

NOVEMBER

Council Member's Message

Water & Sewer Bills Continue to Increase....

Utilities need to charge customers to build and maintain infrastructure—the water storage tanks, treatment plants, and underground pipes that deliver water to homes and businesses. The revenue is also used to pay the workers.

As you may have read the water and sewer rates are being raised again in the coming year. In reviewing the year end numbers, looking at future projects, and planning for our 2022 budget the council had to make the hard decision to raise the rates.

In September the council Water/ Sewer Committee reviewed an inspection of its water tank and the yearend profit/ loss statement. The inspection report recommended painting inside of the tank in the next three to five years due to some rusting inside the tank. The estimated cost for that work was stated to be \$125,000. The exterior of the water tower would need work sometime between six and 11 years with an estimated cost of \$176,000.

If that was not enough...this past week we had a situation with filter media systems leaking and received an estimate of almost \$120,000 to replace them. These filters will need to be replaced as soon as we can get it done. This is an additional expense that we do not have the money for up front and will be pursuing funding, probably through a bond.

The city is required by law to keep the water and sewer funds at a level to pay for itself. For a few years the council has seen the water/ sewer funds have a negative balance. Because the funds are required to be self-sufficient, the council agreed to increase rates each year until they reach a break-even balance.

The council agreed to raise water rates from \$3.50 to \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons and keep the base rate of \$28 as is.

The sewer rates were also raised from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per 1,000 gallons with the base rate remaining at \$28.

Both rate changes were approved to take effect as of Jan. 1, 2022. None of us like these price increases and, it seems to be a problem 'everywhere', not just in Vergas. While we don't like the increases, this is what it takes right now to keep and maintain our aging water/ sewer infrastructure. Imagine life without it!!!! Written by Natalie Fischer

Is Your Address Displayed Correctly?

CAN WE FIND YOU IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

Every structure assigned an address must have the address posted in a visible location. Posting your address correctly will:

Help Emergency Responders protect you and your family in the event of an emergency. By making sure your address is visible, we will allow Emergency Responders to locate you more quickly.

Give your structure identification. By properly posting your address in the correct place, you also allow delivery services, postal services and utility service providers to find you more quickly. Without your address properly posted, they may not be able to find you.

THE CITY OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
VETERAN'S DAY
NOV. 11

THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV. 25

THE LIQUOR STORE
WILL BE CLOSED
THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV. 25



PHONE

218-342-2091

MON-THU 9am- 9 pm

FRI-SAT 9am-9:55pm

SUN 11am – 5pm

JOIN THE FUN!

**WINE
WEDNESDAY**

4 -6 pm

**A DIFFERENT
FEATURED
WINE EACH**

NEW

**Liquor Store
Manager**

Kyle Theissen
Stop in to say

Hi!

WELCOME!

happy

thanks

giving

CITY MEETINGS

To access Hybrid Meetings
on Zoom

Meeting ID: 267 094 2170

Password 56587

Attend In Person at the
VEC Smart Room

Vergas EDA / HRA:

Wednesday – Dec. 1st 11:00 a.m.

Vergas Event Center

(1st Wednesday of the month)

Vergas City Council Meeting:

Tuesday – Nov. 9th 6:30 p.m.

(2nd Tuesday of the month)

Vergas Event Center

(If you would like to be on the agenda please have information to City Clerk by the Wednesday before meeting)

Vergas Event Center Advisory Board:

Wednesday - Nov. 10th 6:30 p.m.

Vergas Event Center

(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Vergas Planning Commission:

Monday – Nov. 22nd 6:00 p.m.

Vergas Event Center

(4th Monday of the month)

Park Board Meeting:

Thursday – Nov. 18th * 3:30 p.m.

* **Note date change for the holiday!**

Vergas Event Center

(4th Thursday of the month)

Changes in our meetings to be posted on the City of Vergas website www.cityofvergas.com

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Vergas Community Club:

Monday – Nov. 1st 5:30 p.m.

Vergas Event Center

Vergas Lions Club:

Tuesday – Nov. 9th 5:30 p.m.

(2nd Tuesday of the month)

Vergas Small Town Christmas Event on November 27th, 2021



The Vergas Community Club will again host a Small-Town Christmas event that captures and reinforces the true meaning of Christmas! This event will take place from 2:30 pm until 5:30 pm on November 27th.

Decorating of the City Streets/ Parks/ Seating Areas:

The Community Club will again put-up trees, along with wreaths and swags along the sidewalks and sitting areas throughout the town. Along with the trees, we also have Community Club and Lions Club volunteers to decorate the planters and to add a splash of color and Christmas decorations to the City Park and Peterson Park. As always, we will want each business and churches to decorate their storefronts and will work with OtterTail Power to get our Christmas Street lights up.

Event – Small Town Christmas: We plan to hold the Small-Town Christmas event on Saturday, November 27th that will start at 2:30 and run through 5:30 pm (lights to be turned on at 5:00 pm). Once again, we will have a live nativity featuring animals from Trowbridge Zoo along with volunteers to dress as the main nativity characters. Denise and Brian Laymon will hopefully provide sleigh rides for everyone, and Firefly Ranch will also have horses dressed in Christmas attire! The Lion's Club has asked Santa to visit the kids outside this year – on his sleigh and will have stockings filled for all the kids! We will also have Christmas music playing on the city loudspeaker and hopefully a few warming stations for families to warm up by. We will have a short Christmas reading when the lights go on at 5 pm.

Gingerbread Houses

- Otter Coffee & Ice Cream will be hosting the Gingerbread Decorating Contest again! There will be three categories this year (Adults, Children and Business). Winners will receive \$25 in Looney Bucks from the Community Club and gift baskets from Otter Coffee. We encourage everyone to participate; either by making a house or by voting on your favorites! Every vote

will cost \$1.00 and will be donated to the Community Club to help pay for more fun events like this one!

Festivals of Trees

We are adding a 'new' and fun event this year – the Festival of Trees! We hope to have at least 20 trees displayed. To do that we need 'volunteer' businesses, churches and families

to bring in a tree and decorate it in the Event Center. The trees will need to be put up Friday, November 26th and will be displayed all day Saturday, November 27th and Sunday November 28 and then need to be taken down on November 29th. We will have cocoa, cider and cookies in the Event Center during the display and will have voting for the 'People's Choice Award'; everyone that goes through the tree display will be able to vote with 'money' and the proceeds will go to a 'Giving Tree' to provide gifts for children in need.

Home Decorating Contests: The Community Club will be spear-heading the decorating contests for homeowners that live in town. Those that live in the city limits will all be included automatically and will be judged by a committee. Judging will happen the first week in December. Prizes will be provided for first, second and third winners.

The Lions Club will be spear-heading a decorating contest for the rural homeowners. They will provide the same amount in prizes listed above.

Prizes will be in Looney Bucks and will be \$100 for first, \$50 for second and, \$25 for third.

Communication of Events: We ask each business and church to help us in this venture, by not only decorating their fronts and decorating a tree for the festival of trees but, also by communicating to your customers and congregations the November 27th 'Small Town Christmas' event.

Let's work together again this year to ensure our small town is filled with love and family spirit over the holiday season!

Questions or Event Ideas: If any of you have questions/ ideas please contact Natalie Fischer at 218-342-2700.

Thank you for your help.

The Vergas Community Club

