

**Ville Platte City Council Minutes for July 12, 2022  
City of Ville Platte, Public Hearing held at 4:45 PM**

**A Public Hearing to receive public comments and input regarding a proposed ordinance adopting amending the Utility Rate Table to accommodate entities recently defined as Industrial-Wholesale both inside and outside the City Limits of Ville Platte as established in Ordinance 030822-1 was held as scheduled and advertised.**

**Ville Platte, Louisiana.  
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**

Mayor Vidrine opened and announced the Public Hearing to receive public comments and input regarding a proposed ordinance amending the Utility Rate Table to accommodate entities recently defined as Industrial-Wholesale both inside and outside the City Limits of Ville Platte as established in Ordinance 030822-1 was held as scheduled and advertised.

Mayor Vidrine read the proposed ordinance into the record as such,

**“ORDINANCE NO. 07-12-2022(1)**

**AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE RATES, CHARGES, AND DEPOSITS ON WATER, SEWER AND GAS SERVICE ACCOUNTS SERVED BY THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ville Platte (“City”) seeks to ensure that its utility enterprises are managed, operated, and maintained in a stable, sustainable, and financially healthy condition; and

**WHEREAS**, the City must collect sufficient service revenue to meet the major maintenance of the utility system and offset the costs of operation and maintenance of that system to make those systems self-sufficient and to allow the continued support of other City services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has conducted a comprehensive review of the utility system’s revenue requirements and desires to establish and periodically adjust the charges for utility services provided by the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Ville Platte (“City”) that:

**Section 1. Rates Charged Pursuant to This Ordinance Only.** Fees for water, sewer, and gas service shall be established and periodically updated by the City pursuant to this Ordinance and shall not be changed from those prescribed herein without the prior approval of the City Council.

**Section 2. Class of Service.** Rates for utility services shall be based upon the following classes of service:

- (i) Residential Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas services provided for individual use by single family residential properties including single family homes, townhouses, condominiums, travel trailers, mobile homes, and approved home occupations.

- (ii) Multifamily Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas service provided for bulk use by multifamily residential rental properties including apartment complexes, multiple unit residential buildings, duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes.
- (iii) Educational Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas service provided for use by educational facilities serving kindergarten through twelfth grade students.
- (iv) Commercial Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas service provided for any use which does not constitute Residential Service, Multifamily Service, Educational Service, or Industrial Service.
- (v) Industrial Service is defined as (a) sewer service provided for use by large industrial entities which do not receive water service from the City or produce goods for wholesale only, and (b) gas service provided for use by large industrial entities with average gas usage of 1,000 CCF or more per month on average over a twelve-month period.

**Section 3. Water Rates.**

- (i) The following monthly fees (“Water Rates”) shall be charged for water service beginning with the June, 2019 billing cycle:

	<b><u>Inside City Limits</u></b>		
	<i>Starting 6/1/2022</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2023</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b><u>Water - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</u></b>			
<i>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</i>	\$21.93	\$22.42	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>
<i>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</i>	\$8.56	\$8.75	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>

	<b><u>Outside City Limits</u></b>		
	<i>Starting 6/1/2022</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2023</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b><u>Water - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</u></b>			
<i>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</i>	\$21.93	\$22.42	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>
<i>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</i>	\$8.56	\$8.75	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>

- (ii) Water billing shall be based upon the volume of water that has passed through and been Recorded by the account’s water meter.

**Section 4. Sewer Rates.**

- (i) The following monthly fees (“Sewer Rates”) shall be charged for sewer service beginning with the June, 2019 billing cycle:

	<i><u>Inside City Limits</u></i>		
	<i><u>Starting 6/1/2022</u></i>	<i><u>Starting 6/1/2023</u></i>	<i><u>Every 6/1 Thereafter</u></i>
<i><u>Sewer - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</u></i>			
<i><u>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</u></i>	\$200.00	\$204.40	<i><u>prior year + 2.2%</u></i>
<i><u>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</u></i>	\$1.50	\$1.53	<i><u>prior year + 2.2%</u></i>

- (ii) Sewer billing shall be based upon the volume of water that has passed through and been recorded by the account’s water meter, except in the case of Industrial Service which is billed as one flat rate.

	<i><u>Outside City Limits</u></i>		
	<i><u>Starting 6/1/2022</u></i>	<i><u>Starting 6/1/2023</u></i>	<i><u>Every 6/1 Thereafter</u></i>
<i><u>Sewer - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</u></i>			
<i><u>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</u></i>	N/A	N/A	<i><u>prior year + 2.2%</u></i>
<i><u>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</u></i>	N/A	N/A	<i><u>prior year + 2.2%</u></i>

Mayor Vidrine then asked for comments from the public.

After no relative comments and the advertised time had expired, the mayor declared the public hearing concluded.

**Ville Platte City Council Minutes for July 12, 2022  
Meeting held at 5:00 PM  
City of Ville Platte  
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte met in a Regular Session in the Council Chamber in City Hall, 126 E. Main St. Ville Platte, LA on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 5:00 PM.

*The Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Vidrine.*

**ATTENDANCE:** Councilmen Jerry Joseph, Mike Perron, Jordan Anderson, Councilwoman Christina Sam, Councilman Bryant Riggs, City Accountant Jennifer Manuel sitting in for City Clerk Hilda Edwards, Fire Chief Chris Soileau and Police Chief Neil Lartigue.

Absent was: City Attorney Eric Lafleur and City Clerk Hilda Edwards.

Following the Invocation and Pledge, roll called by Jennifer Manuel, City Accountant, Mayor Vidrine announced that a quorum was present. The Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Ville Platte were duly convened as the Governing Authority of the City of Ville Platte.

**1. Minutes-Regular Meeting of June 13, 2022 & Special Meeting of June 27, 2022**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the minutes of June 13, 2022 and June 27, 2022 meetings as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

**2. Monthly Report for March/April 2022 (Budget to Actual)**

The expenses for the month of June 2022 were \$224,769.96 and the expenses for the month of May were \$235,583.69. The expenses were \$10,813.73 less in the month of June than in the month of May. The city did have expenses of \$7,613.34 for the second year annual license fee for the police department, \$16,819.16 to coordinate the conversion of the utility system to Smartfusion, \$2,459.98 for two computers associated to the Smartfusion conversion and \$2,500.00 for new portable radios for the police department and expenses for delivery and installment of wifi at the city building located at 220 S. Thompson Street.

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Sam to approve the June monthly report. All in favor, motion carried.

**Items added to the Agenda:**

Mayor Vidrine then announced that she needed a motion to add to items to the agenda. She announced those items would be recognized as item No. 3 Animal Control Committee and Item No. 4 Resolution for Fire Department.

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the adding said items to the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Vidrine commented that she wanted to inform the public that second booster shots for Covid 19 were being administered at the health unit on Thursdays from 8 am to 3 pm. She also announced that the Girls and Boys Club was running smoothly and that Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and Former Super Bowl New Orleans Saint Devery Henderson would be there Friday morning at 10:00 to address the "cher babies".

**Council Comments:**

**Sam:** Councilwoman Sam expressed concern that while letters and follow up letters regarding abandoned properties had been sent out, she felt property owners were ignoring same. Mayor Vidrine advised that the clerk would check those properties and the condemnation, demolishing and billing for cleanup would proceed accordingly. Councilwoman Sam advised that she had met with Mrs. Mel, the principal at James Stephens School and had requested a meeting with her and Police Chief Lartigue, pending his availability, to discuss traffic during and around school hours. Councilwoman Sam then asked about Phase 2 of the street improvement project. Mayor Vidrine advised that the administration was

prioritizing requests and would be getting back with the contractor. Mayor Vidrine further offered “we want the public to know that the street improvement project is not finished”. She said Hickory Street after St. John Church will be completely reconstructed. Mayor Vidrine also asked the citizens to keep the children in mind and please don’t use the newly overlaid streets as race tracks. Councilwoman Sam followed that by advising that she had spoken with Don White regarding replacing the speed bumps on MLK in the school zone. Mayor Vidrine suggested she could check with the contractor to see if they could assist with getting that done prior to the beginning of the school year. Finally Councilwoman Sam inquired about progress with the parks. Mayor Vidrine advised that the engineer should be addressing that later, in accordance with the agenda, during his comments.

**Joseph:** Councilman Joseph had no comments.

**Anderson:** Councilman Anderson had no comments. Mayor Vidrine did assure him that the streets he had discussed with her had been added to the list for consideration.

