

ORDINANCE NO. O-19-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING WATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 UTILITIES, ARTICLE III - WATER SERVICE, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-253 ENTITLED “WATER USAGE AND MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES”; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, On July 28, 2026, the City Council authorized the notice of a proposed Water Rate Increase; and

WHEREAS, public notices have been sent to all utility customers in accordance with FSS Chapter 180.136.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. City Code Section 90-253, entitled “Water usage and monthly minimum charges,” which establishes water rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on September 15, 2026:

Sec. 90-253. Water usage and monthly minimum charges.

- (a) *Rates schedule.* The rates, fees and charges for water service furnished by the water system of the city, referred to as a water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the water system, a water charge according to the following schedule:

Base Charges for all water meters are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
¾"	\$18.59 <u>\$19.05</u>
1"	\$27.61 <u>\$28.30</u>
1-½"	\$39.30 <u>\$40.28</u>
2"	\$54.38 <u>\$55.74</u>
3"	\$74.35 <u>\$76.21</u>
4"	\$297.37 <u>\$304.80</u>

6"	\$548.35 <u>\$562.06</u>
8"	\$780.72 <u>\$800.24</u>
10"	\$1,022.37 <u>\$1,047.93</u>
* Base charge does not include any usage.	

Residential Potable	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<3,000 Gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$0.96 <u>\$0.98</u>	\$3.16 <u>\$3.24</u>	\$3.24 <u>\$3.32</u>	\$3.35 <u>\$3.43</u>	\$3.44 <u>\$3.52</u>
Residential Irrigation	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$3.24 <u>\$3.32</u>	\$3.35 <u>\$3.43</u>	\$4.26 <u>\$4.37</u>	\$5.58 <u>\$5.72</u>	
Commercial Potable	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$3.16 <u>\$3.24</u>	\$3.24 <u>\$3.32</u>	\$3.35 <u>\$3.43</u>	\$3.44 <u>\$3.52</u>	
Commercial Irrigation	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$3.24 <u>\$3.32</u>	\$3.35 <u>\$3.43</u>	\$4.26 <u>\$4.37</u>	\$5.58 <u>\$5.72</u>	

- (b) *Water utility users outside the city limits.* All water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) *Application of charges.* The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill.* There shall be no maximum charge per month.

- (e) *Minimum monthly bill.* The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) *Bulk water rates.* Bulk or wholesale water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
- (g) *Emergency service calls.* Beginning Friday at 1730 (5:30 p.m.) through Monday at 0700 (7:00 a.m.), emergency service calls which require staff to respond, from which the cause is not related to the city's reclaimed water system, shall be charged at a rate of \$100.00 / service call.
- (h) *Commercial* as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (i) *Annual rate increase.* The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary reclaimed water rate adjustments.
- (j) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.
- (k) *Commercial* as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (l) *Annual rate increase.* The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary water rate adjustments.
- (m) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons
- (n) *Demolition and new construction.* In the case of a new building to be constructed on the site of a building which was served by city water prior to the new building being demolished, the applicant must pay the flow proportional capacity connection fees established in this section based on the increase in flow between the building which was demolished and the new building. The burden for documenting the previous use of the building and the associated flow rests with the applicant. In the event the previous building was demolished in excess of ten (10) years from the date the new building is built, the capacity connection fees established in this article will be based on the new building.
- (o) *Abandoned or inactive service.* In the case where utility service has been inactive, abandoned or otherwise unused without payment of service or flow through the service in excess of ten (10) years from the last known paid utility bill, the property is considered abandoned and carries no credit for flow based fees for the property. To re-establish service the application is treated as new service whereby new taps, service lines and payment of the flow proportional capacity

connection fees shall be required in accordance with this chapter as a new property.

Section 2. CODIFICATION. It is the intention of the City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of the City of Green Cove Springs as amended; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section” or other appropriate word.

Section 3. REPEALER. Any Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**INTRODUCED AND APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY ON THE FIRST
READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS,
FLORIDA, ON THIS 1st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.**

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Darren Stutts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

**PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THIS 15TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.**

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Darren Stutts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John W. Wallace, City Attorney