

**Mayor** Debbie Holland

**Mayor Pro-tem** Ronnie Quintanilla-Perez

**Council Members** 

Anne Cano, Place 1 Paul Prince, Place 2 Michael J. Smith, Place 4 Melanie Rios, Place 5 Max V. Yeste, Place 6

> City Manager Karen Daly

July 30, 2014

Ron Morrison Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 4 350 Exchange Boulevard, Suite 100 Hutto, Texas 78634

Re: Landfill Funds

Dear Commissioner Morrison,

The Hutto Co-op served farmers and businesses of Williamson County for over sixty years and was one of the major employers in Hutto. After the co-op closed its doors, the City of Hutto purchased the site as a way to preserve a piece of history that still serves as a landmark for Hutto. Since that time, the City of Hutto has developed ideas and a variety of plans to create something unique that reflects the historical significance of the site and will serve as a community destination. The long term master plan calls for a mixed-use development including commercial office/retail space, townhomes and apartment lofts, and civic space including a community plaza and city hall. This site is envisioned as the town center and is intended to complement and enhance the City's existing Old Town District.

One of the first steps in developing this site will be the restoration of the southern cotton gin building as an open air community pavilion. The 6,000 square foot gin building will serve as the southern boundary of the future co-op plaza that is planned. The gin building holds particular significance in the Hutto community due to its visibility along Hwy 79 and Farley Street. The City has been planning for this restoration and estimates construction to total \$754,000. The restoration will include a new slab, extension of utilities, site improvements, and strengthening the building's integrity. We envision this space being used for farmers markets, community fairs, craft shows, concerts, parties, and much more. We see this as the first step in developing the co-op project and will kickstart our efforts to recreate the co-op site as the City's civic heart.

We are requesting that the Williamson County Commissioner's Court authorize the dispersement of \$360,000 from the Hutto landfill fund that was established when the Williamson County Landfill contract was renegotiated. Matching funds will come from the City's fund balance savings and the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

The City plans to begin construction on the facility this fall and would request a single reimbursement from Williamson County following the completion of construction of the gin building.

Please let me know if I may provide further information regarding this request. We are very excited about this project and thankful for the continued support from Williamson County.

Sincerely,

Karen Daly City Manager

enclosures