**Perron:** Councilman Perron had no comments.

**Riggs:** Councilman Riggs to the opportunity to join Councilwoman Sam in her concerns regarding the parks.

#### **Public Comments on Agenda Items listed (4 minutes each)—**

Mr. Arthur Sampson rose to offer support for the animal control committee. He commented on stray dogs and their propensity to tear up trash. He encouraged the council to support the efforts of the animal control committee. Mayor Vidrine invited Animal Control Officer Aaron Baughman to address the issue. Mr. Baughman advised that his department very busy dealing with pitbulls, some good, some bad. He advised the animal control employees are doing their best to track down owners of stray dogs and issue citations when possible. Councilman Riggs offered comments on how to possible locate stray dogs. Mayor Vidrine thanked Mr. Sampson for his comments and suggested more discussion regarding animal control issues when the item would come up on the agenda. Mr. Sampson then inquired about the proposed ordinance on the agenda dealing with utility rates. Mayor Vidrine offered a brief explanation and reassured Mr. Sampson that it absolutely had nothing to do with increasing utility rates.

Sonia Christopher of the Animal Control Committee then rose and advise that the Advisory committee would be meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Jill Stephen’s office and invited all to attend. She then agreed to reserve further comments until Animal Control would come up in accordance with the item added to the agenda.

#### **Agenda Items:**

The mayor then proceeded with the Agenda Items:

- 1. Fire Chief Report-** In calling on Fire Chief Chris Soileau, Mayor Vidrine addressed a proposed 3% salary increase for fire personnel and advised that their budget could sustain the increase and she applauded their frugal administration. Fire Chief Chris Soileau offered that their base pay would go from an hourly rate of \$9.91 to \$10.12. He then made the following report for June - 25 calls for the Ville Platte area, including 4 structure fires, 2 vehicle calls, 2 grass fire calls, 2 medical assist calls, 10 alarm activation calls, and 3 service calls and 1 accident call that resulted in a fatality. He advised that they are beginning their annual hydrant testing, testing all 520 hydrants as required by regulation.

The council then, on motion by Councilman Perron and Seconded by Councilwoman Sam, and without opposition, approved the 3% salary increase for the Ville Platte Fire Department.

- 2. Engineer's Report - Ronnie Landreneau.** Mr. Landreneau first commented on the Water Sector Program and advised they had met with the mayor and Blake Fogelman to go over things they could do to improve their water sector application. He and his staff had also met with Jonathan McFarley regarding the sewer sector application. He advised that the portal for submittal would open July 15<sup>th</sup> and remain open through August 31, although he anticipated having the application submitted much sooner. He advised Mayor Vidrine had made some good recommendations to be included in the application and that the city would be applying for the maximum of \$5,000,000.00 in each category. He said the review process would begin in October and grants should be awarded in early December, late November. Mayor Vidrine interjected that the review process would be in October and agency recommendations will go before the Joint Budget Committee on November 10 grant recipients will be notified in December. She noted that these are \$5,000,000.00 grants, not loans, and that the City will not have to pay any of it back, or make payments on it. "It's a grant". Mr. Landreneau then mentioned the repair of water well #11 and whether we wanted to attempt to wait on grant funds that may become available as opposed to doing it before that. He said the mayor has asked "us to discuss that with her" and look into that. He commented that he understood that Don White had sent some information for review. He said regarding the street improvement project, the contractor was not complete, he is waiting on a sub-contractor to minimize mobilizations and that in the interim Mayor Vidrine would be prioritizing additional streets as proposed by the council. He further noted that it is his understanding that if funds are not available under the current contract that an additional infrastructure plan would be forthcoming and that those streets would be addressed. He then addressed the parks project and advised that they had reviewed correspondence from the Division of Administration on Monday and that it appears that the second part of the project had been funded during the past legislative session and that while we need to wait to see if bonds will need to be sold, the final plans and specifications need to be completed. He said as soon as the plans are completed he will want the council to preliminarily review them, hopefully before the next meeting, so he can get the council's input. With that, Mr. Landreneau concluded his report.
- 3. Animal Control Committee –** Sonia Christopher and Karen Perron identified themselves as present, representing the Animal Control Committee. Ms. Christopher again reiterated that the Committee would be meeting at the office of Jill Stephens on July 14 at 6:00 PM. They discussed current law and the possibility of amending policies to address some of the committee's concerns. Mr. Baughman then advised that they are attempting to break a fighting ring. He advised that the agency is working to provide work and care for the animals that they do pick up. He advised that the State advised that each shelter is to spay and neuter before putting up for adoption. He advised that they were unaware that they were required to have the dogs spayed and neutered but if the council approve them doing so they will, he did advise that it could be costly. The mayor asked that he get a list of clinics and the cost to perform the operations. Councilman Riggs asked if that was all dogs are just the dogs being adopted. Mr. Baughman advised that it would only be those slated for adoption. He advised that if a dog isn't claimed after 5 days it becomes the responsibility of the city. Councilman Riggs then suggested that the cost could be a problem and we would need to review the policy of euthanizing. Mr. Baughman then advised that one problem was that he could only issue city hall citations and not citations subject to city court action. After further discussion Mayor Vidrine directed Mr. Baughman to follow the laws with respect to picking up and releasing dogs to owners but if he needed felt a citation was warranted to call for the police department to accompany him and have the police department write the citations.

