

City Council Candidates for the May 7, 2022 Election

Six candidates have filed for three places on the May 7, 2022, ballot. The candidates are:

Place 1 – Annette Baker and Michael Galvan (incumbent)

Place 2 – William Elmer, Gilberto Lucio, and Melissa Tice

Place 4 – Jerry Wade (unopposed incumbent)



Drainage Improvement Update

Lake #3 by the sewer plant is more than 95% complete. The wall tie backs are complete. Cleaning out existing pipes and concrete blocking at the pipe/wall interface are being completed now. The contractor is scheduled to start removing the spoils and the small construction fence, smoothing the area and planting grass.

The South Drain (Golf Course) ditch construction plans are 90% complete. A small alternative modification to the design is being considered with a new hydraulic model. The engineers will be submitting the set of construction documents to the Texas Water Development Board for final approval.

Texas March Primary Election

This is a reminder that early voting for the Texas March Primary Election ends Friday, February 25th at 8:00PM at the Harlingen County Annex Building on Wilson Rd.

You may also vote at the Harlingen Cultural Arts center located at 576th 76th Dr. next to the Harlingen Public Library.

Election Day is March 1st. Polls will be open from 7:00AM to 7:00PM at Gutierrez Middle School on Wilson Rd for Precinct 80.

New Water/Wastewater Rates appearing on your April Water Bill

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.

Other Rates Changes:

Reconnect Fee	\$100.00
Backflow Prevention Program	\$75.00

City Council Meeting

The next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

