

# CITY OF GROVEPORT REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

May 23, 2016

## ADMINISTRATION – Marsha Hall

### *Legislation*

#### Proposed Changes to Water and Sewer Rules and Regulations (3<sup>rd</sup> 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	<b>\$1,486</b>	\$2,170
1”	2,914	395	<b>2,331</b>	3,900
1-1/2”	5,829	878	<b>4,955</b>	8,568
2”	9,326	1,570	<b>7,927</b>	15,400
3”	18,651	3,535	<b>15,750</b>	34,500
4”	29,143	6,280	<b>25,126</b>	47,775
6”	58,285	14,120	<b>50,080</b>	108,529
8”	93,256	25,100	<b>80,249</b>	191,100
10”	134,056	39,220	<b>112,285</b>	297,670
12”	250,626	-----	<b>217,285</b>	428,749
16”	279,268	-----	<b>233,351</b>	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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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. We are also 1) adding language restricting drones, 2) a general statement that we will make a determination as to what amenities a person is permitted to bring to the park (ie; tents, bounce houses, etc.), and 3) amending the language for alcohol in the parks to indicate that Council can approve if they want.

### ODOT Consent Legislation for Pedestrian Signals (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

This legislation is needed to participate in their pedestrian signalization program which will provide us with funding and installation of a number of these crossings. We are asking for this emergency legislation to be read three times and adopted at tonight's meeting. It is due back to ODOT by June 1.

### Ratification of Agreement to Purchase Road Salt from Grove City (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

This was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Grove City had a contract with ODOT to purchase a certain tonnage of salt, and after the mild winter they have nowhere to store this salt. The ODOT contract requires that they pay for the salt by May 31. We have appropriated money for salt purchase, and have not contracted yet for the purchase, and purchasing from Grove City will save us at least \$10.00/ton, or approximately \$9,000. Because of the timing of this, I signed the agreement the day after the COTW meeting, and we are asking you to ratify this contract.

### Acceptance of Groveport-Madison Sewer Line (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

The installation of a new sewer line by GMHS was necessary because the old line would have run under the new high school. The new line has been installed, has been inspected, and is ready to be accepted by us for public use.

### ***Miscellaneous***

#### Allowing the Fallen 15 Non-profit Organization to Host a Beer Tent the 9-11 Ruck Run Event

The non-profit that is organizing this event has requested that we allow them to have a beer tent on the Groveport Park/Recreation Center site for their event on Sept. 11. This can be allowed or denied by motion of Council.

## CITY OF GROVEPORT REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### Out of Office

I will be out of the office beginning Thursday, May 26 and return Wednesday, June 1.

### ***Meetings; Events***

#### Meetings Attended:

05/17 Meeting re. website upgrade  
05/17 Meeting with Saddlebrook and Northepointe re. traffic directional signage  
05/18 Chamber meeting  
05/18 Mtg. with Excel re. fence behind Shaffer Drive residents  
05/19 Senior Citizen Luncheon for Older Americans Celebration  
05/20 Armed Forces Day event  
05/23 Meetings with DHs re. website content

#### Upcoming Meetings

05/24 Meetings with DHs re. website content  
05/25 Meetings with DHs re. website content