



Mayor Marco Sanchez Successes and Accomplishments at State of the City Address

Greetings to all Combes Community and Visitors of our Great City of Combes. Before I start, I would like to introduce myself; I am your Mayor, Marco Sanchez. I have one son Christopher and my wife, Carolyn. I am self-employed; own a franchise business, PDA, Property Damage Appraisers.

As you know 2020 was a very challenging year for everyone with the COVID-19 pandemic, storms, hurricane, then a hard freeze a few months ago. However, the City of Combes continued strong through all the challenges. Our growth, safety, financial stability and quality of life continued through it all. I am so grateful and want to recognize and thank our public servants who maintained our success and continued progress through these trying times.

FINANCES:

The City of Combes has remained financially stable and anticipates finishing Fiscal Year 2021 with a fund balance of 2.5 million in combination of reserved and unreserved funds. The largest revenue sources come from Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, and other combined revenues within the General & Utility Funds.

PLANNING:

Last year as you know, our Town changed to “City”- and Aldermen to “Commissioners” our City is on the grow, we are the “Golden Gate to Cameron County” a “Clean, Safe, Country Community” Our goal is to grow, create jobs, bring in more businesses, families and enhance our quality of life. To do that, the City of Combes Commissioners, Public Servants, Consultants-GrantWorks, and this Community created a Comprehensive Plan. This plan took over a year to accomplish in 2014 with your help in providing feedback through surveys. This plan study

provided a guide for ten years 2015-2025 that includes; Housing study, Land use, Water and Wastewater System Study, Drainage Study, Street System, Economic Development, Recreation and Open Space, Capital Improvements, and Zoning/Subdivision Ordinances. This Comprehensive Plan is available on our website for the public to review at any time.

CREATION OF SALES TAX

In 2015, the City of Combes passed two propositions to impose Sales Tax through a city election that passed. These revenues are from any taxable purchases inside the boundaries of Combes.

Municipal Development District

Authorizing the creation of the Combes Municipal Development District and The imposition of a sales and use tax at the rate of one-fourth (1/4) of one percent for the purpose of financing development projects beneficial to the district. The district may undertake various projects, including a convention center, civic center, auditorium, and other projects eligible for Type B.

Economic Development Corporation Type B

The Adoption of a Sales and Use Tax for the Promotion and Development of a New and Expanded Enterprises at the Rate of one-half (1/2%) of one percent for an EDC Type 4B for Town of Combes to undertake projects as described for the promotion of professional and amateur athletics and sports including stadiums, ballparks, auditoriums, projects related to entertainment, convention, tourist, and exhibition facilities, amphitheaters, concert halls, and public parks, park facilities and events, open space improvements, military facilities, including closed or realigned military bases, primary job training facilities for use by institutions of higher education, research and development facilities, regional or national corporate headquarters facilities, museums and related stores, restaurant, concession, and automobile parking facilities, related area transportation facilities, and related roads, streets, and water and sewer facilities, recycling facilities, and projects to promote new or expanded business enterprises that create or retain primary jobs, and public safety facilities, streets, and roads, drainage, and related improvements, demolition of existing structures, development and expansion of affordable housing, and targeted infrastructure and any other improvements, expenditures, or facilities that are related to any of the above projects and any other project that the board determines will promote new or expanded business enterprises that create or retain primary jobs, and the maintenance and operations expenses for any of the above described projects.

All these projects are for the purpose of future growth of our economy and economic development that is necessary to sustain population growth.

Updates on Past, Pending, and Completed Projects:

