

Timeline

- **April 2022 - City Council work session on Water Project updates and Utility Rates**
- **January 2023 - Feasibility and cost analysis presented to the City Council for Water Project**
- **March 14, 2023 - City Council will receive presentation on Utility Rate setting**
- **April 11, 2023 - Council will hold a public hearing on Utility Rate setting**
- **May 10, 2023 - City Council will hold the 2nd public hearing on Utility Rate setting and make a decision on Utility Rate increases**
- **July 1, 2023 - Effective date, if new rates are approved**

Limited Income Assistance

The City of Coburg offers a reduced fee to eligible customers who are having trouble paying their bills.

Customers who are interested in applying for Limited Income Assistance, please call Coburg City Hall at 541-682-7850.

How Can I Get Involved and Share My Voice As A Citizen?

The City Council invites all citizens to attend the **March 14, 2023** Council meeting to watch the presentation on Utility Rates. The Council will then hold (2) public hearings at the **April 11, 2023** and **May 10, 2023** regular City Council Meetings. Testimony is limited to (3) minutes and all comments must be addressed to the City Council.

Council Meetings are held in-person at City Hall, or by Zoom. To participate by Zoom you must pre-register with the City by 3:00 PM the day of the meeting. To watch the Council meetings by live stream, or a recording of the meeting, go to coburgoregon.org

Public Testimony Options

In person at public meetings

OR

Written testimony submitted by 3:00 PM the day of the meeting:

• **Submit via email to City Recorder**

• **Mail to City of Coburg, Attn: City Recorder, PO Box 8316, Coburg, Oregon, 97408**

• **Drop off at Coburg City Hall, 91136 N. Willamette St, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**



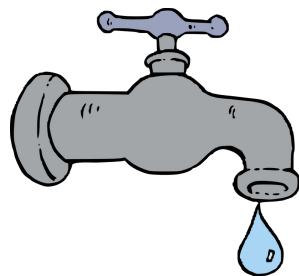
Utility Rates in Coburg



Why Do We Need to Consider a Rate Increase?

Due to the very significant increase in inflation and the expenses to operate our sewer and water systems, and the rising costs of projects needed to insure safe and reliable water in Coburg now and in the future, City Council began discussing utility rate increases nearly a year ago. These discussions are guided by the Water Master Plan that includes:

- Additional Water Source
- Extending Water to the Eastside of I-5
- Aging Water Infrastructure Replacement
- Upgrades to Utility Monitoring



Water Master Project

The first Water Master Plan was adopted in Coburg in 1966 and was amended in 2016. Implementation of the plan began in 2019.

The city applied for and received loans in the amount of \$5.5 million for funding the projects necessary. The debt of the water department must be paid back with user fees and reserves over a 30-year period.

The city has received an analysis of the updated costs for completing the water projects. Operational costs have increased more than 8% in the past year. There also has been greater increases in construction costs, operations of the utilities, as well as capital projects. These factors require the City Council to consider utility fee increases.

How Are Rates Set?

The city sets water and sewer rates by estimating the current and long-term costs of providing these services. Costs of on-going materials and services, personnel, and debt service are all estimated out 20 years to make sure that the city continues to maintain a high level of on-going service. This analysis is performed annually in order to update new information, and to consider changes in costs associated with operating the utilities.

How Will My Rates Change?

Utility bills include water, sewer, transportation utility fee, tree fee. The base monthly bill for a single family residential customer using 700 cubic feet (5,236 gallons) per month is currently \$148.70.

April 26, 2022 - The City Council requested staff to budget a 1.5% sewer fee and 3% water fee increase. The Council acknowledged that a higher increase may be necessary when the financial analysis was completed.

Residential water currently pays a monthly base rate of \$53.00. A 3% increase would add \$1.59 a month. The total residential base water rate would be \$54.59.

Residential Sewer currently pays a monthly base rate of \$86.70. A 1.5% increase would add \$1.30 a month. The total residential sewer bill would be \$88.00.

A 3% water and 1.5% sewer increase would increase the base bill \$2.89 a month, the total monthly bill would be \$151.59. **However, this should be considered a placeholder for rate increases and may not reflect the final increases which will be decided by the City Council at their May meeting.**