



# City Newsletter

August 2023

Dear Neighbors,

One of our primary responsibilities as an elected official is adopting an annual budget for the City. I am pleased to report that planning the blueprint for fiscal year 2024 is well underway. The City Council, staff, and I have been diligently conducting an in-depth review of City services, expenditures, revenues, and resources to prepare the budget. Strengthening public safety and enhancing public infrastructure remain the focus as we aim to ensure a resilient and sustainable City for current and future generations—all while we keep costs under control.

At the June 29, 2023, Budget Workshop, Council voted on the 2023 proposed tax rate, which maintains the 2022 tax rate at \$0.275 per \$100 valuation. Nevertheless, we are working to determine whether a meaningful reduction in the tax rate is possible while maintaining the quality of life and services that is the hallmark of our City. The City received the certified tax roll for 2023 from the Harris County Appraisal District and has completed the required calculations under the tax code. A recommended tax rate at \$0.271 has been discussed resulting in a decrease from last year's tax rate of \$0.275. Council will hold a public hearing and vote to adopt the budget at the September 19, 2023 meeting. The process will also include a public hearing and approval of the final property tax rate to support that budget. The proposed budget and tax rate provide for future success and ensures continued financial and operational stability for many years to come.

*Yours Humbly, Mayor Robert P. Lord*

## Budget FAQ:

### Where can I view the proposed budget and other financial documents?

Visit [www.bunkerhilltx.gov](http://www.bunkerhilltx.gov) to view the proposed budget and supporting documents. The "2024 Annual Budget" is viewable at the bottom of the homepage.

### How much does it cost to run the City?

The City's proposed 2024 budget totals \$16 million; comprised of \$5.6 million in capital improvements (36%), \$9.4 million (58%) for operating expenses including police, fire, water/wastewater, and solid waste. Public Safety accounts for 27% of the City's total operating budget (74% of General Fund operating costs). The remaining \$1 million (6%) is for the City's annual debt service payments.

The budget is an investment in priorities that provide high value to the City and ensure essential services are able to be provided throughout the year such as:

- Public Safety (Police, Fire)
- Public Works
- Community Development
- Capital Projects

### What is the difference between the General Fund and the Capital Project Fund?

The General Fund finances the day-to-day operations of the City and ongoing or recurring expenses. Capital Project Funds are used to account for expenditures related to major infrastructure projects. Capital projects are characterized by their high cost and relatively long operational life, such as streets, drainage, and water and wastewater utilities.

### How can I view my proposed property tax?

To learn about proposed property taxes, visit [www.harrispropertytaxes.org](http://www.harrispropertytaxes.org).

### Where do property taxes go?

When you pay your property tax bill, taxes are allocated among multiple local organizations, including: City of Bunker Hill Village, Harris County, Spring Branch ISD, and other governmental and municipal entities necessary to allow the area to operate successfully (and hopefully efficiently).



### After Hours and Weekend Service Calls

The Public Works Department is on-call 24/7/365 ready to respond to water leaks and/ or sewer stoppages on City lines. For immediate attention outside of regular business hours, including nights and weekends, please contact MVPD Dispatch at 713-365-3700.

### Public Works Fundraiser Initiative

Become a supporter of Public Works. The City has established a non-profit organization (BHV, Inc.) as a means for residents wanting to make tax deductible donations to fund proposed enhancements for the new Public Works & Disaster Operations Building. To learn more about this fundraising campaign, and how to get involved, visit [bunkerhilltx.gov/publicworksfundraiser](http://bunkerhilltx.gov/publicworksfundraiser) or contact Management Analyst Mallory Pack at 713-467-9762 or via email at [mpack@bunkerhilltx.gov](mailto:mpack@bunkerhilltx.gov).

See page 2 to read about donors who have supported this project.



### Stormwater System Maintenance

Help keep the City's drainage pathways free and clear. Ensure to not discard heavy amounts leaves, grass, and debris into the storm sewers inlets and open ditches. To report an obstructed drain, visit the City's website at [bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/citizen-requests](http://bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/citizen-requests) or call 713-467-9762.

# Public Works & Disaster Operations Building Enhancement Project

## Donor Spotlight

Have you ever considered the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making the City operate safely and efficiently? From maintaining a superior water system for clean drinking water to ensuring roadways are well-maintained, the Public Works Department plays a critical role in keeping the City functioning every day, including when infrastructure-related or natural disaster emergencies arise.

The City has established BHV, Inc., a non-profit organization as a means for residents wanting to make tax deductible donations to fund proposed enhancements for the new Public Works & Disaster Operations Building.

With his permission, the City recognizes Mr. Ken Valach for his contribution to BHV, Inc. and display of community support and appreciation to the City.

An active supporter of MVPD and VFD foundations, Mr. Valach is grateful for the dedication and professionalism of the first-responders who protect and maintain the City's safety and quality of life. Mr. Valach's decision to become a donor was driven by his firsthand experience of the positive impact these services have on residents' lives, as well as a learning lesson for his grandchildren in "paying it forward."

The well-maintained water system, efficient waste & roadway management, and drainage system maintenance, are all a testament to the dedication of the City's Public Works team.



Public Works & Disaster Operations Building

Recognizing the tireless efforts of staff, Mr. Valach was eager to express his appreciation in a meaningful way.

“Supporting this project is an appreciation of the ‘unsung heroes’ who work diligently behind the scenes to maintain essential City functions. The Public Works team works to keep our City a sanctuary in the middle of Houston. To maintain this, we need new and improved facilities for city staff to mobilize at a moment’s notice.”

Mr. Valach’s donation serves as an inspiration to take an active role in nurturing the places we live in. It’s a reminder that while Public Works enhance daily lives, it’s our collective responsibility to ensure their continued success. His story demonstrates how one person’s genuine appreciation can make a lasting difference and through his donation, support the delivery of high-quality City services to both current and future generations.

Thank you Mr. Valach for being a loyal supporter of the City and the Public Works Department.

## Save the Date

### 2024 Budget Public Hearings

WHEN: Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
TIME: 5:00 pm.  
WHERE: Bunker Hill Village City Hall or via Zoom



### Donations, Shredding, Recycling & Rx Disposal Event

WHEN: Saturday, October 28, 2023  
TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Hedwig Village City Hall

### Fall Movie Night

WHEN: Friday October 13, 2023  
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Bunker Hill Village City Hall

### Twinkle Light Parade



WHEN: Thursday, December 14, 2023  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Parade route to come

## Be Prepared for Hurricane Season

As the peak of hurricane season begins, stay vigilant and well-prepared with these simple tips:



Assemble an emergency kit -- Include water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, cash, important documents, medications, extra cell phone charger or battery



Protect your property -- Review insurance policy, clean out drains, gutters, & downspouts, protect windows, secure outdoor items such as patio furniture



Create an evacuation plan -- Plan for how to leave and where to go if advised to evacuate



Develop a communication plan -- Sign up for V-linc and download emergency notification apps on your phone to receive real time alerts. Helpful apps are FEMA and the Red Cross



For more tips, visit [weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan](https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan)