

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****September 10, 2024**

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**SUBJECT: STORMWATER UTILITY RATE AMENDMENT PROCESS
AND TIMELINE**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to inform City Council of the Stormwater Utility rate amendment process and timeline in advance of an upcoming public hearing and Mayor & Council Communication (M&C) requesting adoption of updates to the rate.

The Fiscal Year 2025 recommended budget includes a 5% Stormwater Utility rate increase to accelerate the proactive rehabilitation of high-risk storm drainage pipe infrastructure throughout the City. It is estimated that fifty-nine (59) miles of City drainage pipe main lines are at a high risk of failure. Delayed rehabilitation increases the risk of sinkholes, which can restrict stormwater conveyance, increase the risk of flooding, and have dangerous impacts to structures, roads, and vehicles. Proactive drainage pipe rehabilitation increases public safety, reduces the need for emergency response, and provides an opportunity for partnership to leverage resources and provide more complete projects for the community.

Section 552.045 of the Local Government Code requires the City to hold a public hearing before revising and levying the Stormwater Utility rate. Notice of the hearing, including the full text of the proposed ordinance, must be published in the *Star-Telegram* three times before the date of the public hearing. The first publication must occur on or before the 30th day before the date of the public hearing.

To allow for questions and feedback about the proposed rate increase during the City's recommended budget public engagement process, the Stormwater Utility rate change will follow the process and timeline below:

- September 10, 2024 - The 5% Stormwater Utility rate increase will be included in the public hearing and City Council meeting on the City's recommended budget.
- September 17, 2024 - If City Council adopts the budget, including the 5% Stormwater Utility rate increase, the full text of the proposed ordinance increasing the rate will be published in the *Star-Telegram* on September 23, 2024, September 30, 2024, and October 7, 2024.
- October 29, 2024 - An M&C, including a public hearing, will be brought to City Council requesting adoption of the new Stormwater Utility rate.
- January 1, 2025 - If approved by City Council, the new Stormwater Utility rate will take effect.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Dyke, Transportation and Public Works Assistant Director, Stormwater Management Program, at 817-392-2714.

**David Cooke
City Manager**