

PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 13, 2022, AT 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session on Thursday, January 13, 2022 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

1. Public Hearing on adjustment of water and sewer rates

City Manager Squyres stated that this has been a long time coming, that we have not increased water and sewer rates since 2007, that the Subsidence District only allows us to pump 20,000 gallons a month from our well and we have to purchase surface water from the City of Houston and we have seen yearly increases from them and we have been absorbing these increases, we are paying Houston twice or more since we raised them the last time. He stated the City of Houston had a study on the rates they charge and they are projecting future cost increases up to 9.6%. He stated that in 2007 the cost of Houston water was \$1.762 per K and in 2022 it was \$3.35 per K and there would be an Increase in their rate in April.

He stated that the TCEQ and EPA have also made it more expensive to Provide water and sewer services. The PH limits on our STP have been tightened, requiring us to add a chemical to buffer the PH of the outflow before it is released into Hunting Bayou and that item alone is about \$4,000 per month.

He stated that we are going through a process with both agencies and we may be able to reduce that.

He stated that since 2007 we have replaced over 1/2 of the city's water lines, rebuilt the water plant and added backup generators to both the well and the plant and we had also rehabbed the water tower and the ground storage tank.

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He stated the suggested increase was .50 for water and .50 for sewer Per 1000 gallons above the initial 2000 gallon minimum and the biggest point to drive home was that for about 500 of our low volume users, there will be no increase in their bills. He went over the attached chart Showing the projected bills based on usage above the minimum usage.

Council Member Gonzales ask how would this affect our defect in the water fund and City Manager went over different things that would help reduce the defect.

Council Member Robinson stated that City of Houston was doing a study on their rates and that their Ordinance was evergreen so they could raise their rates anytime they wanted to.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines".

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**