

CITY OF GROVEPORT REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

May 9, 2016

ADMINISTRATION – *Marsha Hall*

Legislation

Proposed Changes to Water and Sewer Rules and Regulations (2nd Readings)

The purpose for these ordinances is primarily two-fold:

1) Staff has looked at ways to assist Groveport water system customers when making payments. We are developing a flyer to promote pre-payment installments of bills, and we are making it easier for customers to pay their bills online. Neither of these requires Council action. We are proposing a “Hardship Arrangement” which will allow customers to sign an agreement to pay their bill, without late fees, over a three month period if due to a hardship once every four billing cycles. This does require Council action, and the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations explain this program.

Since we have provided several ways to assist Groveport customers when paying bills, we are proposing an increase for shut offs and tagging customers for shut offs. For the most part, we find this is a recurrence for the same customers who find it easier to pay the low late fee than to pay on time.

We did look at various options regarding senior citizen discounts or removal of the minimum bill. However, both of these would require that we increase everyone’s bills in order to account for the reduced revenue based on our current operating balance and debt payment for the water plant. 2017 has the last rate increase of 3% that was adopted by Council. After we know the annual operating costs of the new plant and the revenue after the 2017 increase, we will re-visit this with Council later in 2017.

2) Staff is proposing an increase of Water Capacity charges for the portion of the charges which the City retains for those customers served by the Columbus Water System. Below are the proposed changes in bold print, as well as a comparison of the charges for the Groveport Water System:

Size of Water Tap	Columbus Water System			Groveport Water System
	Current Charge to Columbus	Current Charge to Groveport	Proposed Charge to Groveport	
3/4”	\$1,749	\$220	\$1,486	\$2,170
1”	2,914	395	2,331	3,900
1-1/2”	5,829	878	4,955	8,568
2”	9,326	1,570	7,927	15,400
3”	18,651	3,535	15,750	34,500
4”	29,143	6,280	25,126	47,775
6”	58,285	14,120	50,080	108,529
8”	93,256	25,100	80,249	191,100
10”	134,056	39,220	112,285	297,670
12”	250,626	-----	217,285	428,749
16”	279,268	-----	233,351	477,749

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Comparisons of $\frac{3}{4}$ " Water Capacity Charges with other Central Ohio communities (from City of Columbus website):

Lancaster -	\$3,690
Canal Winchester -	\$3,715
Delaware -	\$5,600
Marysville -	\$4,950
Sunbury -	\$7,525

Capacity charges are only required when either an undeveloped property requires water and sewer service or when the size of a current tap has to be increased (the difference in size is what is charged). This revenue is not used for operations; rather for system improvements. As the Columbus system ages it is imperative that we have adequate funds for these improvements.

Proposed Changes to Park Rules (2nd Reading)

Currently, parking restrictions in parks are included in Section 351.15 of the Codified Ordinances. This legislation moves parking restrictions to the Park Rules located in Section 941.03 as well as provides more definition as to where parking can occur.

"No Through Trucks – Local Deliveries Only" Signage at Tallman St @ Rohr Rd. (1st Reading)

Please consider three readings of this emergency legislation. We continue to try to monitor and regulate the trucks leaving the new Northpointe warehouse. We have scheduled a meeting with the company to discuss both traffic and signage. I drove the area with Dennis Moore last week and we determined that this is probably the only area in need of a traffic control sign for traffic turning north onto Tallman off Rohr. This is the wording the Law Director said to use in order to be enforceable.

Miscellaneous

Golf Course Project

A progress meeting was held last Tuesday. As of that day the contractor indicated that the project was still on schedule to meet the June 1 deadline, with all work being completed. (The original contract calls for either all work done by June 1 or a shutdown then completion after the leagues end.) There was a discussion about priorities should rain occur several days (as is in the forecast for the week of May 9). If that were to occur, or too many more days of rain, they may not be 100% completion by June 1. The priorities are 1) door entrance and wall, patio area, walkways and cart path from parking lot; 2) lower level parking lot, and last 3) above parking area. We have run into a few issues that have eaten substantially into the contract's force account – 1) while installing the new gas line that we found was necessary, they hit rock and had to bring in equipment to bore through the rock, and 2) bad soil was found in the area of the parking lot expansion requiring soil stabilization.

With the increase in business of the Paddock Pub and the start of the leagues, parking has been at a premium at times. Tom's staff has been great in assisting people in finding parking places and providing golf carts to get to the clubhouse. The restaurant has been steadily increasing in patronage. I was there for dinner on Friday, April 29 and at one point every table and all seats at the bar were filled, and patrons were waiting on seats.

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I also want to thank Bob Dowling for working with Tom, Scott Heimlich (owner of the pub), the Chamber and I to provide shuttle parking from the rec center to the golf course for the Chamber's Administrative Assistants Luncheon and the restaurant's Mother's Day brunch. The City paid for the cost of the shuttles for the chamber event and the restaurant paid for the use of the shuttles for their event. By May 3, the restaurant had 200 brunch reservations for Mother's Day.

Mosquito Control Contract through Franklin County Public Health

Dennis Moore and I sat in on a lengthy conference call regarding this year's program. Following are some details of that conversation:

- All previous services will continue in 2016.
- Additional larvicide treatment will be added as well as 2 additional staff members, with funding being shifted from their Ebola response budget to the mosquito budget.
- Discussion of the Zika virus. All 10 confirmed cases in Ohio have been travel associated. The only mosquito known to carry Zika is NOT found in Ohio. Another mosquito being monitored is found in Ohio but has not been found to carry the virus at this time. Both mosquitos are known as daytime biters. For that reason, the board is suggesting an aggressive campaign to educate residents against standing water and to report daytime biting mosquitos. They will continue to monitor and update us as needed.
- Newest challenge is rain barrels. Emptying these on a frequent basis defeats their purpose. The FCPH has a flyer to hand out explaining how to maintain rain barrels.
- FCPH will be providing us with information that can be included on our website and other distribution.

Executive Session

Please consider going into executive session at tonight's meeting to discuss economic development issues.

Meetings; Events

Meetings Attended:

04/28 4th of July Committee meeting
04/29 Arbor Day events
05/03 Mtg. re. website
05/06 MORPC Annual Luncheon
05/06 Motts Zoo Event

Upcoming Meetings

05/12 Street Maintenance Program Pre-construction meeting