



Working Together for a Brighter Future

By Councilmember Kevin Trautner

Your West U city government is an example of how government can work collaboratively in a non-partisan manner to achieve exceptional results for the community.

Working together with mutual respect for each other, your city council members use their shared passion for our city to drive the discovery and analysis of facts to maintain and enhance the quality of life for the taxpaying homeowners of West U. Since the most important part of the process is listening to our neighbors in West U, we are working hard to enhance communication with residents. This council approved a new communications position to improve the city's communications. Currently, residents may initiate or receive communications with the city through the city's website, publications, email/text alerts or through a phone call to the city. As always, residents may also reach out directly to council members by phone, email or in person. Your city council members are eager to hear from you.

This city council held numerous public workshops and meetings to analyze potential solutions to problems. Under the leadership of Mayor Bob Higley, in cooperation with our talented city manager Dave Beach, this city council is the first to develop a unanimously approved, long-term strategic plan for the city. Strategic planning is crucial to develop the annual budget and to focus the city's finite resources in an efficient manner. During one of the most challenging periods in West U history with the COVID-19 pandemic and downturn in the oil and gas industry, this city council worked hard to maintain and enhance the residential quality of life in West U, and most importantly, help keep its citizens safe and healthy. We did this through timely communications about COVID-19, closing our playgrounds and facilities, and re-opening them in a safe manner. We have also accomplished the following:

- enhanced and supported our exceptional police and fire departments;
- increased compensation and benefits for city employees to ensure our exceptional service model;
- initiated preliminary designs on citywide street and drainage improvements;
- approved the construction on the street and drainage improvements for Buffalo Speedway;
- implemented phase I of the virtual gate system;
- supported our recycling and environmental stewardship efforts;
- approved Martin Luther King Day as an official city holiday; and
- enacted common-sense ordinances, including on noise and light, to protect the quality of life in West U.

We did all of these things while substantially cutting the tax rate over the last two years, ensuring outstanding value to the taxpaying homeowner.



The high productivity of this city council would not be possible without each council member's respect for each other and desire to work together alongside their fellow residents for the benefit of West U. If you have any questions or concerns about your city government, please reach out to any of us. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to serve our community.