**Provide oversight for growth and its impact on our infrastructure (water, wastewater, and road maintenance) and services.**

My first priority is INFRASTRUCTURE – not just roads, but water (fresh water and drainage), sewer, and emergency services and slowing the new development down until we can get the infrastructure ready for it. The City took a step in the right direction on our roads by completing a road condition study, but we can’t stop there. We need to ensure not only repairs and replacement of existing roads occur, but also an ongoing maintenance plan so that our roads don’t get to this point again. We need a realistic plan for sewer and water services for new development that does not include pump-and-haul or above ground sewage storage in neighborhoods.

We are a city of 32,000+ and need emergency services for all residents. We also need to focus on retention of first responders, including looking at innovative ways to provide additional education and certifications to improve our fire and police forces and keep them in Cibolo. We have a Master Plan, Future Land Use Map, UDC, and other tools and resources we should be using to guide new development. We need to ensure that these documents are used in all decision making, reviewed often, and updated to keep up with the needs of the City. I’d like to reform the Streets and Drainage Committee to have citizen input in our infrastructure needs.

Additionally, I believe every tax dollar matters, and as a council member will work to ensure that the city is fiscally responsible and that bonds don’t sit for years before being utilized. For example, the City is just now building Fire Station #3 at Weidner and 1103 with a bond that was passed in 2014. Due to inflation and using some of the bond money for other projects, the City had to come up with additional funds to cover the project – funds that could’ve been used for other projects.

One of the great things about Cibolo is that you do not have to be on Council in order to work with the City to improve it. We have numerous committees, boards, and commissions As a member of the Capital Improvements Committee I helped determine our 5 year plan for infrastructure projects, including recommending the partnership and bond to get 1103 widened, and the bond for Fire Station #3. The knowledge gained from serving on the CIP was invaluable – I learned about the different agencies involved in completing infrastructure projects, the different tools the City utilizes to determine priority, the different types of funding utilized for infrastructure, length of time projects take to complete, etc. (Side note – if this sounds like something you would enjoy, please sign up! There is an application on the City’s website)

I was also a member of the Master Plan Committee. A comprehensive master plan becomes a document that guides decisions made by city leaders. It helps staff and elected and appointed officials make public policy, plan for capital improvements, and evaluate proposed private developments in a way that leads toward the long-term vision for Cibolo. Comprehensive master plans envision a future 20 years out and then identify steps on how to get there.

When elected I would like to bring back two committees that have not met in the last 5 years to increase citizen involvement in infrastructure projects. Due to current growth trends in the area and unforeseen future changes that may directly impact the City, the Master Plan should be updated every three to five years to make adjustments as necessary. When elected, I will re-establish the Master Plan Committee to work with staff and Council on updating our last Master Plan (completed in 2016). I’d also push for Council and staff to have a plan for following up with the measures identified in the Master Plan. Having a goal is great, having a plan is better, but following through with monitoring the progress and making sure the tasks are completed is the only way to ensure the goals become reality.

I would also re-establish the Streets & Drainage Committee. The City suddenly disbanded this committee in 2015. This committee discussed street and drainage needs, including water and sewer projects. As we continue to grow and have additional issues with water and sewer services for new developments (and current residents who continue to have issues) it is imperative citizens are a part of the discussions. I would like to see these meetings include members from partner agencies like GVSUD to ensure open communication and transparency between the City, partners, and our residents.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like further explanation. I LOVE to talk about Cibolo and the ideas I have to move us forward! Remember to vote Katie Cunningham for District 4 on November 2 (or during Early Voting October 18-29)