

NEWSLETTER:

4-19



## City of Lytle

14916 Main Street  
P.O. Box 743  
Lytle, Texas 78052  
(830) 709-3692  
[www.lytletx.org](http://www.lytletx.org)

MAYOR  
Mark Bowen

ALDERMEN  
Dist. 1-Ruben Gonzalez  
Dist. 2-Sam Cortez  
Dist. 3-Laura Reyna  
Dist. 4-Jerry Stone  
Dist. 5-Ruble Farmer, Jr.

CITY SECRETARY  
Josie Campa

October 1, 2019

### CITY NEWSLETTER

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

### 2019-2020 CITY BUDGET

The Lytle City Council adopted the City's budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 at the September 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lytletx.org). The 2019-2020 City budget is composed by the following:

#### Revenues

General Fund	\$ 3,077,325.00
Water Department	\$ 592,600.00
Gas Department	\$ 463,850.00
Sewer Department	\$ 367,000.00
Library Department	\$ 205,300.00
Animal Control Department	\$ 283,000.00
Debt Service	\$ 180,375.00

#### Expenditures

General Fund	\$ 3,077,300.00
Water Department	\$ 592,050.00
Gas Department	\$ 463,600.00
Sewer Department	\$ 365,700.00
Library Department	\$ 205,300.00
Animal Control Department	\$ 282,950.00
Debt Service	\$ 180,375.00

This year's budgets for all of the city's departments are balanced. The general fund will be raised by about \$95,000.00 by ad valorem (property) taxes. Of this total, \$17,281.00 will be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

**2019 TAX RATE**

The tax rate for 2019 was set at \$0.4475 per \$100.00 valuation. This tax rate is higher than last year's rate of \$0.4225 per \$100.00 valuation. The rate is apportioned as follows:

For maintenance and operations (M&O) of the general government (General Fund) - \$0.3395 for each \$100.00 valuation of property, and for the interest and sinking fund (Debt Service) - \$0.1080 on each \$100.00 valuation of property.

The M&O rate is higher than last year's rate of \$0.3122, and the I&S rate is \$0.0023 lower than last year's rate of \$0.1103. This year the additional ½% sales tax saved taxpayers \$0.2042 for each \$100.00 valuation.

The 2019 taxes are due by January 31, 2020; 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 \$2.50 for every \$10,000.00 of value. Example: Last year you would have paid \$422.50 on a home valued at \$100,000.00. This year you will pay \$447.50 for a difference of \$25.00.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**UTILITY RATES INCREASED**  
**FOR 2019-2020 FY**

**WATER**-This year City Council voted to increase water rates by \$1.00 per thousand gallons on all tiers over 10,000 gallons. For the average home this means no increase. However, anyone using over 10,000 gallons per month will see their water bill go up. Out of town customers will be paying \$1.50 more for 1,000 gallons.

**GARBAGE**-Council also voted to renegotiate the garbage contract with Waste Management. This means that households will see a hefty increase in their monthly garbage fees. The average household was paying \$16.72 for garbage service. The new rate effective November 1<sup>st</sup> will be \$23.00 per household per month. This is a substantial increase; however, we had not seen service fees from Waste Management raised since 2014. We understand this is quite an increase, but we have checked with other cities and they are paying more for just once a week pick-up. Once a new contract is negotiated with Waste Management, you will see a difference. By this we mean your fees might be lowered, but your service may change to once a week. We will keep you abreast of any changes that come about during negotiations. Business rates for garbage pick-up will increase 3.8% to 4%. Any business using dumpster(s) will see this increase on their December 1<sup>st</sup> bill. Again, depending on the city's negotiations with Waste Management, you may see this change. Part of the negotiations with Waste Management will include the possibility of a recycling program and establishing bulky waste drop off area. Again, we will keep all our customers informed of any changes being made to their solid waste service.

**GAS & SEWER**-Gas rates & sewer rates will remain the same as last year's rate at this time.

**OCTOBER & NOVEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES CHANGED**

Due to regular City Council meeting dates falling on City holidays this year, Council voted to change meeting dates. The October, 2019 Council meeting will be held on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**, one week earlier than usual. The November, 2019 City Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**, one day after the regular date.

**WATER CONSERVATION**

At the time that this newsletter was being written, the city had not seen a “critical” period declared for Edwards Aquifer customers. The rain we saw at the end of August and the second week of September, kept the aquifer from dropping to the Stage 1 trigger level. If we get rain, as they are predicting, we may be able to avoid restrictions as in past years. If you will remember, a year ago at this time, we were in Stage 2 of water restrictions.

**UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS**

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

Columbus Day	Monday, October 14th
Veterans’ Day	Monday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 28 <sup>th</sup> Friday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas	Wednesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> (No Residential Pick-up)
New Year’s Day	Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> (No Residential Pick-up)

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN LYTLE**

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

The Lytle Police Department and Lytle Fire Department will be hosting “National Night Out” on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. This year’s event will be held at the Lytle Community Center from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The enclosed Police department’s newsletter will have more information on this event.

**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY FAIR**

The Lytle Public Library will be holding its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Living History Fair on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year’s event has been downsized a bit due to Lytle ISD’s Homecoming Parade & Luncheon being held that same day. A separate flyer will be enclosed with your November utility bill.

**LYTLE ISD EX-STUDENTS’ HOMECOMING EVENT**

The Lytle Ex-Students’ Association will be having its Homecoming Parade on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon/visitation is planned for that afternoon. We will have more info on this with the November utility bill.

**SANTA’S HAYRIDE**

Santa’s Hayride is scheduled to take place the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 30<sup>th</sup>). Again, this event will be held at the Lytle Community Center starting at 6:00 p.m. Admission for this event will be one (1) canned good or \$1.00 per person. We will have a flyer for this event in with the next utility bill.

**OTHER EVENTS**

At the time this newsletter was being written, we were hearing that other events may take place and were in the process of being approved and planned. Should these events come to be before your November utility bills go out, we will include information on these as well.

**SANTA'S HAYRIDE TRUCKS & TRAILERS NEEDED**

Once again, we are asking people with trucks and/or trailers to help us with Santa's Hayride. Last year we had to go on the hayride three (3) times because of the crowd we had. So, if you are interested in helping us with the use of your trucks and/or trailers for this event, please contact the City Hall at 830-709-3692, Option 7. Deadline for signing up is Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated.

**2019 CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST**

The City will once again hold a Christmas Decorating Contest for residences and businesses. We will also have a decorating contest for non-profit organizations.

**RULES FOR THESE CONTESTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESIDENCES**-All decorations must be up and ready to be judged by November 30<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.

**BUSINESSES**-5:00 p.m., November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for judging these decorations.

**NON-PROFIT GROUPS**-Deadline for decorations is Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. City has designated areas that non-profit groups can decorate. Please note that if needed, the city will provide the decorations, however, the labor for getting the decorations to designated sites, putting up these decorations, staking them down and connecting the decorations to electricity must be done by the non-profit groups in order to qualify for this contest.

**NEW BUSINESSES FOR LYTLE**

BURGER KING is hoping to be ready for business soon after this newsletter goes out. They had hoped to open in September, however, unforeseen events slowed down progress.

Over the past few months, Lytle has seen other businesses started up in the City. They are as follows:

Gunz & Rosez, a resale shop, located at 15151 Adams Street.

Top Tier Graphic Designs located at 15063 Main Street offers t-shirts, banners and signs.

Saddle Bum Trucking has set up shop in the old barber shop building located at 15166 Main Street.

M&M performance has a car repair shop located at 15321 Main Street across the street from the Veterans' Memorial Park.

Save RX Pharmacy has relocated from Main Street to 19450 McDonald Street next to the Subway.

VSC Insurance has also relocated from its Main Street address to 14610 Priest Blvd., Suite 105.

We are also hearing that the Topis Mexican Restaurant located at Main & N. Somerset will be moving to 15063 Main next to Top Tier Graphic Designs as soon as that building is fixed up.

Sure looks like we have been playing "Musical Chairs" or "businesses" in the past few months.

**UPDATE ON NEW WELL**

At the time this newsletter is being written, the new transmission line for the new well will be near completion. The next step will be acidizing the new well, in hopes of increasing the yield of gallons per minutes. Bids are due sometime in October for this project. Once the acidizing is done on the well, the city can start on the well station and other water improvements and hopefully by next summer this well will be on-line. It seems like this project has taken forever to complete, but it will be worth it.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SERVE AS REMINDERS FOR OUR NEW CUSTOMERS:  
BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION**

Last year, City Council amended the building permit ordinance. The new ordinance requires homeowners or their agents to get building permits for any improvements made to the property. Also, included in this ordinance is the requirement of a building permit when a structure is going to be demolished. Below are three paragraphs of this ordinance that are important for everyone to remember.

Section 8-48 of the City of Lytle's Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

- A) No building or accessory building shall hereafter be moved, erected, or constructed within the corporate limits of the City, and no existing building or accessory building within said corporate limits shall hereafter be structurally altered or an addition added thereto, unless a building permit had first been issued.
- B) A building permit is required to enlarge, alter, demolish, or change the appearance of a structure. The requirement of a building permit includes, but is not limited to, the addition of an accessory structure (including, but not limited to, garages, sheds, and other pre-built structures), the building of fences, decks, carports, gazebos, hot tubs and in-ground and above-ground swimming pools. Children's swimming pools of less than 24 inches deep do not require building permits.
- C) A moving permit from the City Secretary is required before a pre-built structure subject to this Section is moved into the corporate limits of the City.

