

NEWSLETTER:

4-18



City of Lytle

14916 Main Street
P.O. Box 743
Lytle, Texas 78052
(830) 709-3692 • FAX (830) 772-3212
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, 2018

CITY NEWSLETTER

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

2018-2019 CITY BUDGET

The Lytle City Council adopted the City's budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 at the September 17th 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 2018-2019 City budget is composed by the following:

Revenues

General Fund	\$ 2,920,390.00
Water Department	\$ 558,100.00
Gas Department	\$ 440,000.00
Sewer Department	\$ 303,100.00
Library Department	\$ 189,800.00
Animal Control Department	\$ 273,000.00
Debt Service	\$ 172,250.00

Expenditures

General Fund	\$ 2,918,920.00
Water Department	\$ 556,850.00
Gas Department	\$ 439,925.00
Sewer Department	\$ 302,918.75
Library Department	\$ 189,625.00
Animal Control Department	\$ 272,775.00
Debt Service	\$ 172,250.00

This year's budgets for all of the city's departments are balanced. The general fund will be raised by about \$98,000.00 by ad valorem (property) taxes. Of this total, \$14,401.00 will be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

2018 TAX RATE

The tax rate for 2018 was set at \$0.4225 per \$100.00 valuation. This tax rate is higher than last year's rate of \$0.39 per \$100.00 valuation. The rate is apportioned as follows:

For maintenance and operations (M&O) of the general government (General Fund) - \$0.3122 for each \$100.00 valuation of property, and for the interest and sinking fund (Debt Service) - \$0.1103 on each \$100.00 valuation of property.

The M&O rate is slightly higher than last year's rate of \$0.3104, and the I&S rate is \$0.0307 higher than last year's rate of \$0.0796. This year the additional ½% sales tax saved taxpayers \$0.2165 for each \$100.00 valuation.

The 2018 taxes are due by January 31, 2019; 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 \$3.25 for every \$10,000.00 of value. Example: Last year you would have paid \$390.00 on a home valued at \$100,000.00. This year you will pay \$422.50 for a difference of \$32.50.

PUBLIC NOTICE
UTILITY RATES INCREASED
FOR 2018-2019 FY

All utility rates were increased this year in order to accommodate the new budget and to start rebuilding the city's reserves. This past year the city's reserves dwindled considerably due to the sewer plant being rehabilitated (cost of over \$250,000.00) and of course the drilling of the new water well (over \$750,000.00) When you use up 1,000,000.00 of the monies that had been saved, you have to start over again. Also, in order to continue to promise the services our citizens have become accustomed to, the budgets have to be increased. Please know that Council kept these increases as low as they could to try and not create a hardship for city customers. Attached you will find a notice of these rate increases.

NOVEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETING CHANGED

Due to the Veterans' Day holiday falling on the second Monday of November, the City Council meeting was moved to Tuesday, November 13th. The time for this meeting is 6:30 p.m., at the Lytle City Hall.

WATER CONSERVATION

At the time that this newsletter was being written, the city was in Stage 2 Critical Period. Even though we have had a lot of rain over the past few weeks, we are still being asked to conserve water. We are hoping that by the time you receive this newsletter, all restrictions will have been lifted.

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION

This year, City Council amended the building permit ordinance. The new ordinance requires homeowners or their agents to get building permits for any improvement 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.

I. 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 has 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.

UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS

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

Veterans’ Day	-Monday, November 12 th
Thanksgiving	-Thursday, November 22 nd
	-Friday, November 23 rd
Christmas Eve	-Monday, December 24 th
Christmas	-Tuesday, December 25 th
New Year’s Day	-Tuesday, 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.

UPDATE ON GRANT PROJECT

In the last newsletter, we reported that the grant project was halted due to rock in the area. Since then we have been trying to obtain permits from TXDot and Union Pacific Railroad to allow us to put in a horizontal bores for this project. To this date, the railroad has not granted us permission. Therefore, the city had to obtain an extension from the Texas Department of Agriculture to complete the grant project. We are hoping to have this project completed by the first of the year.

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 Lytle Community Center. This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd 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.

6th ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY FAIR

The Lytle Public Library will be holding its 6th Annual Living History Fair on Saturday, November 3rd, 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 will be enclosed with your November utility bill.

SANTA'S HAYRIDE

The city's annual Santa's Hayride is scheduled for Saturday, November 24th 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 21st.

2018 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 24th 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 24th.

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 24th. **Please note that in order to qualify for this contest, the non-profit groups participating will not receive any assistance from city staff.** This means that groups participating for this contest will be responsible for getting the decorations to the designated sites, staking them down, connecting decorations to electricity and setting the timers. If a group has any help from the city, they will be disqualified from the contest.

CONTEST RULES

All Christmas decorations shall be up and ready to be judged by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 24th 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:

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.

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. Please read section in newsletter concerning changes for building permit requirements.

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE CHANGED BY THE NEXT MONTH.

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.

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. 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. Fall is always a great time to get outside and enjoy the many sites and businesses in our community.

I encourage each of you to attend our Lytle Night Out, which will be held at the Lytle Community Center on October 2nd 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 a project that has been completed are the new apartments over by the McDonald's. Projects like these apartments are always needed in a community. Several other new businesses are opening as well. We are truly a blessed City.

I always want to thank the many citizens in our community that volunteer and help out on so many special projects we host. Especially a big thank you to our VFW post and their commander Larry Sanders.

Thank you again for all your support.

Mark L. Bowen
Mayor

clip 'n' save

clip 'n' save

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

clip 'n' save

clip 'n' save