



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter October 2019

Dear Customer:

When it comes to the management and operations of our utilities, the City Commission, City Engineer, staff and I recognize that it is our duty and responsibility to be vigilant and proactive. Working with the City Commission we have made several recommendations to ensure that we are providing the best services possible for our customers. At the same time we also strive to stay in compliance with state and federal guidelines to achieve optimum operations at the lowest possible costs. To retain our permits and operate our system we must ensure that that our facilities operate at the standards specified by the agencies, or we run the risk of fines or civil action. Like many other small cities of our size, over the past decades our water and sewer systems have sorely degraded due to a lack of preventative maintenance, upgrades and improvements. Due to the lack of funding the City is experiencing more customer service interruptions, stoppages and equipment failure. When utility systems are not readily replaced or maintenance is deferred there are increased costs, due to emergency repairs.

Working with our City Engineer over the past few months, the City has identified problems within our system that have failed or are near failure and need rehabilitation, replacement or expansion. This year we developed a plan for the replacement, upgrade or improvement to our utility infrastructures. In this year's budget we have identified funds for a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for our utilities with combined funding through grants, bonds, or cash. The FY 2020 adopted budget provides \$1,199,000 to fund needed infrastructure improvements and the replacement of equipment. Funding includes \$210,000 for street maintenance projects and \$100,000 for drainage projects, \$400,000 for elevated storage tank maintenance and repairs and lift station upgrades, \$100,000 for smoke testing, and \$120,000 for silt removal from the aeration basin at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and other necessary improvements.

The City has made significant strides in addressing the funding needed to meet future infrastructure requirements.

To begin with, we worked the City's financial plan to develop utility rate structures that would provide sufficient revenues to meet the systems operation and maintenance expenses, debt service requirements, and provide for necessary capital improvements to the systems. The utility rate structure was designed to provide a balance between residential and commercial rates. Currently, water and sewer customer accounts pay the same monthly base fee regardless of meter size and customer class. The recent utility rate study conducted by an outside consultant, recommended that utility rates be increased this year and each year for the next five (5) years to meet the system's need. The City Commission received this report in August 2019 and utility rates will increase this year with the November 2019 utility bill. Additionally, the utility billing schedule has been revised to reduce the sixty (60) day lag in the utility billing cycle to thirty (30) days and brings us in line with best management practices. A copy of the schedule can be found on page 2 of the newsletter. A copy of the Utility Rate Study presentation may be reviewed on-line at www.cityofhitchcock.org.

Based on the average bill analysis for a residential customer water and sewer rates will increase as displayed below:

Water:

Average Bill- Water -Residential	Current	New
2,000 gallons	\$26.00	\$26.50
5,000 gallons	\$38.00	\$39.10
10,000 gallons	\$58.00	\$63.25

Wastewater:

Wastewater	Current	New
Base Fee Per Month	\$18.00	\$18.50
Volumetric Fee, per 1,000 gallons	\$3.00	\$3.65

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Marie Gelles, City Administrator

UTILITY RATES

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 2019 CONSUMPTION

WATER BASE FEE:

Water	BASE FEE
Meter size:	Base fee is determined by meter size.
5/8"	\$18.50
3/4"	\$20.35
1"	\$25.90
1.5"	\$33.30
2"	\$53.65
3"	\$203.50
4"	\$259.00
6"	\$388.50

**WATER
VOLUMETRIC
CHARGE:**

Water	Rate
Volumetric Rate, Non-Residential	
	\$5.87
Volumetric Rate, Residential	
0-2,000	\$4.00
2,000-5,000	\$4.20
5,000-10,000	\$4.83
10,000-20,000	\$7.00
20,000-50,000	\$10.16
ABOVE 50,000	\$14.72

**WASTEWATER
VOLUMETRIC
CHARGE:**

Wastewater	2020
Base Fee, per month	\$18.50
Volumetric Fee, per thousand gallons	\$3.65
Freddieville Fee, per LUE, per month	\$35.35

Winter averaging for wastewater is set using November, December, January, and February metered water consumption for each customer (removing the highest consumption month). New averages are set each year and are used to calculate the wastewater bill for the following year.