- 1) Nixon Road Drainage Project-FEMA (**Pending BRIC Grant, Application was submitted December 1, 2020**)
- 2) Small Park Rehabilitate Town of Combes Community Park-Funded 50% percent by Texas Parks and Wildlife- (**Approved by Texas Parks and Wildlife-50% percent to be funded by Town of Combes Municipal Development District**) **Grant expires July 2021.**
- 3) Amigos Del Valle has been providing free meals during this pandemic; **we are not offering** games and exercise for Senior Citizens due to the health pandemic, only meals.
- 4) Tu Salud Si Cuenta Program Launched for Fiscal Year Ending September 2021- A Combes Tu Salud Si Cuenta Facebook for Combes. (Free Exercise, Health Meal Choices workshops- “Coming Soon,” among other programs to interact with our Community to live a Healthier Life Style.
- 5) Monitoring COVID-19 pandemic, attending web meetings with Cameron County once a week (Wednesdays). We conducted three COVID-19 Vaccination clinics.
- 6) HOME Grant- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, we approximately have 30 applications and several new homes approved to rehabilitate or construct new homes.
- 8) Reimbursement of CAREACT Funding for Police Officers and glad to say we received reimbursement for Combes for salaries and Kiosk Machine.
- 9) Adcomp- to provide the Kiosk for City of Combes, and other software program to integrate waterworks, municipal, permits and financial programs
- 10) Texas Community Development Block Grant for 2021-2022 Application due May 2021- Street and Drainage Projects-Orange, Tangerine and Lime Streets.
- 11) TextMyGov-new technology to report issues, such as potholes, or any concern using electronic devices.
- 12) Walking Trail Project-Grant funded by Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation.
- 13) Reminder! Wi-Fi at the Combes Community Park, exercise, walking trail, or get school studies completed.
- 14) City of Combes was designated as a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary in 2020-Garden under construction.
- 15) Coming Soon-Be A Champion Program- Offer Nutritional Meals to our youth.
- 16) American Rescue Plan-ACT of 2021 for Combes is projected to receive \$650,630.00 dollars to provide government services-

17) Bond Issuance 2021 for the purpose of

UTILITY FUND PROJECTS	
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	
EXTENSION OF WATER LINE EXPRESSWAY FRONTAGE	\$ 600,000.00
INSTALLATION OF 800 RADIO READ WATER METERS & SCADA SYSTEM	\$ 250,000.00
EXTENSION WATER LINES & LIFT STATION WEST FM107	\$ 400,000.00
INFLOW & INFILTRATION STUDY	\$ 25,000.00
INSTALLATION KIOSK	\$ 35,000.00
WATER & WASTEWATER RATE STUDY PROPOSAL	\$ 20,000.00
STUDY OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT	\$ 50,000.00
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Total	\$ 1,430,000.00
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	
GENERAL FUND	
PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING & ANIMAL SHELTER	\$ 400,000.00
STREET IMPROVEMENTS (Based on Comprehensive Plan)	\$ 580,000.00
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 540,000.00
SIGNAGE ON HAND ROAD CITY HALL	\$ 25,000.00
	\$ 1,545,000.00
EDC PROJECTS	
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	
INFRASTRUCTURE (City Centre)	\$ 140,000.00
INFRASTRUCTURE (Unity Park & Wellness Center)	\$ 800,000.00
TxDOT Drainage (Unity Park)	\$ 340,000.00
Total	\$ 1,280,000.00
MDD PROJECTS	
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	
PARK & CITY HALL REHAB REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 110,000.00
MAINTSTREET & WELCOME SIGN	\$ 160,000.00
COMBES COMMUNITY PARK SPRINKLER SYSTEM	\$ 25,000.00
	\$ 295,000.00
SUBTOTAL ALL PROJECTS:	\$ 4,550,000.00

These Bonds will not have any TAX RATE INCREASE. But it will have a positive community impact!

“These are just a few key point projects on the works for our Community” However; Citizen involvement is an essential key topic; our meetings have been held Virtual to keep our staff and community safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, Virtual Public Board Meetings are held- Second and last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. everyone is welcome. Dial 1-415-655-0001, Access Code 132 544 1378#, and get involved with your community. We have so many young people who are excited for the future, ready to incorporate change and new opportunities, and even do funny things like maybe run for Mayor.

This is what makes us unique, so many older residents, senior citizens, veterans, and youth. We have to plan for the future, and it takes a group effort.

I, as Mayor, Commissioners, and Staff, work diligently to make infrastructure improvements, drainage, roadways, and overall the best quality of life in our beautiful City. I challenge you to get involved, join us, and together we CAN make a difference.

We appreciate you!

Your Servant; Mayor Marco Sanchez