



City Manager's Notes

**Week Ending
September 19, 2025**

Mayor and Council.

The City Manager's Notes for the week ending September 19, 2025, are provided below. This report contains public information and can be freely shared.

Terra Nova Media Coverage

There is a media outlet releasing a misleading newsclip regarding Terra Nova. To be clear, only the zoning change had to be paused. Prior to the zone change request on Tuesday, the City Council should have been provided an opportunity to take action on a development agreement and annexation request. Staff's intent was not to overlook these important steps, but rather to avoid the need to reschedule the public hearing, given the number of property owners who had already been contacted and the conversations that were actively occurring in the community. Our hope was to continue the hearing process and allow time to resolve these issues without disrupting the public's opportunity to participate. Moving forward, staff will ensure that the proper sequence of annexation and development agreement considerations are completed prior to bringing similar zoning cases to Council.

The development and annexation agreements are scheduled to move forward during the next several meetings through December 2nd. We appreciate the Council's understanding and the community's patience as we correct this process. If you need any further detailed information, Raylan will be happy to meet with you individually.

Funeral Escort Services

As discussed with City Council previously, I had made the decision to temporarily suspend Police Department funeral escorts. While a temporary suspension was to be put in place due to staffing shortages, it has become clear that discontinuing this service would have a perceived negative effect on community expectations and perceptions. As a sign of respect and in service to the community, the Department will continue to provide these services.

To ensure the service is provided safely with the resources available, the Police Chief has been instructed to develop a formal policy outlining safety protocols, staffing requirements, notice requirements, and administrative processes.

Federal Reserve FOMC Lowers Fed Funds Rate

On Wednesday, September 17, the Federal Reserve (Fed) announced the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by 25 basis points (bps) to its new range of 4.00% - 4.25%. Recently confirmed Fed Governor Stephen Miran dissented, preferring a larger 50 bps cut. This was the first rate cut since December 2024. The FOMC's median projections imply an additional 50 bps of rate cuts by year-end.

SSG Brady Berry Memorial Soccer Complex Dedication



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Council accepted the City Facility Naming Committee recommendation to rename the soccer complex after SSG Brady Berry. On Friday, October 3 at 4:00 PM, a dedication ceremony will be held. Friends and family will hold a private reception following the ceremony at 4:30 PM at the Ben Gill Par Pavilion.

Joint Session Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that the City of Terrell, Terrell Independent School District, the Terrell Economic Development Corporation (TEDC), and PADIC will hold a joint meeting on Monday, October 6, beginning at 5:30. As more information becomes available regarding the agenda and the location, the information will be passed along to you.

Finance Director Search

Human Resources Director Sue Pfleging and I met with CPSHR, the search firm that is leading the search for our next Finance Director. From the initial 75 applicants, 10 candidates were identified. Based on their qualifications and the feedback from CPSHR based on their initial information gather and inquiries, we have narrowed the pool of candidates to 5. These 5 individuals will be asked to participate in virtual interviews with Sue, Bernie Parker (Interim Assistant City Manager), and myself toward the end of the week of October 22. After these initial interviews, we will create a short list of finalists to bring in for in-person interviews with staff and Council representatives. We will let you know once staff is ready to setup those interviews.

In Closing

If staff can provide additional information or clarification, please let me know. Thank you all for your continued service and dedication to the City of Terrell.

Respectfully,

Mark C. Mills
Interim City Manager