



Mayor and Council.

The City Manager's Notes for the week ending October 31, 2025, are provided below. This report contains public information and can be freely shared.

### **Housing Funds / Federal Government Shutdown Update**

According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), households who receive HUD rental assistance—including Housing Choice Vouchers, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and public housing—should have their rent paid at least through November. However, the longer a shutdown continues, the greater the risk to assisted households, and the greater the disruption to essential federal services and programs.

### **Police Entry Exam – Preliminary Numbers**

A total of 67 took the exam on Saturday, November 1, of which 61 passed and took the physical agility test. Of those that took the exam, roughly 27 percent were female. The test group consisted of a variety backgrounds. There were eight individuals with previous military experience and a significant number of individuals that were already certified peace officers.

### **IT Director Update**

An offer has been extended and accepted by Damon Holzer, to be the City's Information Technology Director. Of the three finalists that were interviewed, Mr. Holzer brings what the City needs. Mr. Holzer has worked with the City for several years as our project manager, assisting with the implementation of the City's Tyler products. He is very knowledgeable about our systems and comfortable working closely with our staff. He is currently scheduled to start with us on a full-time basis beginning Friday, November 7.

### **Finance Director Update**

I am pleased to announce that the City has made an offer of employment, contingent on successful completion of the candidate's pre-employment screening. Matthew Poston is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with strong Texas roots that comes to Terrell having served as the Finance Director for Golden, Colorado. Prior to this he served as the Director of Finance for the City of Colleyville, Texas. Mr. Poston also spent eight years with the City of Amarillo, where he worked his way up from a Grant Manager and Budget Analyst to Director of Finance, overseeing 75+ employees across multiple divisions. When Mr. Poston arrives, we will make arrangements to introduce him to you at the following Council meeting.

### **Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services Update**

This City has made an offer, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment screenings, to Howard Pierson to be our Assistant Neighborhood Services Director. Mr. Pierson is a Terrell High School graduate who holds a Master of Arts in Business Professional Development with a concentration in Business and Project Management. Mr. Pierson is most recently the Risk Manager for East Texas A&M University. Prior to this, he spent roughly fourteen years with the City of Garland – two years in Risk Management, six years in Housing, and six



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years in Health and Code Compliance. We are very excited about the knowledge and experience Mr. Pierson will bring to our team.

### **Federal Reserve FOMC Lowers Fed Funds Rate Again**

On Wednesday, October 29, the Federal Reserve (Fed) announced the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by an additional 25 basis points (bps) to its new range of 3.75% - 4.00%. Recently confirmed Fed Governor Stephen Miran dissented, preferring a larger 50 bps cut. Jeffery Schmid also dissented, preferring no change. This was the second rate cut in as many months.

A drop in federal funds rates means the Federal Reserve is trying to stimulate the economy by making borrowing cheaper. This can lead to lower interest rates on things like loans, credit cards, and mortgages, encouraging more spending and borrowing. While this can help create jobs, it can also cause increased inflation and lower returns on savings accounts.

### **Reminders**

• District 5 Town Hall	Monday, November 3
• City Council Meeting	Tuesday, November 4
• Election Day	Tuesday, November 4
• British Bash	Saturday, November 8
• Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11
• Officer Steve Johns Retirement	Friday, November 14
• City Council Meeting (canceled)	Tuesday, November 19 (Canceled)
• Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27 (City Offices Closed)
• Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28 (City Offices Closed)
• City Council Meeting	Tuesday, December 2

### **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