



March 13, 2008

News Release

COUNCIL TO ADDRESS SEWER RATE INCREASE

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – After reviewing the upcoming needs for the city’s sanitary sewer fund, the West Carrollton city council will hold the first reading of a proposed sewer rate increase at its next council meeting on Tuesday, March 25.

A final vote of the ordinance will be held on Tuesday, April 8.

West Carrollton currently has the lowest sewer rate in the county. Customers have not had an increase since 1993, according to Tom Reilly, finance department director.

Approval of the proposed rate increase would mean that the city’s rate would remain below the average of 64 Dayton area jurisdictions. Based on 2007 rates, West Carrollton’s fees would rank 24th lowest of 64 communities

The new rates would go into effect for the 2008 third-quarter bill. However, each year during the summer, West Carrollton residents receive a 25-percent sewer rate discount due to the increased water usage for outside projects such as lawn care, swimming pools and car washes. “So the full increase will not be seen by residents until the fourth-quarter bill,” Reilly said.

For a minimum usage of 10,000 gallons of water per quarter, residents will see an increase of \$24 per quarter or \$8 per month. Based on average usage, or 17,000 gallons per quarter, rates will increase by \$36 per quarter or \$12 per month.

Rich Norton, service department director, said the rate increase is necessary to account for increased operating expenses and improvement needs of the city’s sanitary sewer system and waste water treatment plant located on 601 W. Central Ave.

-more-

In the next year, the city will need to repair the concrete around the aeration tank at the waste water treatment plant – an estimated \$60,000 project.

Long-term maintenance of the sewer system will require underground sewer piping upgrades to reduce infiltration and inflow from rain events. At the waste water treatment plant, future projects will include: lift station upgrades, maintenance of clarifier tanks, replacement of bar screens, and a modified sludge disposal program to meet current Ohio EPA regulations. These improvements represent about \$2.1 million in capital improvement needs.

“Increases in vehicle and equipment replacement costs and operation and maintenance costs are also a concern,” Norton said.

Keeping the sewer plant operational is a top city priority, according to Brad Townsend, city manager. “The alternative solution is to use the county sewer system, where the rates are much higher,” he said.

For more information, call the service department at (937) 859-5184.

-end-

For media interviews, call **Rich Norton**, service department director, at (937) 859-5184. Call **Tom Reilly**, finance department director, at (937) 859-8288. Call **Brad Townsend**, city manager, at (937) 859-5183.