



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE ORDINANCE

MEETING DATE: May 21, 2024

REQUESTER: William A. Hills, City Manager

PRESENTER: Megan Mahan, Deputy City Manager

TITLE: Second reading and adoption of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, "Utilities and Services" relating to fees for water and wastewater

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

ANALYSIS:

On April 2, 2024, the Finance and Government Committee reviewed the rate proposal and recommends the rate adjustments as recommended and set forth below. On May 7th the first reading of the Ordinance was presented at City Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The rate changes contained in this ordinance are expected to modify the budgeted revenues for the FY 2023/2024 Water Wastewater Fund. An ordinance modifying the budget will be presented to City Council for approval at a later date.

BODY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 26, "UTILITIES AND SERVICES" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS BY CHANGING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ARTICLE II WATER SERVICE, AND ARTICLE III, SEWER SERVICE, THEREOF, RELATING TO CHARGES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE, A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the water and wastewater systems of the City are supported by revenues from an enterprise fund dedicated to support of these utility systems; and

WHEREAS, a cost-of-service study has been conducted to determine costs and necessary rates to be charged to continue to provide water and wastewater services as required; and

WHEREAS, the City Council Finance and Government Committee has reviewed the proposed rates, concurs with, and recommends the rates set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND

PRAIRIE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That Section 26-23 (Water Rates) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) *Monthly charges.* The water rates shall be charged and collected each month by the city from all consumers obtaining service from the water system and shall be hereby fixed as follows:

Residential Fees per Thousand Gallons:

0 – 3,000 Total Usage, per 1,000 gallons	Residential	\$ 0.12
<u>When total usage is more than 3,000 gallons:</u>		
0 - 10,000 gallons	Residential	\$ 4.50
11,000 - 20,000 gallons	Residential	\$ 6.00
21,000 – 30,000 gallons	Residential	\$ 9.13
Over 30,000 gallons	Residential	\$11.41

Multi-Family Fees per Thousand Gallons:

0 – 250,000 gallons	Residential	\$ 7.00
Over 250,000 gallons	Residential	\$ 9.25

Other Classes per Thousand Gallons:

Commercial per 1,000 gallons	Commercial	\$ 5.66
Industrial per 1,000 gallons	Industrial	\$ 5.66
Governmental per 1,000 gallons	Governmental	\$ 4.77

Monthly Base Charges (per Meter Size)

5/8" or 3/4"	\$ 17.72
1"	\$ 22.80
1½"	\$ 29.60
2"	\$ 51.45
3"	\$159.49
4"	\$197.71
6"	\$296.42
8"	\$412.56
10"	\$430.44
12"	\$452.90

(b) *Additional units.* When a residential, commercial, industrial, or governmental premises has a water meter furnishing water to more than a single premises; in addition to the meter base charge, a water unit charge of two dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$2.69) per month shall be charged for each unit on such premises. The Utilities Director shall determine whether additional units exist on any premises.

(c) *Multi-Family units*. A water unit fee of five dollars and zero cents (\$5.00) will be charged per unit for Multi-Family accounts. The Utilities Director shall determine whether additional units exist on any premise.

SECTION 2. That Section 26-24 (Billing; delinquency; service restoration charges) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) Water meters shall be read monthly and the consumer billed in writing or electronically, showing the amount of water consumed and the charges due by the consumer thereon; and such bill shall be due and payable within twenty-one (21) days from the rendition thereof. Such billing shall be deemed sufficient when sent to the last known address of the consumer. If such bills are not paid within thirty-five (35) days after the date of mailing thereof, water service shall be discontinued to such nonpaying consumer and shall not be renewed until the full amount of said bill has been paid. In addition, further collection efforts will incur the following schedule of fees at the time the account is identified for each step in the collections process. Said service fees shall be:

\$ 20.00	Final notice tag
\$ 40.00	Turned off for non-payment
\$ 50.00	Locked after turned off for non-payment
\$ 75.00	Meter pulled or plugged after locked and turned off for non-payment
\$ 40.00	Damaged/Broken Lock or Plug
\$100.00	Unauthorized jumper connections, plus estimated usage
\$ 30.00	Return trip charge
\$ 50.00	After-hours service
\$150.00	Tamper Fee, plus cost of applicable replacement parts

Should the water bill duly owed is paid by a check or electronic debit which does not clear the bank upon which it is drawn in a normal manner, a charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be paid at the time said check is redeemed. If the check is not redeemed in the specified time, and the water is disconnected, the above service charge schedule shall apply.

