

3.5 Government Communication

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Assessment Process	
A.	The assessment of Government Communication is a mayoral-appointed committee of city staff, elected officials, and citizens.
B.	Surveys related to governmental performance are conducted through the Community Betterment program and the Chamber of Commerce.

Program Standards	
A.	Organization: The City Council and employees of the City are charged with the responsibility under this particular program.
B.	Mission Statement: The directive of the Government Communication program is to render adequate and dependable communication to the citizens of Lamar regarding services and issues of importance. The program strives to promote the affairs of the City in a manner that will maintain the respect and support of the customers, other people of the business community, and the public.
C.	Codification of Ordinances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinances have been re-codified and are applicable with state and federal counterparts. • Ordinance information is accessible at City Hall, the Police Department, and on a website. • Citizens may request research services and referrals by City staff related to specific ordinances. • New ordinances drafted by the Council receive due diligence in the development stage. • As new ordinances are developed, the City solicits samples and input from other peer communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The City implements best practices of other successful peer community endeavors. ○ The City maintains uniformity with other peer communities for the benefit and consistency of citizens relocating to Lamar from another community.
D.	Annual Report: The City of Lamar publishes semi-annual and annual reports of progress for the community. The report summarizes council activities and resolutions, annual accomplishments, and forecasts of goals and specific projects. Reports are published in the newspaper and are available at City Hall.
E.	Citizen Action System: A strong and responsive staff at City Hall provides a system that fosters input into city operations and requests for additional information. Citizens can easily request attention by the City Council through placement on the agenda by the City Clerk. The effectiveness of this system was demonstrated in a 2002 Citizens Survey. The attitude and performance of city staff was rated “good to excellent” by more than 73% of respondents.
F.	Public Meetings/Hearings : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the monthly council meeting, regular committee meetings are held for the following departments: Parks and Recreation Board, Swimming Pool Committee, Zoning Board, Budget Committee, and Administrative Committee. • Committees comprise city staff and citizens appointed by the Mayor. • All meetings, barring topics deemed appropriate for closure under state law, are open to the public and welcome public comment.

G.	<p>Citizens Newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weekly civic and business affairs newsletter is published by the Chamber of Commerce. City information is placed in this newsletter on a regular basis. • New citizens to the city are provided with a document detailing several aspects of the City including structure, when the council meets, services provided, city departments, and common applicable laws. • Each meeting is publicized in advance through the local news media with agendas posted at City Hall for public convenience.
H.	<p>News Releases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports are published frequently in the local news media to keep the public informed of ongoing activities. • The City utilizes a public access cable television station to pass along information bulletins to citizens. This service reaches more than 1,500 households in the City.

Program Evaluation

The success of Government Communication endeavors for Lamar are addressed through:

- Public input at regular meetings of the City Council, City Boards, and City Committees
- Annual Citizen Surveys conducted by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the City