Community News

# February / March 2021

**City Manager**

Hope everyone is happy and healthy! COVID remains the most talked about topic in our daily lives. Stanislaus County is making gains with infection rated reduction but we remain in the “purple” tier. There is hope that with the continued effort of the community to practice safeguards against spreading the disease, we will be back in the “red” category in a few weeks. Once we reach red and stay there for 5 consecutive days, many of the school’s 7th through 12th grades will reopen to some in school learning. But we are not there yet so please keep your activities to essential needs and continue to wear your face coverings when in public. Vaccinations have begun in our county and they have started with those in the medical industry and now those over age 65. Recently, educators over 50 were added to the vaccination list. While vaccinations are not mandatory, you are encouraged to get vaccinated when you are eligible to do so. Please follow the county website at [Vaccine Information - Coronavirus - HSA - Stanislaus County (schsa.org)](http://schsa.org/coronavirus/vaccine/) for vaccination information and locations of vaccination clinics.

I know many of you have been hit hard through lost or reduced wages. We continue to work to find ways to provide assistance. The Board of Supervisors just allocated funding for those that meet certain income requirements by offering help for those behind on their rent and utility payments. Please see more information on our website at <https://www.cityofwaterford.org/2021/02/24/emergency-rental-assistance-program/> .

We as a community continue to feel the effects of COVID 19. Your staff continues to perform their duties but City Hall continues to be closed to the public. I know this can be inconvenient to many of you but we are continuing the countywide effort to reduce the transmission of COVID 19. For your convenience, you can pay your utility bill through the USPS, use the drop box at the front entrance of City Hall, online at <https://waterford.merchanttransact.com> or pay by phone by calling (209) 874-2328 and pressing 1. We hope to open City Hall doors when it is safe to do so.

Construction on the McDonalds at Yosemite and Pasadena and the Edgewater housing subdivision at Pecan and Pasadena continue. These two developments will bring much needed commercial business/jobs and housing to our community. We continue our discussions with two property owners along Yosemite regarding new commercial developments and one property owner near Welch and Bentley regarding a small 13-unit housing development. There is no timeframe for these proposed projects but are hopeful we will have some activity in 2021.

Michael Pitcock,

City Manager

**Meet Your New Council Members**

**COUNCIL MEMBER JILL KITCHENS**

**City Council Service:** Elected in 2020 to first term.

**Term expires:** November 2024

**Community Vision:** Focusing on new development, bringing jobs and growth to the community. Maintaining our community infrastructure and making our community a better place to live.

**Background:** Has lived in Waterford since 1987. Married to Josh Kitchens, has one child Josh Kitchens Jr. Jill is self-employed and has worked with her family business in farming and construction since 1999.

**Community Involvement:** Served on the Planning Commission

**COUNCIL MEMBER JAMIE HILTON**

**City Council Service:** Elected in 2020 to first term.

**Term expires:** November 2024

**Community Vision:** To promote economic growth in the City and surrounding areas while keeping a small-town feel. Continue looking to provide opportunities for our youth in the community and make sure they have programs and activities to help them succeed. Provide a safe environment in the City while making sure city services are run efficiently and at the lowest cost.

**Background:** Has lived in Waterford for over 30 years, married to his wife Brandy with one son, Skylar. Mr. Hilton is currently working on local almond ranches in a supervisorial position.

**Community Involvement:** Served on the Waterford Planning Commission, and has directed numerous community fundraisers for those in need. Mr. Hilton has coached youth baseball and basketball in Waterford for many years and has volunteered with local non-profits at their fundraisers.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

* City Council Regular Meetings – March 4th and 18th at 6:30 PM – Via Zoom
* Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – March 9th at 6:00 – Via Zoom
* Planning Commission Meeting – February 23rd at 6:30 – Via Zoom

**Public Works**

* **Main Street Reconstruction -**  The project is out to bid with construction anticipated in Spring/Summer 2021. The project will add missing sidewalk and provide reconstruction of the roadway from Church Street to G Street and provide a pot hole free smooth and safe roadway.
* **2021 Slurry and Cape Seal -**  Over the last two years, the city has made a concerted effort to maintain our street network. Three separate slurry seal projects were completed on approximately 40% of our road network adding 7-10 additional years of life to those streets. A slurry seal is a relatively inexpensive maintenance application which keeps good streets in good condition so they do not deteriorate to a point where a much more expensive repair is needed. The 2021 Slurry and Cape Seal project is in design and will be the largest project yet at nearly $1,000,000. The project will be funded with Measure L, a Countywide special sales tax for road maintenance purposes.
* **Citywide Watering Schedule -** 
  + Outdoor watering is prohibited daily from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm.
  + Odd-numbered addresses watering days are Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
  + Even-numbered addresses watering days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
  + No outdoor water use on Monday.

**Fall and Winter are a great time turn your sprinkler clocks off and let nature water your landscape and save you money by lowering your water consumption.**

**Administrative**

**Facebook** – Follow us at[**https://www.facebook.com/cityofwaterford**](https://www.facebook.com/cityofwaterford)**,** and for law enforcement at [**https://www.facebook.com/StanSheriffWPS**](https://www.facebook.com/StanSheriffWPS)**.**

## Accepting Applications for Boards/Commissions: Waterford City Council is accepting applications from interested residents on a continuous basis to fill upcoming vacancies on the City’s Boards and Commissions. If you are at least 18 years of age and live in Waterford and have an interest in serving on any of the City’s Boards or Commissions please contact City Hall for an application. Or, applications are also available on our website: [www.cityofwaterford.org](http://www.cityofwaterford.org).

## Pay your City of Waterford Utility Bill Online

* Sign up for E-Bills, where you can perform a variety of self-services including: check your current balance, pay with Debit/Credit Cards, see usage and payment history. To sign up go to: [**https://waterford.merchanttransact.com**](https://waterford.merchanttransact.com)

**Community Calendar:** [**http://cityofwaterford.org/events**](http://cityofwaterford.org/events/), let us know if we’re missing something, and check it out to ensure you’re not missing out on anything.

**Police Chief**

I would like to take this opportunity and welcome Deputy Dominic Bertalotto to the team here at Waterford Police Services. Deputy Bertalotto has been with the sheriff’s department since 2014 and is currently a Field Training Officer. He has worked in a contract city in the past as a motor officer and is well versed in traffic enforcement, and traffic collision investigations. If you see Deputy Bertalotto on the street, give him a wave, or say hi.

I would also like to thank Detective Darwin Summerton for his service to the city of Waterford. Detective Summerton has worked as a deputy at Waterford Police services for the past three years, the last year as the Community Resource Deputy. In January he was selected to fill a vacancy in the sheriff’s department Robbery/Homicide Unit. Good Luck Deputy Summerton, you will be missed. Deputy Justin Martinez was selected as Waterford’s new Community Resource Deputy, and he has hit the ground running.

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