
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 12, 2021

DATE: 4.07.2021

TO:  HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER/ JIM RUDELLAT, HARBOR MASTER

SUBJECT: RV park Rates (Chapter 32) and Solid Waste Fees (Chapter 38) and Waterways (Chapter 54)

Chapter 32:

As was discussed at the March workshop, the Parks Board is recommending an increase in the rental rates for the Lighthouse Beach RV Park as indicated in proposed Ordinance G-3-21.

Chapter 38:

With the 3% increase in Republic's contract going into effect in March, we performed a review of the Solid Waste fees being charged to the customers. As of March 1, Republic will be charging the City \$17.53 per residential customer and the fee ordinance provides for a residential rate of \$17.88. Looking at the utility bills, we see that the rate is actually split into two categories: Garbage and "Spring Cleanup."

Reviewing past Council minutes, we see

- effective Feb 1, 2016 the residential garbage rate was \$16.04 and "Spring Cleanup" was \$0.96, for a total \$17.00.
- There was a scheduled rate increase to become effective Feb 1, 2018, but it was waived by Republic with Council's approval of a 3% annual increase beginning Feb 1, 2019.
- So effective Feb 1, 2019 Republic's rate charged to the City was \$16.52. The utility bills still charged \$16.04, but the Spring Cleanup increased to \$1.32 for a total of \$17.36.

We find no subsequent specific Council action on these rates, so it must have been handled during the budget process. However, the fee charged for garbage on the utility bill (\$16.04) has not changed since 2016, but the overall rate to the customer has increased from \$17.00 in 2016 to \$17.88 currently. The increases have been applied to the "Spring Cleanup" fee, not the garbage fee. From a budgeting perspective, the funds collected under the garbage rate are put in a revenue account from which the Republic bill is paid. The "Spring Cleanup" is going in a separate revenue account where we pay for rolls offs used in the bulk/construction debris pickups that the City Crews do monthly, which results in each area of the City being picked up 3 times each year.

In order for the water bills and the fee ordinance to match and accurately reflect the fees, I am proposing the following change to the fee ordinance in Chapter 38.

Residential Rate

Garbage/Brush \$17.53 - to match what Republic is currently charging the City

City-wide Cleanup \$ 0.35 - so the total of \$17.88 equals what the customers are currently paying and the category "City-wide cleanup" more accurately reflects what these funds are for. The term "Spring Cleanup" is left over from years ago when the City did this bulk/construction debris cleanup only once a year in the Spring.

Note: over the course of a year, this \$0.35 will generate approximately \$16,000. Our annual cost for the roll-offs run \$25,000-\$30,000 but this also includes the trash that is collected from the parks on a daily basis.

Bottom line, I wanted to get the ordinance to match up with the utility bills and correctly reflect what the fees are for on the bill. During budget this year, we can discuss whether we want to increase this \$0.35 rate in order

to generate additional revenue to fully fund the Solid Waste expenditures or have funds to pay for additional trash cleanups such as tires, etc.

Attachments: RV Park Rate Study

Chapter 54 – Waterways

At a Special Port Commission meeting on July 27, 2020, the Port Commission proposed new Tariff rates which were presented to Council at a workshop on July 29 and later incorporated into the revised Fee Ordinance. A recent review revealed that one of the recommendations of the Port Commission regarding the Dockage space at the Harbor of Refuge was left off of the table. The minutes reflect a recommendation to raise the linear foot dockage rates to \$3.30. This affects dockage rates being charged at the Harbor of Refuge since October 1, 2020.

Recommendation: Approve the linear foot dockage rate of \$3.30/LF as recommended by the Port Commission, making it effective October 1, 2020.

See attached Port Commission minutes dated 7/27/2020 and the memo to Council discussed at the July 29 Workshop.