4. **Abandoned Properties/Blighted/Overgrown Properties** – Mayor Vidrine asked if anyone was in the audience to speak on the issue and no one came forward.

**Resolutions:**

After an explanation by Mayor Vidrine, the Council, on motion by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Sam, and without opposition, the council adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the mayor and city council of the City of Ville Platte, Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, acting as governing body of said city, we hereby enact the following resolution on this day the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022.

Whereas, the City of Ville Platte is responsible for the safety and protection of our citizens of the City and the surrounding area relative to fire protection and other catastrophic events; and

Whereas, existing central fire station is in such a condition that it does not meet the minimal acceptable standards to provide a safe working environment for the firefighters that are required to inhabit said structure; and

Whereas, the existing fire station was built in 1955 and this structure cannot house needed firefighter equipment which is necessary to provide proper fire protection to the area; and

Whereas, the city is proposing to purchase a 3.6 acre tract of land and construct a 12,000 square foot facility, this will allow for the accommodation of adequate firefighting equipment, including additional personnel.

Whereas, the city proposes to provide funding match, including all preliminary engineering and architectural design, including (inaudible) preparation, and the total cost would be \$2,812,500.00+ of which will require a local match of \$937,500.00.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Council members Anderson, Joseph, Perron, Riggs and Sam

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT: Council Member Lemoine

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the city council meeting held on May 10, 2022, at which meeting and quorum was present and voting.

Ville Platte, Louisiana, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.

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Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Mayor Vidrine then advised that it would be submitted to Capitol Outaly for consideration on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Ordinances**

### **1. Industrial Wholesale Utility Rate Ordinance**

Mayor Vidrine explained the proposed ordinance amending the Utility Rate Table to accommodate entities recently defined as Industrial-Wholesale both inside and outside the City Limits of Ville Platte as established in Ordinance 030822-1 as presented during the public hearing held just prior to this regular meeting of the Ville Platte City Council. She called for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Perron made the motion to adopt the Industrial Wholesale Utility Rate Ordinance, the motion was seconded by Councilman Anderson, and without opposition the motion was adopted unanimously as provided below:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 07-12-2022(1)**

#### **AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE RATES, CHARGES, AND DEPOSITS ON WATER, SEWER AND GAS SERVICE ACCOUNTS SERVED BY THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

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- (vii) Multifamily Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas service provided for bulk use by multifamily residential rental properties including apartment complexes, multiple unit residential buildings, duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes.



- (viii) Educational Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas service provided for use by educational facilities serving kindergarten through twelfth grade students.
- (ix) Commercial Service is defined as water, sewer and/or gas service provided for any use which does not constitute Residential Service, Multifamily Service, Educational Service, or Industrial Service.
- (x) Industrial Service is defined as (a) sewer service provided for use by large industrial entities which do not receive water service from the City or produce goods for wholesale only, and (b) gas service provided for use by large industrial entities with average gas usage of 1,000 CCF or more per month on average over a twelve-month period.