**BRUSH PICK-UP**

We felt the need to include this in our newsletter once again. Brush pick-up will be on every third Monday of each month, just like in 2018. We ask everyone to put their brush out by no later than 7:00 a.m. Monday morning. Customers do not have to call in for this service, as the truck will go down each street one time. If you see the brush pick-up truck coming down your street it is **TOO LATE** to request pick-up, since the truck will not go down a street twice.

**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. **PLEASE NOTE:** Changes were made by Council last October. These changes include: **Time period** for placing brush, rubbish and bulky waste is **NOW NO EARLIER THAN TEN (10) DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED COLLECTION.** **Location for placing brush, rubbish and bulky waste** is the curbside of the customer's \* real property. **\*Denotes: Your curbside not your next door neighbor's or neighbor's across the street. If you place your items in front of someone else's property, this is considered littering.** Please keep in mind that these are the changes as part of the newly amended ordinance, and violating these terms will be a violation that is **punishable by a fine**. Once a resident has been warned, and continues to violate this ordinance, he/she will be ticketed by the Code Compliance Officer. Please keep in mind that the new terms are more lenient when it

comes to time period for brush, rubbish and bulky waste to be set out.

For your convenience the new ordinance reads as follows concerning time period and location:

**Location of rubbish for collection:** Customers shall place rubbish for collection at the curbside of the customer’s real property. Curbside refers to that portion of the right-of-way adjacent to paved or traveled City roadways. Rubbish shall be placed as close to the roadway as practicable without interfering with or endangering the movement of vehicles or pedestrians. Rubbish shall not be placed at the curbside earlier than 10 days before the scheduled collection.

**Location of bulky waste for collection:** Customers shall place bulky waste for collection at the curbside of the customer’s real property. Curbside refers to that portion of the right-of-way adjacent to paved or traveled City roadways. Bulky waste shall be placed as close to the roadway as practicable without interfering with or endangering the movement of vehicles or pedestrians. Bulky waste shall not be placed at the curbside earlier than 10 days before the scheduled collection.

**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.

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**IMPORTANT DATES FOR CITY SERVICES**

We thought this calendar of monthly important dates for city services might be convenient for everyone

**GARBAGE PICK-UP DATES:** RESIDENTS –WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

**UTILITY BILL DUE DATE:** 10<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH, 25<sup>TH</sup> FOR CUSTOMERS 60 OR OLDER, IF REGISTERED WITH CITY

**BRUSH PICK-UP DAY:** 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**BULKY WASTE PICK-UP DAY:** 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY OF THE MONTH UNLESS IT FALLS ON A HOLIDAY (NO MEETING IN DECEMBER)

**HOLIDAYS:** USUALLY LISTED IN ONE OF THE FIRST FEW PARAGRAPHS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

**UTILITY CUT-OFF DATE:** USUALLY A WEEK (SEVEN (7) DAYS) AFTER THE 11<sup>TH</sup> WHEN LETTERS ARE MAILED OUT TO DELINQUENT BILLING UTILITY CUSTOMERS. THIS DAY MAY VARY IF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> FALLS ON A WEEKEND.

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**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 between 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. 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 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and is closed for lunch between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. 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.

**LARGE ANIMALS & FOWL PROHIBITED IN THE CITY WITHOUT PERMIT**

In Chapter 6 of the City's Code of Ordinance, large animals and fowl are addressed and unless a property owner has gotten a permit from City Hall they are **PROHIBITED**.

So, if any resident of Lytle is housing large animals such as cows, donkeys, goats, horses, sheep, pigs and other four-footed mammals and/or fowl such as chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and other birds you are in violation of our city ordinance. You are required to get a permit in order to be able to keep these animals in the city. Also, it is another violation to allow your animals to run at large within the city limits. This violation is a misdemeanor, so you could receive a ticket and have to appear in Municipal Court.

Also, be aware that some permits will not be issued to house such animals if we are already receiving complaints from your neighbors.

**WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO BE CONSIDERATE OF THEIR NEIGHBORS  
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE ALL LIVE IN CLOSE PROXIMATEY OF EACH OTHER.**

**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.

### **ON-LINE UTILITY PAYMENTS**

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

### **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

### **WEBSITE**

Don't forget to visit our website at [www.lytletx.org](http://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 to conserve our water.

I encourage each of you to attend our Lytle National Night Out which will be held at the Community Center on October 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. You will be able to visit with all of our Police, EMS, and Firefighters along with free food and drink.

Looking around town several projects are going on like the new Burger King being built over by the Sonic. New businesses like these are always needed in our 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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