

Water Department Update

August 1st, 2020

Our current water plant is just over 40 years old. The City became owners of the water plant in 2003. Since that time, we have made several improvements as the City grew.

Our first project was in 2010 when TCEQ required us to install another water storage tank and hydro pressure tank. The total cost was \$109,238.

The next project was in 2017 to install a 3rd well and upgrade the water system controls. That project cost \$243,000 with Mr. George Bishop contributing \$75,000.

This June we had both of our Storage Tanks inspected. Our new (2010) tank just needs a small repair to an internal pipe that has a slow leak. The original (1979) tank is in need of a major renovation and repair. The current estimate is \$20,560. Council is looking at maybe replacing the tank rather than spending money on an expensive repair.

The other issue is that the field lines are also 40 years old and lately have needed more repairs than usual. Our current expenses are about \$10,000 over our 2019-2020 budget. This is steadily depleting our cash reserve and with major repairs being needed in the Fall (during low water usage) the City will need to increase the current water rates.

The proposed rate increase will be on our August 20th, City Council Agenda. Fortunately, we have the lowest water rates in Austin County.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our City Secretary, Mary Lou Craig or me. I also encourage interested citizens to attend our August City Council Meeting.

Mayor Albert A. Sykes