**Section 3. Water Rates.**

- (iii) The following monthly fees (“Water Rates”) shall be charged for water service beginning with the June, 2019 billing cycle:

	<b>Inside City Limits</b>		
	Starting 6/1/2019	Starting 6/1/2020	Every 6/1 Thereafter
<b>Water - Residential Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 14.00	\$ 17.50	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 5.95	\$ 6.85	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Multifamily Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 14.87	\$ 19.25	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 6.30	\$ 7.55	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Educational Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 14.87	\$ 19.25	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 6.30	\$ 7.55	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Commercial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 15.75	\$ 21.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 6.62	\$ 8.20	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Industrial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	n/a	n/a	n/a
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b><i>Inside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2022</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2023</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b><i>Water - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</i></b>			
<i>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</i>	\$21.93	\$22.42	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>
<i>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</i>	\$8.56	\$8.75	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>

<b>Outside City Limits</b>			
	Starting 6/1/2019	Starting 6/1/2020	Every 6/1 Thereafter
<b>Water - Residential Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 17.25	\$ 21.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 6.67	\$ 8.20	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Multifamily Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 18.32	\$ 23.15	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 7.10	\$ 9.05	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Educational Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 18.32	\$ 23.15	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 7.10	\$ 9.05	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Commercial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 19.37	\$ 25.25	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.85	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Water - Industrial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	n/a	n/a	n/a
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b><i>Outside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2022</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2023</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b><i>Water - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</i></b>			
<i>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</i>	\$21.93	\$22.42	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>
<i>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</i>	\$8.56	\$8.75	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>

- (iv) Water billing shall be based upon the volume of water that has passed through and been Recorded by the account's water meter.

**Section 4. Sewer Rates.**

- (ii) The following monthly fees ("Sewer Rates") shall be charged for sewer service beginning with the June, 2019 billing cycle:

<b><i>Inside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2019</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2020</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b>Sewer - Residential Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 16.00	\$ 19.50	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.50	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Multifamily Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 19.47	\$ 21.45	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.65	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Educational Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 19.47	\$ 21.45	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.65	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Commercial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 20.42	\$ 23.35	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.80	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Industrial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 1,450.00	\$1,450.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b><i>Inside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2022</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2023</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b><i>Sewer - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</i></b>			
<i>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	<i>\$204.40</i>	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>
<i>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</i>	<i>\$1.50</i>	<i>\$1.53</i>	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>

- (ii) Sewer billing shall be based upon the volume of water that has passed through and been recorded by the account's water meter, except in the case of Industrial Service which is billed as one flat rate.

<b>Outside City Limits</b>			
	Starting 6/1/2019	Starting 6/1/2020	Every 6/1 Thereafter
<b>Sewer - Residential Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 17.92	\$ 23.35	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.80	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Multifamily Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 21.60	\$ 25.70	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.30	\$ 2.00	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Educational Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 21.60	\$ 25.70	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.30	\$ 2.00	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Commercial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 22.75	\$ 28.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.37	\$ 2.15	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Sewer - Industrial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b><i>Outside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2022</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2023</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b><i>Sewer - Industrial Service (Wholesale)</i></b>			
<i>Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>
<i>Each 1,000 gallons thereafter</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>prior year + 2.2%</i>

**Section 5. Gas Rates.**

- (i) The following monthly fees (“Gas Rates”) shall be charged for water service beginning with the June, 2019 billing cycle:

<b><i>Inside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2019</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2020</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b>Gas - Residential Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 17.44	\$ 20.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.52	\$ 1.55	\$ 1.55
<b>Gas - Multifamily Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 18.44	\$ 22.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.59	\$ 1.71	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Gas - Educational Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 18.44	\$ 22.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.67	\$ 1.86	prior year + 2.2%
<b><i>Outside City Limits</i></b>			
	<i>Starting 6/1/2019</i>	<i>Starting 6/1/2020</i>	<i>Every 6/1 Thereafter</i>
<b>Gas - Residential Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 19.94	\$ 24.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.86
<b>Gas - Multifamily Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 20.64	\$ 26.40	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.76	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.05
<b>Gas - Educational Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 20.64	\$ 26.40	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.76	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.05
<b>Gas - Commercial Service</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 21.82	\$ 28.75	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$ 1.86	\$ 2.23	\$ 2.23
<b>Gas - Industrial Service (All)</b>			
Base Rate including first 2,000 gallons	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00	prior year + 2.2%
Each 1,000 gallons thereafter	\$0.20 over cost	\$0.20 over cost	\$0.20 over cost

- (ii) The Gas Rates listed above for Residential Service, Multifamily average Service and Commercial Service have been determined based current monthly cost of per MCF. In order to gas adjust for Residential Service, paid by City to its supplier of change in the City’s cost of Service, Educational upon an estimated approximately \$3.75 gas, billings for Multifamily Service, Educational Service and Commercial Service shall include a Gas Cost Adjustment Rider (“GCAR”) in addition to the charges determined by the Gas Rates.

