



## A Message from Mayor Wax

April 25, 2018

The Long Term Recovery (LTR) Group has not met these past two Wednesdays. But, that doesn't mean that things aren't happening.

Several members LTR were in College Station today to receive briefings on funding updates, policies and procedures.

Last week, myself and other members of LTR were in Austin meeting with the Governor's Office and representatives of FEMA, GLO and Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to discuss the current situation in Aransas County and plans for long term recovery. I'm happy to report that it was a very productive meeting and that the Federal Coordinating Officer will be visiting tomorrow to get a better understanding of the location and impact of the proposed projects.

These projects/priorities include:

- A Government Plaza – Both the County Courthouse and City Hall must be rebuilt. A single location with separate buildings for both government entities, public outdoor space and another building with shared large meeting/judicial facilities, i.e. a single Chamber Hall for meetings, shared courtroom space, jury room and more. This project is a great fit for federal and state grants.
- Little Bay – Shoreline stabilization and protection.
- West Harbor – Upgrades and improvements, including bulkheads and public areas.
- Small Business Recovery assistance.
- Fiber Optic Loop – Stabilize and enhance communications to ensure operation during emergency situations.
- Land for Work Force Housing – TxDOT owns approximately 80 acres of vacant land. Asking that ownership be transferred to the County for the development of work force housing.
- Long Term Recovery Funding – Continue to minimize the use of local entities financial resources.

## Reminders

- The Texas General Land Office is accepting public comments through **tomorrow**, April 26, for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's \$5.024 billion in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds to the State of Texas for Hurricane Harvey Recovery. <https://goo.gl/y27uMU>
- Information and handout materials from last week's "Rebuilding After the Storm" grant information workshops are available on the City of Rockport's web site under the "Floodplain Management" tab. <https://goo.gl/DdJrrZ>
- Counseling services are available to Aransas County residents on Tuesday evenings from 5 – 7 pm at the Aransas County Library. There is no charge to residents. The program is underwritten by Rebuild Texas and other foundations.
- FEMA Transitional Shelter program has been extended to June 1.
- **Special Notices from the City.**
  - a) Early voting for Ward 4 is now underway at the Elections Center on Concho Street. Actual voting day is Saturday, May 5.
  - b) Individuals wishing to serve on one of the citizen advisory committees may pick up an application from the City Secretary's office in the Rockport Service Center OR visit the City Secretary page on the City's web site.
  - c) City Council will be meeting on Thursday, May 10 instead of the normal Tuesday meetings to comply with election regulations and induct the newly elected Mayor and council members for Wards 2 and 4.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - a) Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on Thursday, April 26. 4 – 7 pm at the Rockport Festival Grounds.
  - b) Kite Fun Fly – April 28 & 29 at the Rockport Festival Grounds.
  - c) Re-opening of the Dog Park – Friday, May 4. 3:30 – 6:30 pm Memorial Park
  - d) Sinko de Quacko – Saturday, May 5 at the Community Pool. Duck races, auction and other fun events. Funds support swimming programs for Aransas County children. Sponsored by Friends of the Pool.

It's getting better every day.