

## **MAYOR BETSY PRICE RESPONDS TO OUR QUESTIONS**

When Mayor Betsy Price was our guest speaker at the September AHNA meeting, she took questions from the floor, but was not able to respond to all of them without doing some research. She graciously promised to send us her answers. A mayor of her word, here they are:

**As to the storm water flooding problem, why are none of the proposed alleviating actions, such as taking and demolishing houses, imposed in the area north of Camp Bowie Boulevard, when over or about half of the watershed area is north of the boulevard?**

**Most homeowners in the flooding area on Western, Carleton and Ashland do not want to sell their homes or have tear downs on their streets. Will you back the water department if this is their solution?**

**Can't we fix the flooding problem in Arlington Heights without the neighborhood being torn down?**

**How do you feel about the threat to tear down homes there and to destroy the life of the community?**

***MAYOR PRICE'S RESPONSE:** At this time, our Transportation and Public Works Department is not considering the acquisition of any residential property within the Central Arlington Heights watershed. Instead, the department is focusing on how much they might be able to improve drainage conditions with available financial resources, using a variety of cost-effective measures that avoid any adverse impacts upon residential property. More specifically, the department is focusing on surface and underground detention on non-residential property and along streets. The department is seeking to reach consensus among the community, City staff, and engineering consultants on an optimal approach. Toward that end, staff assigns a high degree of importance to community acceptability as well as to effectiveness and affordability.*

*Since September of last year, the Transportation and Public Works Department has conducted a series of five community meetings to discuss flood control issues in the watershed.*

**Why are the alleys being mowed? How do we stop it?**

***MAYOR PRICE'S RESPONSE:** The City mows alleys to promote crime prevention and fire prevention. If your neighborhood association would like to request that we discontinue operations in Arlington Heights, and if our police and fire chiefs concur, then our Transportation and Public Works Department will honor that request.*

**Why is construction by Conatser not more closely watched and controlled by the project manager with the City?**

***MAYOR PRICE'S RESPONSE:** Conatser Construction TX, LP is one of the premier construction companies in our region. They are now fully bonded. Arrangements have been made with Conatser to repair failed streets pursuant to an agreement with the City that will be in a M & C on November 15, 2011. They are currently reconstructing various streets in and around Arlington Heights. They are performing this work in phases, but generally within the overall time frame associated with their contract. To prevent any misunderstandings, our*

*Transportation and Public Works Department will ensure that the contractor informs affected residents whenever they anticipate any gap of time between the end of one phase and the beginning of the next.*

**There has been an ongoing effort to bring streetcars, if not light rail, to Fort Worth over the past several years. Will you join Council members Jungus Jordan, Joel Burns and others in support of this effort?**

**MAYOR PRICE'S RESPONSE:** *First of all, streetcars are not off the table and will be brought back for further study and consideration in the future. Commuter rail continues to be a high priority for the City. At a recent joint meeting of the City Council and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T), both entities agreed that completing the TEX commuter rail should be the number one transportation initiative in Fort Worth. This project is currently undergoing environmental review while The T seeks federal funding.*

**How much does Chesapeake Energy pay for use of Fort Worth water? Do they have designated days for water usage?**

**MAYOR PRICE'S RESPONSE:** *Oil and gas companies, including Chesapeake, pay the City's highest water rates--\$4.50 per 100 cubic feet (ccf)--for their drilling operations. By comparison, other industrial customers pay \$1.90/ccf and commercial customers pay \$2.15/ccf. I am pleased to note that Chesapeake has begun using reclaimed water for some of their drilling operations. The reclaimed water rate is 75% of the potable water rate for each class, or \$3.37/ccf for oil and gas companies. Finally, Chesapeake has installed irrigation meters at some of their well sites. The rate for irrigation water ranges from \$2.68 to \$3.98/ccf, depending upon the volume of use.*

*During Stage 1 of the current drought, Chesapeake and other industrial customers may water their property only on Tuesdays and Fridays. At this stage, however, we do not restrict the days of the week when any of our customers may use water for gas production or any other general purposes. Nevertheless, the Water Department is working with Chesapeake to limit the impact of fracking operations on the City's water supply. Toward that end, we have asked Chesapeake to reduce their water use by 5% per well site during Stage 1 of the drought. I understand that Chesapeake has actually reduced their average water use for fracking operations by 13%.*

**How will the citizens be able to access what other citizens say about redistricting?**

**MAYOR PRICE'S RESPONSE:** *Citizens can share redistricting plans with each other using the City redistricting mapping application which you can find under the redistricting icon on the City's website, [www.fortworthtexas.gov](http://www.fortworthtexas.gov). Staff has posted those results on the redistricting webpage.*