

Sec. 20.02.006. Application for service; rates.

(a) Application for service.

- (1) Any party desiring to receive wastewater service from the system shall make an application for such service to the city on forms provided by the city. All applications shall be made by the record owner or occupant of the property for which service is being requested. Proof of residency shall be furnished to the city's representative upon request. Unless otherwise specified in the form, the application fee is \$30.00. After the city has accepted the application and received all fees and charges due for the requested service, the city shall notify the customer to connect the sewer line(s) for which the customer is responsible (the sewer lines from the residence or other structure on the property to the tap on the system); thereafter, the customer shall be required to connect its sewer line(s) to the system reasonably promptly, but in any event no later than the date when service becomes available.
- (2) If the customer fails or refuses to connect to the system on or before the date when service becomes available, then, upon 30 days' written notice from the city, the city may, in its sole discretion, connect the customer's sewer lines to the system at customer's expense, for which the city may seek and collect reimbursement from the customer for its costs in making such connection, including engineering, contractor and administrative costs. Alternatively, the customer may apply for a refund under subsection (3) below.
- (3) If:
 - (A) The city has approved a customer's application for wastewater service, and the customer has paid the required connection fees, consisting of all connection fees under section 20.02.005(1) (existing structures), or capital recovery fees under section 20.02.005(2) (for new development); and
 - (B) Wastewater service is not available to the service address within two years of receiving the connection fees, or is available, but the city is not requiring the applicant to connect the service address, then:
 - (C) The applicant may send the city a written request agreeing to one of the following two options, and the city will comply with the request. The options are:
 - (i) The city will keep the connection fees, cancel the reservation of wastewater capacity (LUEs) stated in the application, and release the applicant from monthly wastewater payment obligations. The applicant will release the city from any obligation to provide the following "benefits": (i) install up to 100 feet of private lateral sewer lines to the service address and (ii) decommission the septic system at the service address. The city will provide service at the earliest time when the city determines that capacity in the system is available to the service address. Future connection will not be subject to any additional connection fees for the LUEs previously assigned (except for future excess use), but will be subject to all other connection and other fees, charges and other requirements for sewer service in effect at the time of the connection.
 - (ii) The city will refund the applicant's connection fees and cancel the person's application for service to the service address. The owner or occupant of the service address may reapply for service at a later date, subject to the city's decision that capacity in the system is available to that service address. Future connection will be subject to subsection 20.02.005(2)(D) and all connection fees, rates and charges in effect at the time of the future application. The person may reapply only under section 20.02.005(1)(B) or 20.02.005(2) and will not receive the benefits.

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No other fees will be refunded under this subsection (a)(3). This subsection (a)(3) does not affect the city's continuing authority to order a property owner or occupant to connect the service address to the system, subject to all requirements of this article, at any time for reasons of public health and safety. If the terms of this subsection (a)(3) conflict with a contract between the city and the applicant, owner or occupant of the service address, the terms of the contract control.

- (4) A customer that fails or refuses to connect to the system after service is available is subject to delayed connection fees as provided in section 20.02.009. If the city has a demand for the customer's unconnected service, it may use the unconnected capacity to serve existing demand, after notice to the customer that the unconnected service will no longer be available to the customer until permitting or construction of additional capacity. The notice must give the customer at least 60 days to connect the service for which an application has been accepted and all connection and other fees due and owing to the city have been paid.

(b) General provisions.

- (1) Bills for sewer service may be based on:

- (A) The metered water consumption by the customer during the winter season based upon the average of the monthly readings of the customer's water meter for the preceding December, January, and February;
- (B) Projected water usage, if the customer has no water usage history; or
- (C) The minimum usage charge with no gallonage charge if the customer has applied for service and the service is available, but the customer has not physically connected to the system.

- (2) If a residential customer does not have an acceptable history of water usage during the preceding December, January, and February, the projected water usage for purposes of subsection (b)(1)(B) is 6,450 gallons per month.

- (3) If a nonresidential customer does not have an acceptable history of water usage during the preceding December, January, and February, the customer's monthly sewer bill shall:

- (A) Be calculated based upon the customer's current monthly water usage; or
- (B) Be calculated by measuring actual sewage volume, on a basis acceptable to the city, at the expense of the customer, and correlating such volume to the schedule set forth below.

(c) Wastewater service rates.

- (1) The following monthly wastewater rates and charges for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater are in effect for residential customers, including multifamily and apartment, and commercial customers both within and outside the corporate limits of the city from the effective date of this article:

- (A) Residential Minimum usage charge per LUE: ~~\$28.88~~, \$XX.XX
- (B) Excess usage charge per LUE: \$50.00.
- (C) Residential Gallonage charge: ~~\$4.05~~, \$XX.XX per 1,000 gallons.
- (D) Commercial Minimum usage charge per LUE: \$XX.XX
- (E) Commercial Gallonage charge: \$XX.XX

- (2) Minimum usage charges per LUE apply to each LUE for which a connection fee has been paid.
- (3) Excess usage charges apply to each LUE (or fraction thereof) in use at a service address that exceeds the number of LUE's for which a connection fee has been paid. The number of LUE's in use is measured

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by the city, using methods authorized by this chapter for billing purposes, such as metered water consumption by the customer. The city may vote to waive excess use fees for a particular customer class until excess use exceeds a specified amount.

