

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/22/20

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 20-0698

LOG NAME: 60WHOLESALE RATES 2021

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Ordinance Revising Wholesale Water, Wastewater, Standby, and Raw Water Service Rates and Amending Chapter 35 - Water and Sewers, Article III - Charges, Division 1 – Generally, Sections 35-56(g) (h) and (i) of the City Code with an Effective Date of Billing on or after November 1, 2020 for Usage and Flows from and after October 1, 2020 for Water and Wastewater Service

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance revising wholesale water, wastewater, standby, and raw water service rates and amending Chapter 35 - Water and Sewers, Article III - Charges, Division 1 – Generally, Sections 35-56(g) (h) and (i) of the City Code, with an effective date of billing on or after November 1, 2020, for usage and flows from and after October 1, 2020 for water and wastewater service.

DISCUSSION:

Each year, wholesale water and wastewater rate studies are prepared in accordance with the terms of the uniform wholesale customer contracts.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the wholesale water and wastewater cost of service and rate studies were performed by NewGen Strategies & Solutions, Inc., per the uniform contract requirements. The results of these studies indicate the need for an increase of 0.87 percent in wholesale water revenue requirements and a decrease of 10.52 percent in wholesale wastewater revenue requirements. The rates as proposed in the table below will recover the cost of providing wholesale water and wastewater service.

The rate setting methodology set forth in the uniform contract requires that test year data serve as the basis for establishing costs and the volumes used in calculating the future rates. The test year for FY2021 is FY2019. Costs are adjusted to include known and measurable changes impacting the rate period. Unlike retail rates, which are based on projected volumes, wholesale rates are calculated using test year actual volumes. This can cause rates to go up in a year with low volumes or down when the test year has high volumes.

A joint meeting of the Wholesale Water Advisory Committee and the Wholesale Wastewater Advisory Committee was held on June 25, 2020, to present the studies and the rates.

WHOLESALE WATER RATES

	Current	Proposed
Volume (\$ per 1,000 gallons)	\$0.8642	\$0.9709
Maximum Day (\$ per MGD excess)	\$121,788.00	\$105,207.00
Maximum Hour (\$ per MGD excess)	\$51,242.00	\$42,119.00
Monthly Customer Charge per meter	\$25.00	\$25.00

The city also enters into wholesale water contracts with standby customers who do not use water on a regular basis. These customers are assessed a minimum charge equal to the three year numerical average of the treatment, pumping and transmission charge per 1,000 gallons. The charge for FY2021 shall be \$0.9760 per 1,000 gallons per month.

RAW WATER RATES

The cost of untreated water supplied by the Tarrant Regional Water District is \$1.25451 per 1,000 gallons for use both inside and outside the district. Adjusted for street rental and system loss, the raw water charge to customers is \$1.36741 and is a direct “pass through” cost to wholesale water customers.

WHOLESALE WASTEWATER RATES

	Current	Proposed
Volume (\$ per 1,000 gallons)	\$1.3303	\$1.0559
BOD (per pound)	\$0.3985	\$0.3990
TSS (per pound)	\$0.2633	\$0.2699
Monthly Customer Charge	\$75.00	\$75.00

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendation and adoption of the ordinance, funds will be deposited into the Water & Sewer Fund. The Water Department (and Financial Management Services) is responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City.

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