



City Council Election is May 7, 2022

The City Council voted to replace the at-large system of electing Council members with a new Place designation system. Voters will cast one vote for each Place on the ballot. The candidate with the majority votes in each Place will be elected - i.e., Place 1, Place 2, and so on. Candidates will file for a specific Place on the ballot. The terms of the Councilmembers remain at two years, the same as in the past.

The current Places ending their terms in May 2022 are:

Place 1 – Michael Galvan

Place 2 – Cynthia Thompson

Place 4 – Jerry Wade

Filing for a place on the ballot is now open until February 18th at 5:00PM.

January 19 First day to file as a Write-in candidate.

February 22 Last day to file as a Write-in candidate.

February 21 First day to post 72-hour Notice of Drawing for order of names on the ballot. Must be posted at least 72 hours preceding the time of the scheduled date of drawing.

April 7 Last day to register to vote or make a change for the May 7, 2022 election. You must be a registered voter of this precinct to vote in this election.

April 25 First day of Early Voting by personal appearance.

May 03 Last day of Early Voting by personal appearance.



City Council Approves New Water/Wastewater Rates

The City Council voted to approve the Real Strategic Solutions, LLC water and wastewater rate recommendations effective April 2022. The study included an in-depth analysis of the water and wastewater usage, a comprehensive rate analysis, and they also developed a rate forecast and model. Real Strategic Solutions, LLC presented their recommended long-term rate plans to cover future operations, maintenance, and capital improvements.

RSS LLC reported the rates have not changed since 2017 and have generally been covering costs up until the 2021-2022 fiscal year. With increasing expenses, inflation, equipment needs and potential new debt, future rate adjustments will be necessary.

Current Water Rates	Recommended Water Rates Effective October 2022
Monthly base fee of 0-4,000 gallons - \$18.50 Additional \$2.65 per thousand over base	Monthly base fee of 0-4,000 gallons - \$18.87 Additional \$2.70 per thousand over base

Current Wastewater Rates	Recommended Wastewater Rates Effective April 2022
Charges are based on the amount of drains Each drain is \$2.50	Monthly base fee of 0-1,000 gallons per unit - \$21.00 Additional \$1.25 per thousand over 1,000 gallons

Depending on the water usage each month, some residents will experience a reduction in cost, and some may experience an increase.

Water rates will increase 2% in 2023, 3% each year thereafter.

Wastewater rates will remain until 2025.

The benefits of the new rate plan to the ratepayers and the City are:

- Enables the City to fully fund all water and wastewater costs over the next decade.
- Allows the City to pay for operations and remain self-sufficient.
- Enables the City to maintain and improve system and equipment.
- City's rates will remain below or in-line with other area municipalities.



Drainage Improvement Update

Lake #3 by the sewer plant is more than 90% complete. The wall tie backs are nearly complete. Cleaning out existing pipes and concrete blocking at the pipe/wall interface will be completed in a few weeks. We anticipate issuing a punch list in the next 3-4 weeks.

The South Drain (golf course) ditch received the final engineering report approval from Texas Water Development Board in early December. Construction plans are 70% complete and engineers will be submitting the set of construction documents to the Texas Water Development Board in February.



Winterize your backflow preventor

With the freezing weather that is forecast, please consider covering your backflow preventers in order to prevent interior damage to your assemblies as well as your water faucets. Consider leaving a small drip running from your kitchen faucet and any outdoor faucet as well. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 423-8384.



Thank you for making recycling a success

Since Redfish Recycling delivered the dumpster to City Hall, you have made the program a great success. The recycling program is designed to be very easy for Palm Valley residents. For your convenience, you don't have to sort your recyclables. Redfish does the sorting for you. You can throw all your recyclables into one bin at City Hall. Redfish picks up every Tuesday.

Here is what you can recycle:

Paper and Cardboard - including newspapers, magazines, cardboard boxes, mail, books, paperboard food boxes and cartons.

Plastic – bottles, jugs, containers, and cups with Mobius Loop label 1 & 2

Metal – Aluminum cans and tin cans

Here is what Redfish will NOT recycle:

Glass – bottles, jars, and light bulbs

Organic Waste – food scraps, pet waste and yard waste

Styrofoam – cups, to-go food containers and packaging

Electronics, cell phones and batteries



Thanks for your Generosity

The residents of Palm Valley showed some love to the people of Mayfield, Kentucky after the town was devastated by a tornado this past December. A check to the Mayfield Groves County United Way in the amount of \$2,750 was sent in late December. Thanks to the many generous donations of our Palm Valley residents.

City Hall

City Hall is open to the public. Masks are mandatory. Our staff is available to issue permits, take water or citation payments. 24-hour drop box is still available and mail or email is still an option.

City Council meetings are open to the public with limited seating capacity. However, meetings will still be conducted on Zoom for those that wish to attend or participate from a remote location.

(From) Water Service Policy

City Hall is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail. It is your responsibility to ensure that our office receives your payment by or on the 10th of each month.

Additionally, if your bill has not been paid by the next billing cycle you will receive a disconnect notice. The disconnect notice will have the total amount due and the entire amount **MUST** be paid before the 10th of the following month, or the service will be disconnected.

A form of payment that you may want to consider is signing up for **automatic bank drafting**. Inserted in this newsletter is the applicable form that you will fill out and return to City Hall with a 'voided' check or documentation from your bank that reflects your bank account and routing number. This information would be used solely for this type of payment and nothing else. Every 10th of the month the amount due on your bill will be automatically deducted from your bank account, and, thus, eliminates the possibility of any disconnects for non-payment or late penalties. Customers will still receive a water bill every month for the purpose of letting you know what the amount due is but is coded to reflect that it is an ACH account.

Municipal Court

Municipal court hearings are still being held through Zoom until further notice.

Upcoming Holidays and Events

Valentine's Day- Monday, February 14, 2022

City Council Meeting- Tuesday, February 15, 2022

President's Day- Monday, February 21, 2022



THE COUNCIL

Mayor: George Rivera

Mayor Pro-Tem: Michael Galvan

Councilmembers: Lisa Taylor, Jerry Wade, Cynthia Thompson and Eric Hoff.

City Hall: 423-8384

Municipal Court: 423-8384

Police DEPT: 873-1500

Water Services: 423-4040