The GCAR shall be calculated GCAR shall be apply the starting following June, 2020 and each June thereafter. The June the GCAR shall be multiplied through June annual cycle. Each month, times the account holder’s total CCF month and applied to the account holder’s total bill. If the GCAR usage for the may (resulting in an increased charge to the account holder) or negative be positive (resulting in a credit to the account holder).

The GCAR shall be calculated as follows.

PG = Purchased Gas = Total MCF of gas purchased by City over prior 12 months

SG = Sold Gas = Total MCF of gas sold by City over prior 12 months

LF = Loss Factor = PG /SG

CG = Cost of Gas = Total dollar cost of gas purchased by City over prior 12 months

ACG = Average Cost of Gas (per MCF) = CG / PG

CRD = Cost Recovery Differential (per MCF) = ACG - \$3.75

GCAR = Gas Cost Adjustment Rider (per CCF) = CRD x LF / 10

- (iii) The Gas Rates for Industrial Service listed above shall be adjusted the City’s actual cost of gas per unit paid to the City’s supplier.
- (iv) Gas billing shall be based upon the volume of gas that has monthly based passed upon through and been recorded by the account’s gas meter.

**Section 6. Tap In Fees.**

- (i) In order to establish new service to a location without an existing meter, or to modify an existing service connection, the City shall charge following fees (“Tap In Fees”), as applicable:

<b>Inside City Limits</b>	
Starting 6/1/2019	Every 6/1 Thereafter

<b>Tap In Fees - Water</b>		
Tap Fee - 3/4"	\$ 225.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tap Fee - 1"	\$ 250.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tap Fee - 1.5"	\$ 475.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tap Fee - 2"	\$ 575.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tap Fee - 3"	\$ 875.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tap Fee - 4"	\$ 1,075.00	prior year + 2.2%
Ford Meter Box	\$ 95.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tapping Sleeve 2" to 1.5"	\$ 25.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tapping Sleeve 4" to 3/4"	\$ 7.00	prior year + 2.2%
Tapping Sleeve 10" to 3/4"	\$ 75.00	prior year + 2.2%
Gate Valve 2"	\$ 90.00	prior year + 2.2%
Saddle 4"	\$ 30.00	prior year + 2.2%
Labor (hourly)	\$ 100.00	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Tap In Fees - Sewer</b>		
Permit Fee - New Connection	\$ 250.00	prior year + 2.2%
Permit Fee - Modify Existing Connection	\$ 50.00	prior year + 2.2%
<b>Tap In Fees - Gas</b>		
Tap Fee	\$ 275.00	prior year + 2.2%
Excess Flow Valve (Residential Only)	\$ 75.00	prior year + 2.2%
2 lb Generator Regulator	\$ 70.00	prior year + 2.2%
2 lb Meter	\$ 70.00	prior year + 2.2%
#415 Gas Meter	\$ 195.00	prior year + 2.2%
#750 Gas Meter	\$ 550.00	prior year + 2.2%
#1,000 Gas Meter	\$ 700.00	prior year + 2.2%
#1,600 Gas Meter	\$ 800.00	prior year + 2.2%
#3,000 Gas Meter	\$ 1,550.00	prior year + 2.2%
#5,000 Gas Meter	\$ 2,150.00	prior year + 2.2%
#10,000 Gas Meter	\$ 2,750.00	prior year + 2.2%
Labor (flat charge)	\$ 325.00	prior year + 2.2%

- (ii) The City shall not establish service to any account holder who has an account in "DELINQUENT" or "IN COLLECTION" status.

**Section 7. Connection Fees.**

- (i) In order to establish new service to a location with an existing meter, or to re-establish service

that has previously been disconnected as a result of non-payment, the City shall charge the following fees (“Connection Fees”):

	Inside & Outside City Limits	
	Starting 6/1/2019	Every 6/1 Thereafter
<b>Connection Fees – All Service Types</b>		
Connection Fee - Water	\$ 25.00	prior year + 2.2%
Connection Fee - Sewer	\$ 25.00	prior year + 2.2%
Connection Fee - Gas	\$ 25.00	prior year + 2.2%

- (ii) The City shall not establish or reconnect service to any account holder who has an account in “DELINQUENT” status.

