

CITY OF GROVEPORT REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

May 16, 2016

ADMINISTRATION – Marsha Hall

Legislation

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

The purpose of 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 that promotes 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 ¾" 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 one-time charges that 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. Per Council's request we are also looking at language restricting drones, as well as a few other modifications requested by Kyle Lund.

Miscellaneous

Motts Military Museum

I received a note from Warren Motts thanking the City for supporting his 9-11 event and for continuing to support his museum through our funding.

Verizon Antenna

Verizon has had their plans to erect a monopole at our water treatment plant property on hold since last year. They have once again decided to move forward with it, and are meeting with us to finalize zoning and leasing arrangements.

Meetings; Events

Meetings Attended:

05/12 Street Maintenance Program Pre-construction meeting
05/13 Meeting with Verizon

Upcoming Meetings:

05/17 Meeting re. website upgrade
05/18 Chamber meeting
05/19 Senior Citizen Luncheon for Older Americans Celebration
05/20 Armed Forces Day event