

NEWSLETTER

4-17



City of Lytle

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www.lytletx.org

MAYOR

Mark Bowen

ALDERMEN

Dist. 1-Ruben Gonzalez
Dist. 2-Sam Cortez
Dist. 3-Jamie Dahler
Dist. 4-Jerry Stone
Dist. 5-Ruble P. Farmer, Jr

CITY SECRETARY

Josie Campa

October 1, 2017

CITY NEWSLETTER

Please be advised that the city sends a newsletter on a quarterly basis to inform and remind the public about important matters.

2017-2018 CITY BUDGET

The Lytle City Council adopted the City's budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 at the September 18th Council meeting. A copy of this budget is available for public inspection at the Lytle City Hall on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. You may also view the budget on the city's website at www.lytletx.org. The 2017-2018 City budget is composed by the following:

Revenues

General Fund	\$ 2,671,150.00
Water Department	\$ 534,000.00
Gas Department	\$ 429,400.00
Sewer Department	\$ 343,600.00
Library Department	\$ 178,300.00
Animal Control Department	\$ 238,500.00
Debt Service	\$ 114,050.00

Expenditures

General Fund	\$ 2,671,000.00
Water Department	\$ 532,950.00
Gas Department	\$ 429,300.00
Sewer Department	\$ 343,212.50
Library Department	\$ 178,100.00
Animal Control Department	\$ 238,500.00
Debt Service	\$ 114,050.00

This year's budgets for all of the city's departments are balanced. The general fund will be raised by about \$47,500.00 by ad valorem (property) taxes. Of this total, \$12,772.00 will be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

2017 TAX RATE

The tax rate for 2017 was set at \$0.3900 per \$100.00 valuation. This tax rate is slightly higher than last year's rate of \$0.3725 per \$100.00 valuation. The rate is apportioned as follows:

For maintenance and operations (M&O) of the general government (General Fund) - \$0.3104 for each \$100.00 valuation of property, and for the interest and sinking fund (Debt Service) - \$0.0796 on each \$100.00 valuation of property.

The M&O rate is slightly higher than last year's rate of \$0.2912, and the I&S rate is \$0.0017 lower than last year's rate of \$0.0813. This year the additional ½% sales tax saved taxpayers \$0.2166 for each \$100.00 valuation.

The 2017 taxes are due by January 31, 2018; however, if paid early, the City will allow discounts again this year. If paid in October, the discount is 3%; if paid in November, the discount is 2%; and if paid in December, the discount is 1%.

If your taxable value remained the same as last year, then you will see an increase of \$1.75 for every \$10,000.00 of value. Example: Last year you would have paid \$372.00 on a home valued at \$100,000.00. This year you will pay \$390.00 for a difference of \$17.50.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF LYTLE WATER CUSTOMER
NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE WATER RATES

The City of Lytle will increase their water rates effective the October meter reading dates (October 18, 19 and 20), which will be reflected on your December 1st bill. The City Council voted to increase these rates at the September 18, 2017 Council meeting.

THESE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS: WATER RATES-ALL CUSTOMERS

	<u>PRESENT RATE</u>	<u>RATES EFFECTIVE 10/18/17</u>
Residences Minimum 0-3,000 gallons	\$11.00 in town	WILL REMAIN THE SAME
	\$16.50 out of town	WILL REMAIN THE SAME
Over 3,000-10,000 gallons	\$1.50 per thousand	WILL REMAIN THE SAME
Over 10,000-25,000 gallons	\$3.00 per thousand	\$3.50 per thousand
Over 25,000-50,000 gallons	\$3.50 per thousand	\$4.50 per thousand
Over 50,000-75,000 gallons	\$4.00 per thousand	\$5.00 per thousand
Over 75,000-100,000 gallons	\$4.75 per thousand	\$6.00 per thousand
Over 100,000 gallons	\$7.00 per thousand	\$8.00 per thousand

OTHER UTILITY RATES

Gas and Sewer rates were not increased this year. However, your sewer fee may increase due to your water consumption. Please read below for further explanation. The garbage rates will remain the same for now. However, if Waste Management decides to ask for an increase when the new contract is negotiated, we will have to pass this onto the customers.

SEWER FEES

Sewer fees on your bill may change depending on last winter's water consumption. We'd like to take this opportunity to explain how your sewer fee is calculated. Your base sewer fee is a \$17.00 base rate. We then calculate how much water you used in the previous three (3) winter months of December, January and February and average that by month. This number of gallons per month is then multiplied by a rate determined by the gallons you averaged starting with \$0.50 per thousand gallons for the first 3,000 gallons; then \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons for the next 7,000 gallons and then \$2.00 per thousand gallons thereafter. Example: If your average consumption is 3,000 gallons per month your sewer fee will be \$18.50 per month.

We encourage everyone to fix water leaks that may cause your monthly average of water to increase, and therefore, cause you to have a higher sewer bill. If you have any questions on how your sewer fee is calculated, please call our office at 830-709-3692.

UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS

Holidays that have currently been set up for City employees over the next three (3) months are as follows:

Veterans' Day	-Friday, November 10 th
Thanksgiving	-Thursday, November 23 rd
	-Friday, November 24 th
Christmas Eve	-Friday, December 22 nd
Christmas	-Monday, December 25 th
New Year's Day	-Monday, January 1 st

Please keep in mind that the City office will be closed on these dates. However, garbage services for residences will not be affected. Garbage customers with dumpsters will be affected by holidays, if they fall on Mondays and Thursdays.

WATER CONSERVATION

At the time this newsletter was being written, the city remains in the Stage 1 Critical Period. During this time everyone is asked to cut back water usage by 20%. We'll keep hoping for some rain, so that we can see the aquifer level rise and get out of Stage 1 and its restrictions.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN LYTLE

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Lytle Police Department and Lytle Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting this year's National Night Out at the city's "town square" by the Gidley house on Main Street. This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Police Department newsletter has more information on this event, so please read that for more info.

5th ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY FAIR

The Lytle Public Library will be holding its 5th Annual Living History Fair on Saturday, November 4th, from 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m. If you haven't been to this event, we encourage you to do so. It's like going back into the time that our parents, grandparents and great grandparents grew up in. A separate flyer for this event info is enclosed with your newsletter.

SANTA'S HAYRIDE

The city's annual Santa's Hayride is scheduled for Saturday, November 25th this year. Santa will arrive at the Lytle Community Center at 6:00 p.m. to lead the hayride around the city. Admission for this hayride is one (1) canned food or \$1.00 per person. Please remember that all children on the hayride shall be accompanied by an adult.

TRAILERS NEEDED FOR HAYRIDE

WE ARE ASKING THAT PEOPLE WITH TRUCKS AND/OR TRAILERS HELP US WITH SANTA'S HAYRIDE. If you are interested in participating in this event with your truck and/or trailer, please contact the City Hall at 830-709-3692, option 7. Deadline for this is Wednesday, November 23rd.

2017 CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

RESIDENCES

The city will hold a Christmas Decorating Contest for residences again this year. We ask that homes participating in this contest be decorated by November 25th in time for the hayride.

BUSINESSES

All businesses are encouraged to decorate their places for the Annual Decorating Contest. Deadline for the decorating is also November 25th.

NON-PROFIT GROUPS

As in the past few years, the city will sponsor a Christmas Decorating Contest for non-profit groups to earn much needed funds. As in the past, the city has designated publicly owned locations for this contest. The deadline for decorations is Saturday, November 25th.

CONTEST RULES

All Christmas decorations shall be up and ready to be judged by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 25th for all three (3) categories listed above at the city's designated locations. If you want to be sure the judges look at your decorations this year, you can call the City Hall at 830-709-3692, option 7 and you will be put on the list for judging.

Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$250.00 and \$100.00 will be awarded in each category for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively. These prizes will be awarded at the January Council meeting. Let's all try to make Lytle as bright as possible this holiday season.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SERVE AS REMINDERS FOR OUR NEW CUSTOMERS:

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

The City of Lytle requires its residents and business owners to get building permits prior to starting building projects, whether it's a new dwelling, addition to a dwelling or business, swimming pool, gazebo, deck, storage shed, etc. If you do not get a building permit prior to starting construction, the cost of the permit will be doubled. We urge everyone to comply with the city's building ordinance.

BRUSH PICK-UP

Your brush will continue to be picked up once a month this next year. **Again, brush pick-up is scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month.** We encourage everyone to place their brush out by the curb where you normally place your trash can(s) and/or bag(s) by no earlier than the Saturday before brush pick-up is scheduled to start. We ask that you place your brush out no later than 7 AM on the date pick-up is scheduled to start. We urge everyone to please follow the instructions above to avoid having brush along the city right-of-ways for long periods of time and making our city look dirty. Over the past year, we have noticed that brush has been placed on the right-of-way just after brush is picked up, which means that debris will sit there for nearly a month before it is picked up. We ask that you **not do** this in the future, as we do try to keep Lytle looking as neat as possible.

BULKY WASTE PICK-UP

Bulky waste is scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month. **REMEMBER THAT BRUSH IS NOT CONSIDERED** bulky waste. Also please remember, do **not** mix in brush with your bulky waste, or it will not be picked up.

AGAIN, WE URGE EVERYONE TO PLACE BULKY WASTE AT CURBSIDE THE WEEKEND PRIOR TO THE START DATE, SO WE DO NOT HAVE THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS LOOKING DIRTY AND UGLY FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. ALSO, REMEMBER TO PLACE YOUR BULKY WASTE WHERE IT DOES NOT CAUSE A PROBLEM FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS, OR FOR PEOPLE DRIVING DOWN YOUR STREET.