**Section 8. Miscellaneous Fees.**

- (iii) The City shall charge the following miscellaneous fees (“Miscellaneous Fees”):

	Inside & Outside City Limits	
	Starting 6/1/2019	Every 6/1 Thereafter
<b>Other Fees – All Service Types</b>		
Meter Reread	\$ 35.00	prior year + 2.2%
Insufficient Funds Fee	\$ 50.00	prior year + 2.2%
Account Collection Fee	\$ 75.00	prior year + 2.2%

**Section 9. Temporary Services Fees.**

- (i) The City shall provide temporary per day service to a location with an existing meter for purposes of allowing the account holder to perform limited maintenance work at the service location.
- (ii) The City shall charge temporary service fees as follows (“Temporary Service Fees”):

	Inside & Outside City Limits	
	Starting 6/1/2019	Every 6/1 Thereafter
<b>Temporary Service Fees – Water/Sewer</b>		
Deposit	\$ 250.00	prior year + 2.2%
Per Day Service Fee	\$ 75.00	prior year + 2.2%
Per Day Maximum Consumption	65 gallons	65 gallons
<b>Temporary Service Fees – Gas</b>		
Deposit	\$ 250.00	prior year + 2.2%
Per Day Service Fee	\$ 75.00	prior year + 2.2%
Per Day Maximum Consumption	1 CCF	1 CCF

**Section 10 Mandated Fees.**



- (i) The City shall for any fees, taxes or other charges imposed upon water, sewer or gas service by any federal or state government or regulatory body.

**Section 11. Deposits.**

- (i) In order to establish new service after the date of this Ordinance, the City shall require meter deposits (“Deposits”) at the time an application for service is submitted as follows:

	<b>Inside &amp; Outside City Limits</b>	
	Starting 6/1/2019	On 6/1 Every 5 Years Thereafter
<b>Deposits – Water/Sewer</b>		
Residential Service	\$ 200.00	prior year + 10.0%
Multifamily Service	\$ 750.00	prior year + 10.0%
Educational Service	\$ 750.00	prior year + 10.0%
Commercial Service	\$ 750.00	prior year + 10.0%
Industrial Service	\$ 3,000.00	prior year +10.0%
<b>Deposits – Gas</b>		
Residential Service	\$ 200.00	prior year + 10.0%
Multifamily Service	\$ 750.00	prior year + 10.0%
Educational Service	\$ 750.00	prior year + 10.0%
Commercial Service	\$ 750.00	prior year + 10.0%
Industrial Service	\$ 3,000.00	prior year +10.0%

- (ii) Deposits shall be held by the City until the account is paid in full and closed. The City shall not owe any interest to account holders on the Deposit.
- (iii) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the existing Deposit requirement for an account shall not change so long as (i) service is continued for the same account holder at the same service location, and (ii) the account remains paid as due and is not DELINQUENT.

**Section 12. Account Billing and Payment.**

- (i) Except as otherwise provided herein, the City shall accept cash, checks, money orders, credit cards and on-line banking payments. All in-person payments shall be made at City Hall. The City shall not accept checks or on-line banking payments for Deposits for Residential Service.
- (ii) In the event that an account holder submits a check/bank draft which is returned for insufficient funds, the City shall charge an Insufficient Funds Fee (as set forth above), which shall be added to the overall account balance. The City shall notify account holders of any returned check/bank draft within three (3) business days of the City receiving notice thereof from its fiscal agent bank. The City shall not accept checks from an account holder for a period of 18 months after the account holder submits a check which is returned for insufficient funds.

