



I am humbled by your vote of confidence

Congratulations first of all to Nina Woolard on reelection to the district 2 city council seat, and to Richard Sena for his reelection to the Boerne Independent School District board of directors. Thank you also to the voters that demonstrated their confidence in me to serve as mayor for another two years - this is an incredible honor. I care deeply about Boerne's future, and I want to continue working with the wonderful people in this community to achieve prosperity without sacrificing our unique character. It seems that many of our residents believe we are heading in the right direction with our efforts to balance residential and commercial development as well as increase sales tax revenues through tourism.

Speaking of tourism – this has a huge impact on, not just our community, but our entire city budget; we have been seeing record breaking sales tax revenue for the last few years. So I want to send a shout-out to Larry Woods, our Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, for his fifty years in the tourism and hospitality industry. As the saying goes, he cut his eye teeth as a young lad helping his father with the river barge business on the San Antonio River decades ago. Larry and his team at the Boerne Visitors Center are very proactive with marketing our Hill Country Mile all around the globe; and they do a fabulous job promoting Boerne's local events every weekend.

The Master Plan Open House held earlier this month was an important effort to engage the public in developing the City's vision for the future. We must have input from the people that live and work here. We are updating the 2007 Master Plan to be in line with the changes that have happened over the last ten years. A professional consulting firm, Burditt Consulting, is working with a citizen's steering committee along with city staff to guide this master plan update process. There will be future opportunities for you to share your thoughts, so I hope you will take the time to do so.

I am going to take this opportunity to clear up some confusion about a possible November vote related to the new Boerne City Hall project. It is a fact that a valid petition protesting the city's planned sale of certificates of obligation was submitted to City Council. It is a fact that City Council agreed not to go forward with that particular financing plan for the project. This move does not automatically create the need to hold a November election to fund the project; however, City Council may consider holding an election to give voters the chance to approve a funding option that could include the sale of certificates of obligation or general obligation bonds. The path forward has not been determined yet.

We do know that a new city hall and utilities headquarters building is needed – one that will last a long, long time. We are eager to get this project back on track, with support from our citizens, so we can keep the costs for this important Boerne asset in a reasonable range.

Being mayor is challenging, rewarding, and humbling. Please know that I am listening and available to meet with anyone by appointment at City Hall.