(b) If payment is not received and processed within five (5) days of the due date, a late fee shall be assessed and applied to the bill. The late fee shall be 10.0% of all current charges, excluding tax and charitable contributions.

Cross reference-Meter reinstallation charge after removal for commission of offense, § 26-2.”

SECTION 3. That Section 26-25 (Water service rates at building construction sites, not taken through a fire hydrant) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Until such time that a water meter may be installed to accurately measure all water usage at any construction site, the builder or developer shall pay the following charge per month or part thereof, based on the square footage of construction per structure. Charges begin thirty (30) days from the date taps fees are paid and billed each month until the permanent meter is installed.

Square Feet	Amount
Less than 2,500	\$ 63.64
2,500 to 7,499	\$ 127.30

7,500 to 19,999	\$ 305.50
20,000 to 49,999	\$ 916.54
50,000 to 99,999	\$1,578.49
Over 100,000	\$2,355.07

SECTION 4. That Section 26-28 (Service Rate Classification) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-28. - Service rate classification.

When applying service rate classifications to individual accounts, the following definitions shall apply. The Utilities Director shall determine the appropriate rate classification for each account:

Residential	Single, duplex, and or triplex properties used primarily for residential purposes
Commercial	Entities engaged primarily in the sales of goods or services, or other nonmanufacturing commercial uses
Industrial	Entities engaged primarily in the manufacturing, fabrication, or assembly of products
Governmental	Properties owned or operated by city, county, state, or federal governments, as well as properties owned or operated by public school or community college districts
Multi-Family	Properties used primarily for residential purposes that are divided to accommodate more than three residences

(Ord. No. 6318, § 1, 9-19-00; Ord. No. 7093, § 1, 9-21-04; Ord. No. 7249, § 1, 9-6-05)

SECTION 5. That Section 26-29 (Raw water rates) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Untreated water taken from the city's contracted water rights in Joe Pool Lake shall be metered by a meter approved by the Utilities Director or designee and charged at ten dollars and sixty-three cents (\$10.63) per one thousand (1,000) gallons and a monthly administration fee of one hundred fifty-nine dollars and forty-nine cents (\$159.49). Readings must be self-reported monthly between the 20th-25th and returned for inspection every three months.”

SECTION 6. That Section 26-30 (Water taken from fire hydrants) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Water taken from the city's fire hydrants, other than that used by the various municipal departments for authorized purposes such as firefighting, street cleaning and system flushing, shall be metered by an approved meter obtained from the water utilities department, possessing a City of Grand Prairie logo and backflow prevention device. A refundable deposit of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) shall be charged. Water taken from fire hydrants shall be charged at a rate of ten dollars and sixty-three cents (\$10.63) per one thousand (1,000) gallons and a monthly administration fee of one hundred fifty-nine dollars and forty-nine cents (\$159.49). Fire Hydrant meters readings must be self-reported monthly between the 20th-25th and returned for inspection every three months.”

SECTION 7. That Section 26-32 (Wastewater rates) of Chapter 26, “Utilities and Services”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) Monthly charges. The wastewater service rates to be charged and collected by the city from all customers obtaining services from the wastewater system of the city shall be and are hereby fixed as follows:

Quantity	Classification	Rate
Per 1,000 gallons	Residential	\$5.25
Per 1,000 gallons	Commercial	\$6.78
Per 1,000 gallons	Industrial	\$6.78
Per 1,000 gallons	Government	\$5.63
Per 1,000 gallons	Multi-Family	\$6.50

Monthly Base Charges (per Meter Size)

