



# Town of Alpine

## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 29, 2025

To: Town Council

From: Town Clerk

Subject: Comparison of Utility Ordinances and Fees – Ordinance 2022-14 vs. Ordinances 2025-012 & 2025-013

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Town Council with a comparison between Ordinance No. 2022-14 (Utility Billing Ordinance) and the newly adopted Ordinances No. 2025-012 (Utility Procedure Ordinance) and No. 2025-013 (Utility Rate Ordinance). Together, the new ordinances repeal and replace Ordinance No. 2022-14.

### Key Findings:

#### 1. Structure and Governance:

- Ordinance 2022-14 combined all procedures, policies, and fees in one ordinance.
- Ordinances 2025-012 and 2025-013 separate procedures from fees, providing clarity and flexibility.
- A new Water Commissioner position has been established to oversee utility services.

#### 2. Water Connection & Capacity Fees:

- Old:  $\frac{3}{4}$ " = \$5,000; 1" = \$7,500; 1.5" = \$10,000; 2" = \$12,500.
- New:  $\frac{3}{4}$ " = \$9,425 (+89%); 1" = \$14,870 (+98%); 1.5" = \$26,420 (+164%); 2" = \$42,270 (+238%).

#### 3. Sewer Connection & Capacity Fees:

- Old: \$9,000 per ERU.
- New: \$10,080 per ERU (+12%).
- Out-of-town surcharge increased to 150% of in-town rates.

#### 4. Monthly Base Rates & Usage:

- Water: Old base \$31 → New base \$34 (+10%); Usage \$2.00/1,000 gal → \$2.25 (+12.5%).
- Sewer: Old base \$54/ERU → New base \$67.50/ERU (+25%).

#### 5. Readiness-to-Serve Fees:

- Water: Increased from \$31 → \$31 (unchanged).
- Sewer: Remains \$54 (unchanged).

#### 6. Bulk Water & Miscellaneous Fees:

- Bulk water: Old \$4.00/1,000 gal → New \$4.50/1,000 gal (+12.5%).

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- Transfer of Service: \$250 → \$300 (+20%).
- New fees added: Meter tampering \$500, Meter testing \$100, Renter fee \$50.

### 7. Billing and Enforcement:

- Old ordinance: One annual meter read averaged monthly.
- New ordinances: Monthly meter reads; stronger enforcement tools for delinquency, tampering, and unauthorized use.

### Summary of Impacts:

- Connection fees for water have increased substantially (+89% to +238%) due to capacity charges, while sewer connection fees rose modestly (+12%).
- Monthly base rates increased 10% (water) and 25% (sewer); water usage charges increased 12.5%.
- Readiness fees remained the same.
- Bulk water and service transfer fees rose, with new penalty and administrative fees added.

### Recommendation:

The new ordinances modernize the Town's utility framework, align fees with actual capacity and usage, and strengthen enforcement.

Although costs have increased, these changes ensure long-term financial sustainability and regulatory compliance for the Town's utility systems.

### Next Steps:

Upon adoption of the new ordinances for Utility Procedures and Rates Council will need to adopt financial resolutions for the management of Capacity fees, Service Fees (Meter Replacement), and lastly ensure Standard Specifications are in place for road repair (when excavating in the street is completed by others) to ensure the long term viability of our roadways.

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### Appendix A – Side-by-Side Comparison of Ordinance Changes

Category	2022-14 (Old)	2025 Ordinances (New)	% Change
Water Connection Fees (¾")	\$5,000	\$9,425	+89%
Water Connection Fees (1")	\$7,500	\$14,870	+98%
Water Connection Fees (1.5")	\$10,000	\$26,420	+164%
Water Connection Fees (2")	\$12,500	\$42,270	+238%
Sewer Connection Fee (per ERU)	\$9,000	\$10,080	+12%
Water Monthly Base Rate	\$31	\$34	+10%
Water Usage Rate (per 1,000 gal)	\$2.00	\$2.25	+12.5%
Sewer Monthly Base Rate (per ERU)	\$54	\$67.50	+25%
Water Readiness-to-Serve Fee	\$31	\$31	No Change
Sewer Readiness-to-Serve Fee	\$54	\$54	No Change
Bulk Water Rate (per 1,000 gal)	\$4.00	\$4.50	+12.5%
Transfer of Service Fee	\$250	\$300	+20%
New Fees	N/A	Meter Tampering \$500; Meter Testing \$100; Renter Fee \$50; Water Service Fee \$2.25	

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