- (iii) The City shall process accounts and mail monthly account billing statements to account holders by the last day of each month (the “Billing Date”). Payments on accounts shall be due on or before 4:00 PM of the twentieth (20th) day of the month billed (the “Due Date”).
- (iv) If an account is not paid in full by the Due Date, a delinquency fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount billed shall be added to the original amount due, and the account shall be identified as “DELINQUENT”. The account shall remain delinquent until the total past due account balance is paid. The City shall terminate the delivery of water and gas to those accounts that remain DELINQUENT as of the first (1st) day of the succeeding month.
- (v) Accounts that have remained in DELINQUENT status as of sixty (60) days past the Due Date shall be identified as “INCOLLECTION”. The City shall first attempt to contact the account holder and collect the remaining outstanding balance. If unsuccessful in this collection attempt, the City shall apply the account holder’s available deposit towards the past due account. If the Deposit is sufficient to pay the account in full, the City shall return any remaining Deposit to the account holder and close the account. If the Deposit is not sufficient to pay the account in full, an Account Collection Fee (as set forth above) shall be assessed and added to the account balance, and the account shall be turned over to a collection agency. The collection agency shall pursue the account holder and collection of the balance due.
- (vi) Service shall not be restored until all past due amounts are paid in full, together with payment of a Connection Fee and any deficiency in the Deposit. If all past due amounts are paid prior to 2:00 PM, service shall be reconnected between 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on the same day, otherwise service shall be reconnected shall be reconnected between 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on the following business day. The account holder must be present at the service location for reconnection.

**Section 13. Terms of Service**

- (i) Water and gas consumption is the account holder’s responsibility. The account shall be billed based upon all water and gas having been delivered via the City water or gas meter, regardless of the circumstances under which the water or gas was used. If the account location has a water or gas leak, or water or gas is consumed by unknown forces on the delivery side of the water meter, the account holder is responsible for monitoring the usage and for the security of his/her system and thus also responsible for payment for all water and gas consumption which has passed through the water or gas meter.
- (ii) Water meters and gas meters shall be the property of the City. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any unauthorized person to tamper with or manipulate the water meter or gas meter in any way, shape or form. Account holders violating this Ordinance shall be subject to fees which offset the costs to repair or replace the meter and an additional deposit of \$250.00 shall be paid by the account holder before water delivery is continued.

**Section 14. Reports to City Council.** The Mayor shall provide reports to the City Council as follows:

- (i) Monthly Reports shall be provided including:
  - a. Revenues for water, sewer and gas for the prior month
  - b. Expenses for water, sewer and gas for the prior month
  - c. Total number and total amount of DELINQUENT accounts
  - d. The account holders' names and outstanding balances of IN COLLECTION accounts.
  
- (ii) Annual reports shall be provided each June including:
  - a. Revenues for water, sewer and gas for the prior year
  - b. Expenses for water, sewer and gas for the prior year
  - c. The calculation of the change in Water Rates for the next year
  - d. The calculation of the change in Sewer Rates for the next year
  - e. The calculation of the change in Gas Rates for the next year
  - f. The calculation of the GCAR for the next year

**Section 15. Miscellaneous**

- (i) Any ordinance or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This Ordinance having been introduced on June 7, 2022, was published by title only on July 9, 2022, was subject to a public hearing on July 12, 2022, and was submitted for a vote and the vote therein was as follows:

City Council Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstaining
Lemoine, Faye			X	
Anderson, Jordan	X			
Joseph, Jerry	X			
Perron, Mike	X			
Riggs, Bryant	X			
Sam, Christina	X			

The Ordinance was adopted on this the 12th day of July, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hilda Edwards, City Clerk

**Proclamations:**

None

**Permits:**

None

**New Business**

None

**Reports**

**Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue**

There were a total of 662 calls for assistance in the month of June 2022---28 citations, 12 misdemeanor arrests, 5 felony arrests, officers responded to 26 automobile accidents with 1 fatality. Calls were down 472, citations up 6, misdemeanor arrests were up 2, felony arrests were down 3, accidents up 4.

Mayor finally reiterated that roads not complete in the street improvement program would be put in the infrastructure program. She advised that it would be a grant program and the monies would need to be applied for and that we were preparing for same. She advised that we have submitted our application for \$400,000.00 in park funding and we have been notified that it is in review. She advised that she also met with DEQ regarding funds that they have regarding pumping station and upgrading infrastructure as well. She also advised that she had met with LDH regarding funds (inaudible). She said she will keep the council and public informed regarding all grant application including the water sector program in which we will be applying for funds for 2 new water wells as well.

**Adjournment**

With there being no other business, Mayor Vidrine called for a motion to adjourn. A motion by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilwoman Sam to adjourn.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM**

**Approved By:**

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**Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor**

**Attest By:**

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**Hilda Edwards, City Clerk**