

CITY OF BURTON

A **WORKSHOP MEETING** of the Burton City Council at 5:30 p.m. was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 in the Burton City Hall at 12200 E. Mulberry Street Spur 125, Burton, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Karen Buck

Councilmember Paul McLaughlin

Councilmember Macey Tidwell

Councilmember Jeff Eckhardt

Members Absent: Councilmember Nathan Kalkhake, Councilmember Tommie Gilmon

Others Present: City Secretary, Angela Harrington

Citizens Present: Chuck & Debra Johnson, Johnnie Pitts, Tiffany Eckhardt, Ned Ross, Susie Tommaney and Michael Mickan.

A. Mayor Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and established a quorum.

B. Discussion Item:

Results of completed Water & Wastewater Rate Studies

After Mayor Buck called the meeting to order, the City Secretary told Council that Nathan Cantrell of the Texas Rural Water Association (TRWA) provided and assisted her in completing the studies. According to the Water rate study, no change in the city resident's rate is needed at this time. She went on to explain that prior to the 2017 there were separate rates for customers that live in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Those who live in the ETJ do not pay City of Burton property taxes which help to provide and maintain the utility systems. It was recommended to add different rates for those who live in the ETJ and use city services. The water rates stated in the proposed ordinance were discussed and it was determined that the ETJ minimum rate presented needed to be a bit higher. Also, bulk water price per 1000 is higher to encourage finding a different source for bulk water.

The Wastewater rate study was presented and more discussion took place. The study for wastewater indicated a much higher minimum rate than what has been charged. The City Secretary pointed out to Council that she had worked the rates in the proposed ordinance to increase on a yearly basis. The structure was set up for five (5) years and still did not meet the rate recommended amount of \$53.89. The biggest difference will be to remove the 0 to 4,000 gallons included in the minimum charge. According to TRWA, most systems do not include any "free" gallons. The rates stated for city residents that use 4,000 gallons would go up \$14.50.

Councilmembers inquired if the city could set up some sort of aid for those on Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Fixed income or other governmental services. When rates were raised in 2017, something like that was initiated. The City Secretary said she would work on forms to put that in place.

Councilmember Ekhardt asked if comments from citizens present could be accepted. Some of those comments were: a. Having more economic development to help off-set costs for residents; b. using months other than December, January, and February and use months when Burton ISD students are there full-time for the yearly sewer average charge; c. perform a sensitivity analysis; d. calculate an amount for the ETJ users to assist in the Certificates of Obligation.

D. Adjournment @ 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Karen Buck

ATTEST: City Secretary