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September 19, 2023

Mayor and City Council
City of Port St. Lucie
121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Boulevard
Port St. Lucie FL 34984-5099

Subject: Water Rate Increase

I am writing this letter to object to the City Council's proposal to increase the water, waste water and reclaimed water rates.

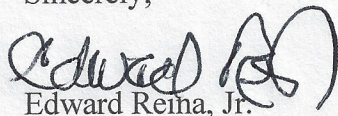
My objection is based on the following:

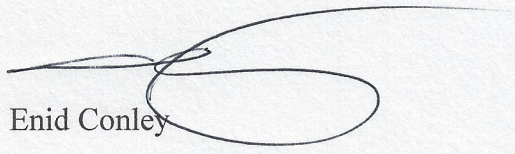
1. I noted that the City on September 11, increased, Solid Waste Collection, Recycling, and Stormwater Utility Management System, a increase of about 52% within a two year period. Add the 1.5% increase there is an overall increase of 53.5%.
2. I strongly emphasize that the increases, albeit minor to you, places a significant demand on our financial circumstances. Currently social security benefits are the major source of income. Because our income is a fixed amount it is often difficult to meet unanticipated financial demands.
 - a. Medical costs have hampered our ability to receive quality medical care and medications, including disputes with our medical insurance carriers, causing us to rely more and more on credit cards, again increasing our debts.
 - b. Significant increases in all of the utilities, food, home upkeep, and unforeseen emergencies have also added to our financial demands causing us to rely more and more on credit cards, again increasing our debts.
3. Additionally, our homeowners' taxes have increase substantially since 2020, including a substantial increase in our homeowner's insurance.

We have resorted to seeking part time employment, relying on-line jobs (due to health concerns of not being able to physically go to location to help with our financial situation. This effort has been haphazard and often unsuccessful.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these objections, and please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Edward Reina, Jr.


Enid Conley