- (4) In addition, the city shall charge each customer any regulatory assessment required by the state commission on environmental quality.
- (5) The rates fixed herein are estimated to be sufficient to provide for the expenses of operation, maintenance, and replacement of the system, including debt service. Such rates may be revised from time to time as may be necessary. Prior to revising such rates, the city may obtain a cost-of-service audit to be used as the basis for a rate increase.
- (d) Water usage not introduced into system. Wastewater customers not introducing all of their water usage into the system may apply to the city for exemption from wastewater charges for the water usage not introduced, by requesting the installation of a meter to determine the amount of water that is not being introduced into the system.
- (e) Discharges of dangerous substances. No residential user shall introduce any "toxic substance" or "hazardous substance" or "hazardous waste," as those terms are defined by applicable federal and state law (collectively, "prohibited substances") into the system without first receiving specific written approval from the city. The city reserves the right to terminate wastewater service at any time if the city determines that discharges of prohibited substances are occurring. Any damages to the system or other costs to the city caused by discharges to the system of prohibited substances or of abnormally strong domestic sewage or other substances which are incompatible with the system, shall be borne exclusively by the discharger of such wastewaters and at no expense to the city. Such costs for which the discharger is responsible include, but are not limited to, the costs of restoring wastewater treatment services, clean up and restoration of the environment, and sludge disposal. The city reserves the right to terminate wastewater service at any time if the city determines that such costs have not been, or will not be, paid in a timely manner.

(Ordinance 1720.8, § III, adopted 9/8/09; Ordinance 1720.09, § 2.2, adopted 11/8/11; Ordinance 1720.11, §§ 2.4, 2.5, adopted 3/5/13; Ordinance 1720.13, adopted 10/10/17; Ordinance 2018-02, adopted 1/22/18; Ord. No. 2022-10, § 2, 4-19-2022; Ord. No. 2022-10A, § 2, 8-16-2022)

Sec. 20.06.004. Water rates and charges.

- (a) Applicability. These rates and charges are applicable to all sales or service of water within and outside the corporate limits of the city other than sales or service of water to a wholesale user.
- (b) Rates and charges. The city's rates and charges to customers for the sales or service of water shall consist of two parts: (i) base rates, (ii) special charges, and (iii) administrative fee.
 - (1) Base rates. For customers who live within the city limits of the City of Dripping Springs, the city shall charge: ~~as its base rates the same rates, fees, and charges (including, but not limited to, water impact fees, connection fees, minimum monthly charges, capital charges, and volumetric charges), the same as what is charged by the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation.~~

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>5/8"</u>	<u>\$36.75</u>
<u>3/4"</u>	<u>\$36.75</u>
<u>1"</u>	<u>\$91.88</u>
<u>1 1/2"</u>	<u>\$183.75</u>
<u>2"</u>	<u>\$294.00</u>

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3"	\$551.25
4"	\$918.75
6"	\$1,837.50
8"	\$2,940.00

- (2) Volumetric Rates. For customers who live within the city limits of the City of Dripping Springs, the city shall charge the following rate per 1,000 gallons per billing period:

Usage (Gallons)	Rate
0-4,000	\$2.36
4001-8000	\$3.94
8001-12000	\$4.46
12001-20000	\$5.51
20001-30000	\$8.66
30001-50,000	\$13.91
50,001-99,999,999	\$18.90

- (3) Out-of-city base rates. For customers who live outside the city limits of the City of Dripping Springs, the city shall charge as its base rates the same rates, fees, and charges (including, but not limited to water impact fees, connection fees, minimum monthly charges, capital charges, and volumetric charges), the same as what is charged by the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation plus an additional 20 percent for the rates, fees, and charges.

Meter Size	Rate
5/8"	\$36.75
3/4"	\$36.75
1"	\$91.88
1 1/2"	\$183.75
2"	\$294.00
3"	\$551.25
4"	\$918.75
6"	\$1,837.50
8"	\$2,940.00

- (34) Volumetric Rates. For customers who live outside the city limits of the City of Dripping Springs, the city shall charge the following rate per 1,000 gallons per billing period:

Usage (Gallons)	Rate
0-4,000	\$2.71
4001-8000	\$4.53
8001-12000	\$5.13
12001-20000	\$6.34
20001-30000	\$9.96
30001-50,000	\$16.00
50,001-99,999,999	\$21.74

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(5) Golf Course. For golf course customers within and outside of the City Limits of Dripping Springs, the city shall charge the following rate per 1,000 gallons per billing period:

<u>Usage (Gallons)</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>0-99,999,999</u>	<u>\$2.38</u>

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- (6) Special charges. Each retail water customer shall be responsible to pay costs incurred that are attributable to a specific retail customer or retail customer account (such as, but not limited to, returned check fees, disconnect charges, and resumption of service charges).
- (47) Administrative fee. Except for wholesale water impact fees, the city shall charge an administrative fee calculated as a percentage of the sum of the base rates and special charges charged pursuant to subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3) above. The applicable percentage shall initially be six percent and periodically reviewed and revised, as appropriate. The administrative fee will be shown separately on each customer's water bill.
- (58) Reclaimed water fee. The reclaimed water fee is \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. In order to obtain reclaimed water, each customer must complete a reclaimed water use agreement form and be approved by the city.

(Ordinance 2019-26, adopted 8/20/19; Ord. No. 2022-10, § 2, 4-19-2022; Ord. No. 2022-10A, § 2, 8-16-2022; Ord. No. 2023-29, § 2, 9-5-2023; Ord. No. 2025-32, 10-7-2025)