to diversify the Town's funds. These options, along with the proposed investment policy, will be presented to the Council for consideration at the December 11th Council meeting.

General Updates

Town Hall holiday hours:

- December 21 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Closed on December 22
- Closed on December 25
- Closed on December 29
- Closed on January 1, 2024

Based on recommendations from the Town Council, Town Administrator has submitted two candidates to Commissioner Mitchell for the Denton County Emergency Services District Board of Commissioners to ensure that the Town of Copper Canyon has representation on both boards. The candidates are Mark Pape (ESD #1) and Paula Castillo (ESD # 2).

The Town Administrator is currently working with TxDOT to determine the appropriate level of maintenance for the center median on FM 407 between Copper Canyon Road and Jernigan Road. Additionally, the Administrator made a request with TxDOT to conduct a signal light study for the intersection of FM 407 and Jernigan Road.

On Saturday, December 2nd, the Town held the annual Santa Party event at the Town Hall. The event was a big success, featuring pictures with Santa, cookie decorating, snacks, and coffee. It was a great time for residents to meet. I want to express gratitude to Town Secretary Sheila Morales, Court Administrator Jessica Tennison, Permitting Administrator Steve Adams, and Town residents Peter Vickery, Suzan Bolt, Lindsey Wallace, and Paula Castillo for setting up the event before and helping during the event. I also want to thank the ESD Fire Department for their assistance in getting Santa to Town Hall.

Permits for November

- New Home permits issued: 1
- Accessory building permits issued: 2
- Swimming pool permits Issued: 2
- Other permits Issued: 29
- Contractor Registrations: 7

Engineer

Stormwater (MS-4)

- Monthly Stormwater Inspections for Williams Ranch.
- Quarterly Inspections for Vickery Park, Copper Creek Estates and Boots' Ranch

Subdivision Developments

- Pilot Knoll on Orchid Road
- Jernigan Estates Concept Plan Review

Miscellaneous

- Design and coordination for the Town Hall Building/Parking Expansion

Fire Department

- The November 7th election results have been officially canvassed with the following outcomes:
 - 89.2% of voters approved the creation of Denton County Emergency Services District No. 2.
 - 92.2% of voters approved the annexation of Lantana into the emergency services district.
- Applications and resumes for Board of Commissioner positions are currently being submitted to the Denton County Commissioners Court for consideration.
- The refinance/sale of Fire Station 513 on Copper Canyon Rd, transferring from the Argyle Fire District to the Denton County ESD No. 1, occurred on November 30th.
- Denton County ESD No. 1 actively participated in the Copper Canyon Town Hall Christmas Party (delivering Santa in a fire truck) on Saturday, December 2nd.