

**From:** [Jennifer Becker](#)  
**To:** [Julie Fisher](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Comment on Proposed Water Rate Increase  
**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:06:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Feb CSC website.png](#)

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I would like to add this screenshot to be presented to the Council as well. It's a grab from the CSC website. There have been so many applications to them that they actually did not even open their applications for the month of February. Citizens of Lebanon have NO way of requesting assistance for the utility bill right now. And Salvation Army and FISH are once per year assistance. The River Center was out of funds when I spoke to them in December as well. Thank you,  
Jennifer Becker

On Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 2:36 PM Jennifer Becker <[jensspot@gmail.com](mailto:jensspot@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you for the information on CSC. Their application is only available the 3rd week of the month unfortunately.

Jennifer Becker

On Tue, Feb 25, 2025, 11:25 AM Julie Fisher <[jfisher@ci.lebanon.or.us](mailto:jfisher@ci.lebanon.or.us)> wrote:

Jennifer,

Thank you for taking the time to submit public comment. I will be sure that your message is heard by the Council and will be part of the public hearing.

I also wanted to give you some information that might help with the utility bills. There is utility payment assistance thru the [Community Services Consortium](#). I am not sure if this is something that would benefit your family but wanted to share that it is a resource that is out there.

The Council will review the utilities during a work session prior to the regular meeting at 5pm. If you would like, you can absolutely come in person, or if that is difficult with little ones, you can watch the meeting live on our YouTube channel and hear the discussion.

Thank you again for submitting the comments and please reach out if you have any questions.

**Julie Fisher, MMC**

City Recorder

City of Lebanon | 925 [South Main Street](#) | [Lebanon OR 97355](#)

Tel: 541.258.4264

Hours: Monday – Friday 7am-3pm

<http://www.lebanonoregon.gov>

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**From:** Jennifer Becker <[jensspot@gmail.com](mailto:jensspot@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Recorder <[city.recorder@lebanonoregon.gov](mailto:city.recorder@lebanonoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposed Water Rate Increase

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Hello,

My name is Jennifer Becker. I have lived in Lebanon for nearly 12 years now. I have 3 kids, 8, 6 and 4. Our bill, before the \$18 fee, sat at \$125 on average. We aren't extravagant with our usage, showers are less than 5 minutes a person. The dishwasher is strategically loaded to wash the maximum dishes and handwashing is done with care to reuse water the best we can. But we have to use water. Our most recent bill was just shy of \$150. From discussions I have seen on public forums, this isn't abnormal. The average income in Lebanon is less than \$40,000 a year (per US Census Bureau). Taking out 20% in taxes leaves \$32,000 a year. Breaking that into 12 months leaves \$2,667 a month. Median Rent in Lebanon is \$1,274 (per US Census Bureau). Which leaves people with \$1,393 for food, clothes, vehicle, insurance, power bill and water bill. For transparency, my power bill with CPI is on the budget pay plan at \$150 a month and our family of 5 spends an average of \$125 a week on groceries (and most people are shocked we have such a low cost). Our car insurance is \$153 with full coverage because protecting my children while driving is a

high priority to me. Our gas bill is \$50 a week for our school and work transportation. So our main bills total to  $150+150+500+153+200=1153$ . Using our model of averages, this leaves a person with \$240. Please note this example does NOT include: health insurance, prescriptions, vehicle maintenance, clothing, school supplies, internet, phone, hobbies, school fundraiser donations, church tithing, non-profit donations, savings, retirement planning, vacations, birthday gifts/celebrations, holidays, ect.

Last year, the citizens voted to remove fluoride from the city's water supply. The text presented to the public claimed it would save \$25,000 yearly to remove it from the water supply. From chatter I heard, this cost saving was a pushing factor in removing it for many voters. Particularly, because of the impending \$18 fee pushed through, despite massive public outcry. Continuing to raise the cost of living in Lebanon puts strain on families that doesn't need to be there. Our town's mayor has struggled to pay his own property taxes, as has our family, due to economic strains. The above mathematical breakdown shows that the average Lebanon citizen is negatively impacted by the exponentially growing utility bills. On top of the household bills rising, the utility costs rising would also raise costs to small businesses, which would be forced to be passed on to the community if the small business wishes to survive in our town.

I am greatly disappointed in the leadership of our community as they continually seem to be making decisions that put low income families and small businesses at further disadvantage in this strained economy.

Jennifer Becker