

**City Business**  
by Michael Leamons

At the July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the City Council voted to begin using EZ-NETPAY Services to process credit card payments. Currently, the City pays a fee every time a traffic fine, utility bill or any other payment is made via credit/debit card. Usually, that fee runs from 2.5% to 2.75%. As of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, those fees totaled \$1,760; with 3 more months in the fiscal year, the annual total is expected to exceed \$2,300.

With EZ-NETPAY, those who choose to pay with a credit/debit card will begin bearing the expense of that convenience. For every \$100.00 paid by credit/debit card, EZ-NETPAY will add \$3.00 in fees to the user's payment. Under the current system, all the citizens have been bearing the expense to allow a few the convenience of paying by credit/debit card. Under the new system, only those enjoying that convenience will be paying for it. Isn't that the way it should be?

Please understand, the EZ-NETPAY fees will only apply to credit/debit card payments. **Those of you who pay by cash or check will not be subject to any new fees.**

As Editor Belew mentioned in last week's report, at the July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting the Council also voted to adopt a Street Lighting Policy. The City provides street lighting as a matter of public safety. Except in areas requiring higher levels of lighting, such as the Esplanade, the Downtown District and along the highways, City furnished street lighting will be limited to street intersections. (Even then, the City doesn't have sufficient resources to place a street light at every intersection.) Lights in alleys and lights between intersections (unless there is some special hazardous condition) will be identified and scheduled for removal unless the adjacent property owner (or owners) agrees to pay a monthly fee to retain the light. Prior to removing any lights, the City will notify adjacent property owners and give them an opportunity to make the above described arrangement.

Most of those lights located away from intersections are primarily serving as security lights for private residences, businesses or organizations. Under the old system, all the citizens had to bear the expense of providing security lighting for a few. Under the new system, those benefiting from the security lighting will be required to pick up the tab or lose the service. Again, isn't that the way it should be?

Regarding street lights, I would like to solicit your help. If you live at an intersection where the trees have grown around the street light and rendered it somewhat ineffective, decide whether you want the light removed or the trees trimmed back. There's no point in paying to have a light where most of its beams never reach the street. If you are willing to have the trees trimmed back, please send word to City Hall.

May God bless the City of Hico.