5/8" or 3/4"	\$ 16.11
1"	\$ 17.45
1½"	\$ 21.21
2"	\$ 26.94
3"	\$ 39.89
4"	\$ 52.96
6"	\$ 82.18
8"	\$116.26
10"	\$148.84
12"	\$166.74

(1) *Residential*: Gallons of wastewater shall be based on average water usage during the months of November, December, January, and February of each fiscal year (cold months' usage). To be eligible, there must be water consumption equal to or greater than 1,000 gallons of water for a minimum of 3 (three) months. For those with water consumption for all four (4) months, the highest usage month may be dropped for the purpose of computing the winter average. All other residential accounts, including customers moving within the city will be billed at eighty per cent (80%) of their current water consumption until a cold weather months' average is established. Those persons who reside in single-family residences shall be charged for a maximum of 12,000 gallons until a cold weather month's average is established. Wastewater billing shall be based on the lower of the current month's usage or cold months' average usage.

(2) *Commercial/Industrial/Governmental/Multi-Family*: Wastewater shall be billed based on one hundred percent (100%) of water consumption, unless the Utilities Director determines a condition exists that would cause wastewater discharges to be unusually high. In such cases, the director may require that a wastewater meter be installed at the customer's expense. Said meter shall be installed pursuant to plans and specifications approved by the Utilities Director, be installed in an approved location, be calibrated annually with a copy of the results provided to the City and have a totalization device. The calibration shall be witnessed by a representative of the Utilities Director. If a meter which measures the wastewater ceases to function properly, the volume shall be determined by immediately reverting to reading the water meter and using that volume for determination of sewage volume. If the Director finds that it is not practicable to measure the quantity of sewage by the aforesaid meters, the Director shall determine the quantity of the sewage in any manner or method the Director may find practicable to arrive at the percentage of water entering the sanitary sewer system of the City to determine the sewer service charge.

(3) *Additional units*. When a Residential, Commercial, Industrial, or Governmental premise has a water meter furnishing water to more than a single premise; in addition to the meter base charge, a wastewater unit charge of three dollars and fifty-five cents (\$3.55) per month shall be made for each unit on such premise. The Utilities

Director shall determine whether additional units exist on any premises.

(4) *Multi-Family units.* A wastewater unit fee of five dollars and zero cents (\$5.00) will be charged per unit for Multi-Family accounts. The Utilities Director shall determine whether additional units exist on any premise.

(5) *When city does not supply water:* The charges set forth above are based upon the amount of water used as measured by a single meter in increments of one thousand (1,000) gallons. Where the water is furnished to single-family residential customers by a source other than the city, the monthly charge for wastewater service shall be a flat rate of forty-seven dollars and seventy-three cents (\$47.73) or estimated otherwise by adding to the base wastewater charge an amount determined by multiplying the number of persons per household by the average gallons per capita per day for water use inside the home (as calculated annually by the utility) times 30.42 days divided by 1,000 times the current wastewater charge per 1,000 gallons. All other customer classes connected to the sanitary sewer who have a source of water supply must have a meter approved and tested by the Utilities Department on that source of water supply, and the volume charge as set forth hereinbefore, shall be based on the sum of the volumes delivered by all sources of supply. To utilize the alternate methodology to estimate the flat rate, the customer must furnish the number of persons in the household and update such upon request by the City.

(b) *Reserved.*

(c) *Reserved.*

(d) *Outside city:* The rates to be charged for sewer service to all persons, firms, or corporations by the city at locations outside the city limits of said city shall be negotiated under a separate contract.

SECTION 8. That Chapter 26, "Utilities and Services", of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, as amended, shall be and remain in full force and effect save and except as amended by this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. That the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are severable and are governed by Section 1-4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas.

SECTION 10. All ordinances or parts of ordinances not consistent or conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed. Provided that such repeal shall be only to the extent of such inconsistency and in all other respects this Ordinance shall be cumulative of other ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered in this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. That this Ordinance shall be and become effective June 1st, 2024.

FIRST READING PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS ON THE 7TH DAY OF MAY 2024. SECOND AND FINAL READING PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS ON THIS THE 21ST DAY OF MAY 2024.