

LOCAL

CITY

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As a result, the city can expand the existing sewer project without increasing one dime of taxes, as long as the project comes in under \$1 million.

City Manager Larry Morgan said prices are starting to go down and it is a good time to expand. Contractors are looking for work.

The expanded project should give the city 250,000 gallons of sewer capacity, opposed to an existing 215,000 gallons.

On an average winter day, usage is about 195,000 gallons. But if it rains continuously for several days or if Bullard gets hit with several inches of rain in a couple of hours, then the sewer plant could treat more than 300,000 gallons.

Although this is rare, the jump in treatment is caused from rainwater seeping into the sewer lines which is called Infiltration and Inflow.

So far the city has located several areas where either tree trunks are in sewer lines or where there is not a watertight seal on sewer connections from houses. But on average, this only contributes to some of the sewer capacity issues, Morgan

said.

"We are growing," he said.

To prepare for the growth, the city must keep an eye to the future. And this means, that the city will look into building a new plant south of the City of Bullard, whether a big-time developer helps or not.

Council Woman Teresa Adams-Wilks has been in charge of a committee to determine how to work with the developers. But she said she has not spoken with developer William Adair in three or four weeks.

"I'm not sure where we are standing with that right now," she said.

She also said unless something else comes up a new sewer plant will be postponed because the city cannot afford to build a new sewer plant on.

The next council meeting they discuss sewer options and how to move forward on expanding the existing sewer plant.

In other City news:

The City is looking into launching a Web site to attract commercial industries, post meetings and keep the public informed of city information.

BRYANT

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But it is not so.

Actually, Bullard ISD is among the schools that receive the least amount of funding.

Bullard receives just below 5,000 per student. The top school receives about \$10,000 per student.

"There is no way to increase the amount of money you get unless your enrollment increases. your voters approve a tax increase or the Legislature gives additional money," he said.

Bryant said if Bullard

could double its money per student, and receive 10,000 per student like one school in Texas, the amount of academic support, technology and advanced courses would shoot through the roof.

"But because our zip code is where it is we get \$5,000."

So with state organizations and other superintendents, the first focus for public schools is to fix that graph seen on Page One. Bryant and others want to make it more equitable.

"The second thing is there are some adjustments in the funding formula that have not been made for a long time."

The amount of money schools receive for transportation has not increased since 1984. And as Bryant said fuel, bus maintenance, buses and employee costs have all increased. The technology allotment shares similarities with the transportation allotment.

"There also needs to be some sort of inflationary

adjustment."

So how will Bryant change views in Austin. Well, first, Bryant will be going down to Austin testifying in legislative committee meetings or testify about proposed legislation. He will meet with state senators or representatives and staff members about proposals.

But, Bryant said none of this would be possible without a supportive school board.

"The work we do down there legislatively will benefit Bullard ISD."

TxDOT Project Updates

TxDOT plans edge repairs on Spur 364

SMITH COUNTY - Weather permitting, Texas Department of Transportation maintenance crews are scheduled this week to conclude edge repairs along Spur 364 between SSW Loop 323 in Tyler and SH 31 west of Tyler. Daytime lane closures will be in effect while the work is in progress. Traffic will be controlled by flaggers.

Also in Smith County, TxDOT crews are scheduled to begin edge repairs on FM 344 between SH 110 south of Whitehouse and FM 756 east of Bullard beginning Wednesday. Daytime lane closures will be in effect for this work as well. Finally in Smith County, crews are scheduled to perform edge and base repairs throughout the week on SH 279 just south of SH 64 west of Tyler. Daytime lane closures will be in effect for this work, and traffic will be controlled by flaggers in two-lane areas.

ANDERSON COUNTY - Beginning Monday, contract crews are scheduled to begin several weeks of work on bridge rail and guard rail replacement along US 79 in Anderson County.

The work will continue later in Smith County along SH 110 between Troup and Whitehouse. In Anderson County, the work will be performed consecutively at the bridges over Lumpkins Creek and Smith Branch. Daytime lane closures will be in effect while the work is in progress,

and motorists are encouraged to use caution in and around the work zone.

TxDOT plans resurfacing work on FM 317 east of Athens

ATHENS -- Texas Department of Transportation maintenance crews are scheduled to begin resurfacing parts of FM 317 east of Athens this week, weather permitting.

The resurfacing effort will take place over the coming weeks in various locations between FM 1803 east of Athens, and FM 314 south of Brownsboro.

Daytime lane closures will be in effect while the work is in progress.

Motorists should seek alternate routes if possible to avoid delays.

TxDOT plans profiling work for US 69, SH 21

CHEROKEE COUNTY ? TxDOT maintenance crews are scheduled to perform profiling operations on various locations along US 69 between Jacksonville and Rusk, including the 7-Mile Hill area, and on SH 21 in and around Alto.

Profiling calls for scarring the pavement surface to improve tire traction.

Daytime lane closures will be in effect while the work is in progress.

Motorists should be prepared to reduce speed and merge in and around the work zone.

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