



THE GREAT LIFE NEWS

City of Gretna's Monthly Newsletter

WATER AND SEWER RATE BACKGROUND

Every year, the City of Gretna evaluates the financial condition of our water and sewer utilities. These utilities are self-supporting and therefore receive no tax dollars to support their operations. The customers pay for their operations.

The City receives the audited numbers for the water and sewer utilities in January, for the preceding fiscal year. This information is the basis of the review of the financial health of these two utilities. In the spring is also when the City sets everyone's sewer and water rates for the next year. The City averages each user's water use from November through February. The sewer bill is based on this usage and is therefore set for the next year starting in April. Customers can therefore water their lawns during the summer months and not pay sewer fees for that activity. There are more expensive methods of adjusting water utilization that does not go down the sewer system, but the average use methodology works very well and is the most cost efficient for the City and the customer.

On the sewer side of the utility bill, a very large portion of the revenue we receive goes to the City of Omaha. Our wastewater is transported through the sewer system to Omaha's LaPlatte wastewater plant where they treat the wastewater and discharge to the Missouri River. A portion of the cost to Omaha is also the CSO charge that they pass on to all users of the system which includes Gretna. This CSO charge is to support the cost for Omaha to separate their storm water and sanitary sewer piping to prevent sewerage from going directly into the Missouri River during high rainfall events.

City of Gretna staff is proposing that the City set the rate for the next 3 years, now that we know what Omaha plans for CSO rate adjustments for the next few years.

SEWER RATES

The City of Omaha has informed us that they will be increasing the bulk charge to the City of Gretna by 5.25% per year for the next five years. With this anticipated increase and a small operational adjustment for increased operation and maintenance expenses, the rates will be changing as follows.

Present rates – above Gretna flow meter	Proposed 2019 rate – above Gretna flow meter	Proposed 2020 rate – above Gretna flow meter	Proposed 2021 rate – above Gretna flow meter
Inside City – \$7.80 + 4.1517/ 1000 gallons Outside City – \$13.50 + \$6.2276/ 1000 gallons	Inside City – \$8.00 + 4.3054/ 1000 gallons – 3.4 % change Outside City – \$13.80 + \$6.4581/ 1000 gallons – 3.4 % change	Inside City – \$8.00 + 4.5275/ 1000 gallons – 4.1 % change Outside City – \$13.80 + \$6.7913/ 1000 gallons – 4.1 % change	Inside City – \$8.25 + 4.6972/ 1000 gallons – 3.6 % change Outside City – \$13.95 + \$7.0458/ 1000 gallons – 3.2 % change
	Increase cost for a 8,000 gallon user per month – Inside \$1.43 Outside \$2.14	Increase cost for a 8,000 gallon user per month – Inside \$1.78 Outside \$2.67	Increase cost for a 8,000 gallon user per month – Inside \$1.61 Outside \$2.19

WATER RATE

The City owns and operates its own water utility system. The City increased rates last year to cover cost for water system expansion and replacement projects. Projects included a new well and waterline replacement on McKenna Avenue. These projects will be underway this year.

City of Gretna staff is proposing that the City set the water rate for the next three years. Based on a small operational adjustment for increased operation and maintenance expenses in 2020 and 2021, the rates will be changing as follows.

Present rates	Proposed 2019 rate	Proposed 2020 rate	Proposed 2021 rate
Inside City - \$13.60 + \$2.550/ 1000 gallons Outside City - \$20.40 + \$3.825/ 1000 gallons	Inside City - \$13.60 + \$2.5500/ 1000 gallons (+) 0.0% increase Outside City - \$20.40 + \$3.8250/ 1000 gallons (+) 0.0% increase	Inside City - \$13.95 + \$2.6138/ 1000 gallons (+) 2.6% increase Outside City - \$20.93 + \$3.9206/ 1000 gallons (+) 2.6% increase	Inside City - \$14.30 + \$2.6791/ 1000 gallons (+) 2.5% increase Outside City - \$21.45 + \$4.018/ 1000 gallons (+) (+)2.5% increase
	Increase cost for a 8,000 gallon user per month – Inside \$0.00 Outside \$0.00	Increase cost for a 8,000 gallon user per month – Inside \$0.86 Outside \$1.29	Increase cost for a 8,000 gallon user per month – Inside \$0.87 Outside \$1.30

It's important that the water and sewer utilities support the growth of our community and the service areas that they serve. As these systems continue to expand, we also realize that there will be increased maintenance and repairs as well as the associated revenues. Both utilities are audited annually to make sure that there are sufficient funds to meet the obligations of the utilities as well as meeting all of the State and Federal regulatory requirements.



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