



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Public Hearing for an Ordinance Amendment to Section 1.15 regarding Water and Sewer Fees

BACKGROUND:

This public hearing allows the public to come and speak on behalf of or against the proposed Ordinance. Sewer and water rates were discussed at the August 5th and May 6th City Council Work Sessions. Staff presented plans for sewer rate increases to accommodate the costs related to the WWTP project, and for water rate increases to begin building funds for upcoming water projects. While Staff is continuing to apply for grants and look for all funding options, we must assume a worst-case scenario when planning—that is, the Sewer Utility Fund will need to fund the entirety of the debt payments for the plant.

DISCUSSION:

No discussion is necessary as this item is for the Public to present comments and concerns about the proposed modifications.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Engaging and Catalyzing Community. This item helps achieve that vision by engaging the community to express their thoughts about this topic.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There is no financial consideration in holding the public hearing for the proposed amendment to water and sewer rate charges within Section 1.15 – Fines and Fees Schedule of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Independence, Iowa.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor hold a public hearing by stating, “Pursuant to the agenda, I will now convene a public hearing on the proposed amendment pertaining to Code Section 1.15 Fines and Fee Schedule, specifically the water and sewer fees.” After comments are heard, the Mayor must state, “I will now close the public hearing, and the City Clerk shall note all comments in the record.”