CITY OF HITCHCOCK

UTILITY DEPARTMENT - BILLING DUE DATES

BILL	CONSUMPTION MONTH	MAIL DATE	DUE DATE	PENALTY DATE	CUT OFF DATE
OCT.	AUG/SEPT	OCT.16	OCT. 30	OCT. 31	NOV. 6
NOV.	SEPT / OCT	NOV. 15	NOV. 25	NOV. 26	DEC. 2
DEC.	OCT /NOV	DEC. 17	DEC.30	DEC. 31	JAN. 6
JAN. 2020	DEC	JAN. 16	JAN. 28	JAN. 29	FEB. 5
FEB.	JAN	FEB. 18	FEB. 28	MAR. 2	MAR. 9
MAR.	FEB	MAR. 17	MAR. 30	MAR. 31	APR. 7
APR.	MAR	APR. 16	APR. 29	APR. 30	MAY. 7
MAY	APR	MAY 15	MAY 29	JUN. 1	JUN. 8
JUNE	MAY	JUN. 16	JUN. 29	JUN. 30	JUL. 7
JULY	JUN	JUL. 16	JUL. 29	JUL. 30	AUG. 6
AUG.	JUL	AUG. 17	AUG. 28	AUG. 31	SEPT. 8
SEP.	AUG	SEP. 16	SEP. 29	SEP. 30	OCT. 8

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

City Secretary
Community Development Director
Public Works Director
Utility Worker
WWTP Operator II
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

For job descriptions, qualifications, and other information, visit our website at:

www.cityofhitchcock.org

PREVENT SEWER STOPPAGES

Two major concerns for all residents and administration of the City of Hitchcock.

The City needs your help in keeping our sewer system clean and in working order.

To avoid sewer stoppages, do **NOT** flush the following items down your toilets or drains.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Diapers | Grease |
| Panties | Contraceptives |
| Paper Towels | Clothing |
| Facial Tissue | Toys |
| Cotton Balls | Food |
| Cotton Swabs | Cigarettes |
| Kitty Litter | Hair |
| Baby Wipes | Adult Wipes |
| Gum Wrappers | |
| Candy Wrappers | |
| Cleaning Wipes or Rags | |
| Feminine Hygiene Items | |
| Adhesive Bandages | |

All of these may stop or damage the lift station pumps or other equipment

WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL

Cut off and cut off fee will include any bills that are not paid in full starting October 2019

Online at cityofhitchcock.org
By Phone at (833) 282-0826

In Person at the City Hall at
7423 Hwy. 6

Drop Box located in the parking lot of City Hall

Cash, Check, Money Order,



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that Halloween is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that children are four times more likely to be struck by a motor vehicle on Halloween than any other day of the year.

Hitchcock Police Chief Wilmon Smith is asking parents to take extra precautions to keep their children safe and asking motorists to be extra alert on the roads this holiday season.

Here are some tips for helping keep young ones safe on Halloween:

Trick-or-Treaters

- Stay on sidewalks and avoid walking in streets if possible.
- Look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing the street.
- Cross streets only at the corner, and never cross between parked vehicles.
- Be bright at night – wear retro-reflective tape on costumes and treat buckets to improve visibility to motorists and others.
- Wear disguises that don't obstruct vision, and avoid facemasks. Instead, use nontoxic face paint. Also, watch the length of billowy costumes to help avoid tripping.
- Ensure any props are flexible and blunt-tipped to avoid injury.
- Carry a flashlight containing fresh batteries, and place it facedown in the treat bucket to free up one hand. Never shine it into the eyes of oncoming drivers.
- If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- Trick-or-treat in a group if someone older cannot go with you.
- Tell your parents where you are going.

