



Community News

Quarterly Newsletter

City Council Adopts 2017-2018 Budget

Azle City Council adopted the City’s Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget at a special meeting on September 12, 2017. The City of Azle’s Fiscal Year begins October 1 and ends September 30. The goal in preparing this budget was to maintain levels of service and make improvements where possible. Overall, operating revenues are projected to rise moderately across all funds. 2016 appraised property values increased \$79,117,301 (10.96%) from 2015 values, of which \$29,083,912 was new construction. As a result, Council approved a combined tax rate of \$0.6715 per \$100 for FY2017-2018. The proposed rate is \$0.0080 less than the FY 2016-17 adopted tax rate; however, it will raise \$426,543 more in property tax revenue due to increased property values and new construction.

The City continues to be on a solid financial foundation as we prepare for the coming year.

Council and Staff continued their efforts this past year to improve the quality of life of Azle residents:

- ✓ Received financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board through the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas to replace 10,500 lf of 10-inch waterline along Main Street
- ✓ Siren GPS was launched to improve identifying locations of incoming 911 calls and improve communication with citizens on public safety issues
- ✓ Replaced/retrofitted all commercial and residential water meters to enable radio-read technology, providing additional tools for citizens to manage water usage and enable the City to save money by eliminating meter reading.
- ✓ Completed reclamation of four streets – Jarvis North and South, Lakeside Dr, Nations Dr, and Park St
- ✓ Began offering residents the option to use 65 gallon blue carts for recycling
- ✓ Launched a new mobile app as part of the City’s efforts to further enhance communication with the community and its visitors
- ✓ Launched two economic development websites, *AzleAbsolutely.com* and *AzleSites.com*, to promote the advantages of doing business in Azle

FY 2017-2018 Budget includes:

- ✓ Funding for a new City Hall/Police Station joint facility
- ✓ Capital projects include upgrade of the Ash Street sewer line and FM 730 water line extension
- ✓ Through the Street Maintenance Fund, improvements will be made to Avondale Ave, Alfred Dr, Corbin Ln, Shady Ln (between N. Stewart St and Park St), Wilshire Ave and Martha Ln
- ✓ Engineering and design for the replacement of 10,500 lf of water line along Main St
- ✓ Purchase a Skid Steer Loader for the Street Department, a towable boom lift for the Parks Department, two (2) scoreboards and additional sidewalks for Shady Grove Park, a pavilion and mechanized bunker rake for the Golf Course, a trailer-mounted excavator and jetter for the Stormwater Department, 16 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for the Fire Department, as well as two (2) replacement warning sirens
- ✓ 5% cost of living increase for employees
- ✓ Redesign of the city website

The City’s future looks bright with new home construction continuing to be very active and new residential subdivisions on the horizon. Azle has a lot to offer and every effort is being made to let developers know about the community. The creation of the economic development websites, the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1, the Façade and Signage Improvement Program and other economic development incentives will assist in growing the city in a positive manner that maintains and improves the quality of life in Azle. For a complete look at the FY2017-2018 budget, visit the city’s website.

Inside this issue:

Who to Call	2
Excellence in Economic Development Award	2
Change Clocks & Smoke Detectors	2
Election 2017	3
Free Library Events	3
Water & Sewer Rate Increase	4

CITY HOLIDAYS

Azle Municipal Offices will close:

THANKSGIVING
November 23 & 24 

CHRISTMAS
December 25 & 26 

NEW YEAR’S
January 1 

Police and Fire services will be available by calling (817) 444-3221, or 9-1-1 in case of emergency. For water/sewer emergencies, please call (817) 444-3221.

Community Waste Disposal will **NOT** run their regular trash route on these holidays.

WHO TO CALL

City Hall/Utilities 817-444-2541
 Police/Fire 911
 (Non-emergency) 817-444-3221
 Animal Control 817-444-8215
 Permits 817-444-4128
 Public Library 817-444-7216
 Senior Center 817-444-0070

Mayor:

Alan Brundrett 817-800-5199
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Public Meetings

City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Agendas are posted the Friday before a meeting on the website and on the bulletin board at City Hall. Agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes of previous meetings are available on the city website.

Other Monthly Meetings

Planning & Zoning meets the first and third Thursday of the month.

Crime Control & Prevention District meets the second Thursday of each month.

Municipal Development District meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Parks & Recreation meets the third Monday of each month.

Meetings listed above are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 613 SE Parkway.

Library Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1pm in the Azle Memorial Library.

City of Azle Receives Excellence in Economic Development Award from the International Economic Development Council

The City of Azle won a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for *AzleAbsolutely.com*, a project in the category of General Purpose Website of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, September 19, during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held September 17 - 20, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to the City of Azle. Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to their community; but also, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now use as a benchmark.” - Michael Langley, FM, CEO of GREATER MSP, Minneapolis–St. Paul, MN, and 2017 IEDC Board Chair.

“The City of Azle is proactively positioning itself with site location consultants, real estate developers, and commercial businesses as a place to do business. A goal was established to create a comprehensive economic development website dedicated to providing data-rich information about the city’s economic climate, incentives, and resources for doing business in the jurisdiction. We are thrilled and honored our efforts have been recognized by this premier association of economic development professionals.” – Tom Muir, Azle City Manager.

“The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners, and an overall great effort by all participants.” Langley said.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC’s members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. Among many activities which benefit the economy, IEDC’s members create high-quality jobs and develop vibrant communities. www.iedcONLINE.org.

Don't forget to set your clocks

back one hour on November 5.

**Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends you schedule battery replacement for your smoke detectors the same day you change your clocks from daylight saving time to standard time in the fall.



The City of Azle is not having an election this November, but the State of Texas and other government entities are . . .

November 7, 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election

The State of Texas has 7 Propositions on the Ballot this November that will amend the Texas Constitution if approved by the voters. To view these propositions, please visit the Texas Secretary of State's website: www.sos.state.tx.us/elections

Early Voting October 23 - November 3

Please visit our website www.cityofazle.org for complete details on early voting and election day times and locations.

As a courtesy to our residents, the City is allowing Tarrant County to conduct the November 7, 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election at the B.J. Clark Annex Room 4, 603 SE Parkway. Residents in Parker County will vote at the Azle Masonic Lodge, 257 West Main Street.

Azle Memorial Library News and Events

333 W. Main Street/ 817-444-7216

Discover more about the Library, plus a calendar of events at: www.azlelibrary.org

LIKE us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/azlelibrary

Library at Home

Do you know a senior citizen who is homebound with no access to transportation? The Library delivers **FREE** books and movies to homebound seniors every month. To find out more, call 817-444-7216 and ask to speak to the Library at Home Coordinator.

Monthly Programs Just for Kids!

Snap Circuits: For ages 8-12! Make cool stuff and learn about electronics. Meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 4:30 PM.

LEGO Club: Kids ages 5-12 are invited to come build with LEGOS! Meets the 3rd Wednesday each month at 4:00 PM.

READ to a Dog: Children of all ages can read to a certified reading therapy dog on the 2nd Saturday each month from 2:00—3:30 PM.

Book Clubs

Adults are invited to join us for our two monthly book clubs! Visit the website or pick up a newsletter in the library for upcoming titles.

Non-Fiction Addiction: Meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM.

Main Street Book Club: (Fiction) Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

What's Cookin'??

Love to cook? Want to explore new techniques and recipes? Join us for our bi-monthly cooking class at the Library! Each class includes free recipes and samples. Second Monday of every other month at 4:30 PM in the Library Community Room.

11/13/17: Eat Your Fiber! Plus: Pressure Cooker Demo

12/11/17: Annual Cookie Exchange



Holiday Hours:

The Library will be closed on the following dates for the upcoming holidays:

November 23 & 24 December 25 & 26 January 1

Storytime:

Free program for young children and their caregivers that teaches early literacy and cognitive skills. Our Children's Librarian will delight with stories, songs, crafts and more.

- **Toddler Tales** for ages 18-36 months begins at 10 AM on Wednesdays.
- **Preschool Storytime** for ages 3-6 years begins at 10:45 AM on Wednesdays.

Both programs are repeated on Thursdays at the same times.

Save the Date!

Visit the Library on **Tuesday, December 12**, at 6:30 PM for a free holiday program! Special guests from the North Pole will stop by to visit, plus there will be holiday crafts, music and yummy treats to enjoy!

All ages welcome!



Water and Sewer Base Rates to Increase October 16, 2017

The City of Azle 2017-2018 annual budget includes an increase in water usage rates, however, base rates remain unchanged. This is the first time water usage rates have been increased since 2012. Sewer base rates will increase \$1.60 per month while usage rates will not change. The increase will be effective October 16, 2017 and is needed to meet the operating and debt service budget needs for the water and sewer utility system. It is also needed to ensure adequate revenue to fund future system maintenance and improvements to meet the water needs of the citizens of Azle. The new water usage rate schedule is designed to encourage water conservation by implementing a rate structure that charges more for increasing usage.

Below is a list showing the current rate structure along with the new rates.

Rate Comparison

Water Usage Charge (per 100 cubic feet)

Residential and Commercial Inside City

Usage (cubic feet)	Current Rate	New Rate	Increase
0 - 275	included	included	\$0.00
276-1,500	\$2.73	\$3.02	\$0.29
1,501-2,000	\$3.67	\$4.00	\$0.33
2,001-4,000	\$3.67	\$4.10	\$0.43
4,001-6,000	\$3.67	\$4.20	\$0.53
6,001-8,000	\$3.67	\$4.30	\$0.63
Over 8,000	\$3.67	\$4.45	\$0.78

Residential and Commercial Outside City

Usage (cubic feet)	Current Rate	New Rate	Increase
0 - 275	included	included	\$0.00
276-1,500	\$4.09	\$4.53	\$0.44
1,501-2,000	\$5.51	\$6.00	\$0.49
2,001-4,000	\$5.51	\$6.15	\$0.64
4,001-6,000	\$5.51	\$6.30	\$0.79
6,001-8,000	\$5.51	\$6.45	\$0.94
Over 8,000	\$5.51	\$6.68	\$1.17

Sewer Base Charge

Residential Inside and Outside City

	Current Rate	New Rate	Increase
Base Charge	\$21.40	\$23.00	\$1.60

Commercial Inside and Outside City

	Current Rate	New Rate	Increase
Base Charge	\$26.70	\$28.30	\$1.60

The average water bill for the majority of in city residential customers will increase \$1.74 per month or 4.11% based on an average consumption of 874 cubic feet. The majority of commercial customers located inside the City will see an increase of \$2.55 per month or approximately 4.6% in their monthly bill based on average consumption. Sewer customers will see an increase of \$1.60. For residential customers based on the city wide winter average, this is an increase of approximately 4.36% and 1.87% for commercial customers based on average usage. While rates go into effect on October 16, 2017, the actual increase will not be reflected until the November utility bill.



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This newsletter will be printed quarterly and available online at www.cityofazle.org