



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Item Title: Consideration and ACTION to approve the second reading of an ordinance providing an amendment to the Los Fresnos Code of Ordinance Chapter 44-Utilities, Article I. General, Sec. 44-13. Services Rates and Other Charges; Billing and Collection; providing repealer, severability, and effective date.

Recommendation:

This was approved in concept at the April meeting.

This was approved by the Council on the first reading on May 13.

The City continues to have numerous problems with wastewater service outside of the city limits.

As I have reported to the Council before, each time we receive a large rain that causes any flooding at all in primarily the Laureles area, the wastewater system becomes inundated with rain water that leaks or drains into our sewer system. In a few cases our manhole lids leak for one reason or the other but almost every time, someone has removed their cap to their cleanout thus allowing the flood water to drain into our system. Our sewer system is not designed to handle flows from rain water or flooding. Drainage in this area is the responsibility of Cameron County Drainage District # 4 and Cameron County. We have no control over drainage and no authority to fix it but yet we get blamed for the problems with the resident's sewer not working, backing up and smelling.

Additionally, there has been tremendous growth in the Laureles area. The existing lift stations and lines area nearing capacity. Subdivisions have already been approved and the developer has paid for future connections in these subdivisions. Not all homes have been built yet so we have to leave some room for those as they get built. Once all this is completely built out we will be very close to capacity.

Taking this action would mean the people would utilize septic tank systems like are utilized in any area where city sewer is not available.

Due to these 2 reasons, I recommend the City not approve any more wastewater connections in areas outside the city limits of Los Fresnos with city staff following this decision but allowing individual appeals to be made to the Planning & Zoning and then the City Council.

This just places the action taken properly into the ordinance so it can be enacted and followed.

I recommend approval.