Parents

- Establish a time for children to return home.
- Tell children not to eat any treats until they get home.
- Review trick-or-treating safety precautions, including pedestrian and traffic safety rules.
- Make sure Halloween costumes are flame-retardant and visible with reflective material.
- Establish a time for children to return home.
- Tell children not to eat any treats until they get home.
- Ensure an adult or older, responsible youth is available to supervise children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route your trick-or-treaters will follow.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar areas and along established routes.
- Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and never enter a stranger's home or garage.

Motorists

- Slow down in residential neighborhoods and obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Drive at least 5 mph below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. In dark costumes, they'll be harder to see at night.
- Look for children crossing the street. They may not be paying attention to traffic and cross the street midblock or between parked cars.
- Carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- Turn on your headlights to make yourself more visible – even in the daylight.
- Broaden your scanning by looking for children left and right into yards and front porches.

Chief Wilmon Smith



City Ordinances Adopted in September 2019

Ord. 2019-0023

Amending the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget to increase revenue and expense line items to provide proper increase funding for certain departments.

Ord. 2019-0024

Amending Chapter 154.40 of the Code of Ordinances, addressing Perimeter Barrier Landscaping and Lighting for Recreational Vehicle Parks.

Ord. 2019-0025

Amending Title XI, Chapter 120, addressing Wrecker services for the City of Hitchcock by increasing the number of wreckers allowed on rotation and requiring a wrecker yard within a ten mile radius of the City.

Ord. 2019-0026

Adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 annual Budget of the City of Hitchcock.

Ord. 2019-0027

Setting the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of the City of Hitchcock at a rate of .5850 per one hundred dollars valuation on all taxable property within the city limits of Hitchcock.

Ord. 2019-0028

Ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget.

Ord. 2019-0029

Adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

For more information visit:
<https://library.municode.com>



The Hitchcock Police Department would like to remind residents that house and business address numbers must be prominently displayed so that they can be clearly seen from the street. This is required by City Ordinance and is important for your safety. These numbers are important for police, fire, and EMS response as well as utility and trash services.

Help our Emergency Services by posting legible and visible numbers on your property as soon as possible.

FALL CLEAN UP OCTOBER 4TH AND 5TH

2019 Fall Clean Up was a big success. 5 dumpsters were filled and more than 85 vehicles came through the site to drop off their bulky waste items. The City of Hitchcock looks forward to providing this service on a semi-annual basis. The City is projecting the next clean up to be in the spring of 2020

There is a lot of great work being done in the city of Hitchcock, but there is still more to do. We encourage all our residents to make a real difference and take pride in our city. It doesn't take much, it only requires an effort. The first effort is attitude. It's insulting to everyone in this city when someone decides to discard trash, furniture or other debris along our roadways. We need our citizens' help in reporting the individuals that have no respect for our city. Illegal dumping is a crime; please report disposing of junk, garbage, refuse or any other solid waste to our police department (409)986-5559.



HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RANDY STRICKLIND	MAYOR	rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)927-0058
FARD K. ABDULLAH	CITY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1	district1@cityofhitchcock.org	
CHRIS ARMACOST	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2	district2@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)519-9646
Wayne Newton	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3	district3@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)770-3297
MARK COOK	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(281)782-7656
MARIE GELLES	CITY ADMINISTRATOR	mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
WILMON SMITH	CHIEF OF POLICE	wsmith@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5559
RUTH ANN SORRELL	INTERIM CITY SECRETARY	ldieringer@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
CANDIE SERNA	CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	cserna@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5559
D. JOE WOOD	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	djwood@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)316-7234
SABRINA SCHWERTNER	EXEC. DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	sabrina@hitchcockidc.com	(409)795-1974
BENNY DAVIS	INSPECTOR	inspector@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
JACOB COOLEY	MECHANIC	jcooley31@icloud.com	(409)986-5715
RUTH ANN SORRELL	MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK	rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-9702
ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERINTENDENT	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(409)986-5591
VACANT	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT	joeyd204@gmail.com	(409)986-5591
BILL GARVIN	WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR	billgarvin@yahoo.com	(409)986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
24 HOUR UTILITY			(409)986-5559
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559