

ORDINANCE NO. O-20-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING WASTEWATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 - UTILITIES, ARTICLE IV - SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-376 ENTITLED "WASTEWATER RATES"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, On July 28, 2026 the City Council authorized the notice of a proposed Wastewater 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:

City Code Section 90-376, entitled "Wastewater Rates" which establishes wastewater rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on September 15, 2026:

Sec. 90-376. – Wastewater rates.

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

Base charges for all wastewater accounts are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
¾"	\$39.49 <u>\$42.65</u>
1"	\$69.96 <u>\$75.56</u>
1-½"	\$137.35 <u>\$148.34</u>
2"	\$196.94 <u>\$212.69</u>
3"	\$259.18 <u>\$279.91</u>

4"	\$686.81 <u>\$741.75</u>
6"	\$1,295.84 <u>\$1,399.51</u>
8"	\$2,177.01 <u>\$2,351.17</u>
10"	\$3,109.98 <u>\$3,358.78</u>
* Base charge does not include any usage.	

- (b) *Wastewater utility users outside the city limits.* All wastewater utility 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.* The maximum monthly residential bill shall be \$200.00. There shall be no maximum commercial 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 wastewater rates.* Bulk or wholesale wastewater rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing wastewater service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.

Residential		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)	\$0.75 <u>\$0.81</u>	\$7.18 <u>\$7.75</u>	\$7.40 <u>\$7.99</u>	\$7.64 <u>\$8.25</u>	\$7.92 <u>\$8.55</u>	
Commercial		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—50,000 gallons	>50,001 gallons
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$0.75 <u>\$0.81</u>	\$7.18 <u>\$7.75</u>	\$7.40 <u>\$7.99</u>	\$7.64 <u>\$8.25</u>	\$7.92 <u>\$8.55</u>	\$8.16 <u>\$8.81</u>

- (g) *Hauled Waste.* Septage (septic tanks) shall be charged at the rate of \$100.00 / 1000 gallons, based on the capacity of the tanker. The discharge of grease is not allowed. The

department director shall have sole discretion to accept septage waste and can discontinue acceptance based on the effects on the treatment facility, the facility permit, or failure of a septage hauler to comply with facility rules and regulations.

- (h) *Special Wastes.* Special wastes, including but not limited to landfill leachate, portable toilets and grease, will be evaluated for acceptance on a case-by-case basis. Rates for special wastes will be determined by evaluation of the strength of the waste and its impact to the facility. The department director shall have sole discretion to accept septage waste and set rates. The department director shall have sole discretion to discontinue acceptance based on the effects on the treatment facility, the facility permit, or failure of a special waste hauler to comply with facility rules and regulations.
- (i) *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.
- (j) *Commercial* as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (k) *Annual rate increase.* The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary wastewater rate adjustments.
- (l) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.
- (m) *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 sewer 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.
- (n) *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.

**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