CAR LICENSE PLATE STICKERS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

Car license plate stickers are **no** longer being sold at the Lytle City Hall. The Atascosa County Tax office is sending their representative to the new Atascosa County Precinct No. 2 Justice of the Peace office instead. Property taxes for Atascosa County can also be paid at that office. We realize this will be a bit of an inconvenience, however, the tax office will be open **every** Wednesday.

The new office is located at 1567 FM 3175, (on the left side of road) just past the Benton City Water office. The phone number for the new office is 830-772-5854. The office hours are: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., with a lunch hour from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. This new office will be a "**full-service**" tax office.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Lytle City Council meets on the second Monday of each month* at 6:30 p.m. at the Lytle City Hall.

*Note – December meeting is **usually** not held due to the holiday season.

CITY OFFICE HOURS

The City Office is open during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The City Hall closes for the lunch hour from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM in order for the office to run as efficiently as possible.

CODE COMPLIANCE

We have a Code Compliance Officer that will continue to drive around the city and see that people comply with the city's ordinances. We ask everyone to keep their lots free of debris and junk vehicles to avoid a visit from the city's code enforcement officer.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

The City Hall accepts credit and debit card payments (Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover). You may pay your utility bills, taxes, fines, and other fees charged by the city with these four cards in the lobby and the drive-thru window of the City Hall.

DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

We'd like to remind everyone that the drive-thru window at the back of the City Hall building is open for their convenience during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday and is closed for lunch between 12:00 noon and 1:00 PM. We do accept credit card payments at the drive-thru window.

GAS EMERGENCIES

CPS Energy operates and maintains the city's gas system. If you have a gas emergency, please call, (210) 353-HELP (4357) or toll free at 1-800-870-1006.

NIGHT DEPOSIT

A night deposit box is available for the convenience of customers paying utility bills and taxes. This drop box is located next to the drive-thru window at the back of the City Hall building.

OVERGROWN LOTS & YARDS

We'd like to remind everyone with property in the Lytle City limits that we do have an ordinance prohibiting lots and yards to become overgrown with weeds and debris (that includes old tires). If you are found to be in violation of the city's ordinance you will be notified to correct the situation within seven (7) days of the notice. If you do not clean the property within the allotted time, the city will be forced to send a police officer to issue a citation to you and then file a complaint against you in Municipal Court. This could lead to you being fined for every day your property is not cleaned up. We ask everyone to keep their yards free of weeds, trash and debris to keep our city looking neat and clean.

PHONE SYSTEM AT CITY HALL

The City Hall's new phone system has been completed, and can make things more efficient for our customers. Also, if the employee you are trying to reach is out of the office or busy, the new voicemail feature will let you leave a message for that employee.

The options for the new phone system are listed below:

- Option 1 – Utilities (Laura Rodriguez)
- Option 2 – Taxes & Building Permits (Angela Perdue)
- Option 3 – Municipal Court (Diana Salazar)
- Option 4 – Dumpster Service (Virginia Medina)
- Option 5 – Assistant City Secretary (Virginia Medina)
- Option 6 – Payroll (Josie Campa)
- Option 7 – City Secretary (Josie Campa)
- Option 8 – Finances/Accounts Payable (Josie Campa)
- Option 9 – All Other Matters

UTILITY ON-LINE PAYMENTS

The City of Lytle now has the capability for accepting “on-line” payments for utility bills.

WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our website at www.lytletx.org. We do update this website as often as possible with important news.

WORK ORDERS

All citizens are urged to call the City Office to turn in work orders for City-related matters. In the past, citizens have told laborers or Council members about things that needed to be done and since they were not in the office, a work order was not written and the work to be done was forgotten. **PLEASE REMEMBER**, call the City Office if you have a matter that needs to be tended to.

MAYOR'S REPORT

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to cooler weather. Hopefully along with the cooler weather will come much needed rain. Please help conserve our water.

I encourage each of you to attend our Lytle Night Out, which will be held at the Gidley Square in downtown Lytle on October 3rd from 6 to 8 PM. You will be able to visit with all of our Police, EMS and Firefighters, along with free food and drinks.

Looking around town several projects are going on, like the new apartments being built over by the McDonalds. Projects like the new apartments are always needed in a community. Several other new businesses are opening as well. Lytle is truly a blessed City.

I want to thank our great volunteers for all you do for our community, without your help and dedication we could not get many things accomplished. If you would like to help on a project in the coming year, please let us know.

Thank you again for all your support.

Mark L. Bowen
Mayor

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IMPORTANT CITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lytle City Hall	(830) 709-3692
Lytle Public Works After Hours	(210) 251-8578
Lytle Police Dept.	(830) 709-0277
Lytle Animal Control	(830) 709-3832
Lytle EMS and Police	(830) 769-3434 or 9-1-1
Lytle Fire Department	(830) 709-2326 or 9-1-1
CPS Energy	(210) 353-HELP (4357) 1-800-870-1006 Toll Free

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