



March 2022

The Dallas Digest

The Mayor's Space

Mayor Brian Dalton



Here's a column to make taxes and inflation at the least not dull AND boring.

Everybody talks about inflation these days, how rutabagas now cost more and more. Well, imagine our City buying loads of expensive stuff too, like asphalt, fire hoses, books and sundry poisonous gasses. And we use tons of expensive gasoline - price up about double in the past 24 months.

Thankfully, general inflation is actually milder, only going up a mere 8% over the past year. However, as welcome as that sounds, problem is that Oregon taxpayers of yore voted in some head-scratchingly complex measures which inflicted the City with a 3% cap on the yearly increase in property taxes, pretty much locked in (unaffordable) concrete. As those dollars fund all but the in-and-out of water flow here in town, it is easy to see the erosion of the City's buying power for fire, police, the library, parks, streets and so forth.

To illustrate, imagine that we settle in with tiny 4% inflation as an average for the next, say, 10 years.

Continued on pg 2

Get a head start on weeds and tall grass this year!



Many Dallas citizens consider out-of-control weeds, tall grass, and brush a potential health and/or traffic hazard since they contribute to allergies and, through their seeds, the growth of additional weeds which can impair the view of motorists. The City's Fire Department is also concerned with the fire hazard created by tall vegetation drying out in the summer months. To address these concerns the Dallas City Council has adopted an "Obnoxious Vegetation" ordinance, which requires all weeds and grass to be kept under 10 inches in height. Property owners are responsible for keeping their grass and weeds cut down, including the vegetated strips located between the property's abutting sidewalk and street.

The Mayor's Space

That small 1% per year in our spending power every year ($4\% - 3\% = 1\%$) means by 2032 (a blink in City and geologic time), our City's buying power will have declined by 10%. That's 10% less of everything our community has come to value - less books, less swimming, slower response time when you accidentally set your tool shed on fire and so on.

All this is conjecture but at the same time, kind of real. What if we have a couple of years of 10% inflation? That's something like a 13% cut in the General Fund budget right there – in two years!

Not sure of a solution everybody can agree on, but pretty sure of the problem.

Be well.



City of Dallas Fire & EMS

Now Hiring for Part-time EMT, AEMT and Paramedic Positions

The City of Dallas Fire & EMS is a full service Fire and EMS Organization responsible for ambulance coverage within the City of Dallas and the surrounding areas and serves an estimated population of 28,500 people. In 2021 Dallas EMS responded to 4,237 calls for service.



- 12-hour day and night shifts
- BLS opportunities for patient care and transport
- Full uniform allowance
- Training opportunities
- Full-time positions may be drawn from Part-time pool
- PERS available based on annual hours worked

Job Application —

