

# Heisley Park HOA News—Bulletin

## Bulletin

### City to Add \$10 Monthly Fee to Water Bills

**Water Bills to Increase** - If City Council gets their way, water rates will increase by \$10 per month for every water customer who gets a water bill. At the last council meeting, City Council proposed passing an ordinance:

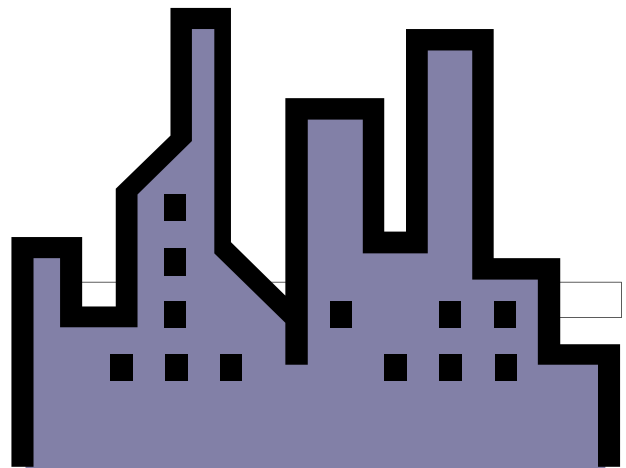
ORDINANCE: ENACTING SECTION 933.191 RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FEE.

This ordinance won't be based on actual usage but on a flat fee per account. So, every homeowner and individual business will incur a \$10 a month increase in their water bill. For example, a factory, pizza shop, restaurant or apartment building owner with a water bill account will have their bill raised by \$10 per month. In some instances, a resident with a second water line for their sprinkler system will be hit with a \$20 a month (\$240 per year) increase. What this rate increase means is that the city will generate about \$1.2 Million dollars for city infrastructure improvements.

There is no doubt, based on the age and condition of some of the pipes in the city, that the city needs to secure funds to improve its water delivery infrastructure. But, some of the residents at the last council meeting questioned whether this was the fairest way to obtain those necessary funds. It was questioned whether the fees shouldn't be based on usage? Wouldn't that cause the cost to be borne on who used the most water? Wouldn't it allow apartment dwellers to share in the cost of improvements for the water they use? And, why shouldn't businesses (factories, apartment buildings, and restaurants, etc.) who have a means to increase their revenues through increased pricing provide more of the funding based on usage and their ability to spread the cost over their client and product base? Wouldn't that be fairer to the average homeowner?

What is striking to this reporter is that members of council didn't seek residents input before proposing this legislation. And as Mr. Angelo Cimaglio who addressed council at the meeting pointed out, it appeared that they took the rather easy approach to solving this issue by not involving the resident.

There will be a subsequent discussion at the next council meeting on this issue with the planned second reading. Hopefully, all residents who have a concern about this issue will attend the next council meeting. It will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011. All residents are encouraged to attend and make their views known.



## FRONT PAGE SUMMARY

### Editor's Viewpoint:

I have been very supportive of the need for City Council to address their budget issues. I've suggested that they obtain resident input to assist them in this endeavor and that costs be pushed to the cost causers (e.g., utilities cutting into the streets and reducing their useful life). But, I cannot agree with the method of how council has proposed to create a water infrastructure fund. In my opinion, it puts too much burden on the city residents by not considering a usage component in the proposed rate.

I encourage all to come to the next council meeting to voice their view and opinion in this matter.

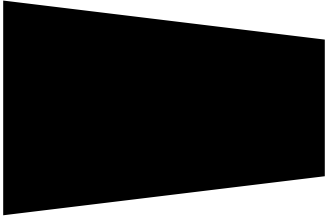
If you have a story or an item or issue of interest to share with us, let us know. You can contact us [heisley-park@ameritech.net](mailto:heisley-park@ameritech.net). If you want to sign up for the newsletter, you can now sign up by sending an e-mail to the Homeowner Association e-mail address ([news@heisleyparkhoa.com](mailto:news@heisleyparkhoa.com)).

The editor

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## ***OUR PURPOSE***

*The original purpose of this newsletter was to address some issues that impacted residents of Birchwood Lane here in Heisley Park. That initial concern was to see what can and should be done for homeowners whose sump pumps run constantly; whose sump pumps have failed; and, whose basements have flooded. It was also our goal that by creating this newsletter to communicate information about our community to other homeowners who may benefit from our concerns and efforts. With the water issue being addressed, our purpose has been expanded to include our joining forces with the Home Owner Association board to allow the newsletter to prosper as a communication tool for the community. We intend to work cooperatively with the City and the builder so that we can continue to improve the community that we live in and ensure that we do not negatively impact home values within the development further given the state of the real estate market. In doing so we also want to ensure that any future costs incurred by the city and taxes to support the community are well spent. We hope to see all of you attend the Painesville City Council meetings held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month to remain informed about what is happening in our city and community. As this publication is now part of the HOA it will be our goal to work in cooperation with the HOA board members and encourage them to take action where action is necessary on behalf of the homeowners and to communicate to homeowners what the HOA is doing on their behalf.*

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## **SIGN UP FOR AN E-COPY OF NEWSLETTER**

Sign up for copies the newsletter by sending an e-mail to: [news@heisleyparkhoa.com](mailto:news@heisleyparkhoa.com). We encourage all readers to share this newsletter with residents within the community. You can also view previous issues on the HOA website.

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## **SUBMIT ARTICLES**

Articles may be submitted at any time for consideration. Please e-mail articles in a word document and include your name, address, contact number so that if we have questions about the article we can contact you. Articles should be of interest to the homeowners here in Heisley Park or Painesville Residents in general. Thanks. The Editor

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NOTIFICATION: ASSOCIATED WITH THE HEISLEY PARK HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION AS IT'S OFFICIAL NEWS-LETTER.