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**ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2025-13**

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AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES AND CHARGES; BY ADDING REVISED COUNTY WATER UTILITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES TO APPENDIX B TITLED “SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES”; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, Florida law authorizes counties to adopt reasonable fees, rates and charges for various county services and functions that are requested by and of benefit to private persons/entities;

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WHEREAS, it has been the practice of Levy County to adopt such fees, rates and charges by various resolutions;

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WHEREAS, by adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-7 on March 8, 2022, the Levy County Commission determined it would be more transparent and user friendly to adopt fees, rates and charges by ordinances that are codified in Appendix B to the Code of Ordinances, so they can be readily viewed in the online code library at: https://library.municode.com/fl/levy_county/codes/code_of_ordinances;

WHEREAS, the County owns and maintains two residential water utility systems commonly referred to as “Manatee Utilities” and “University Oaks Utilities” and in June 2025, Florida Rural Water Association completed utility rate studies for both utility systems as requested by the County;

WHEREAS, at its July 8, 2025 and October 7, 2025 Regular Meetings, the County Commission discussed the rate studies and staff recommendations and directed the drafting of this ordinance to revise the water utilities fees, rates and charges and add them to Appendix B of the County Code;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 153.11, Florida Statutes, the fees, rates and charges proposed in this ordinance are recommended by County staff as just and equitable and reasonably reflective of the cost of providing the utility services for which they are charged;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Sections 153.11 and 180.136, Florida Statutes, notice of the water utility fees, rates and charges proposed for adoption in this ordinance, along with the date, time and place of the public hearing at which this ordinance will be considered, has been provided to each current customer of Manatee Utilities and

Note: Additions shown underlined, deletions shown ~~stricken~~.

1 University Oaks Utilities through the County utility billing process; and

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3 **WHEREAS**, at least ten (10) days' notice has been given once by publication in a
4 newspaper of general circulation notifying the public of this proposed Ordinance and of a
5 public hearing in the Levy County Government Center in Bronson, Florida.

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7 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners
8 of Levy County, Florida, that:

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10 **SECTION 1.** The following County Water Utility Fees, Rates and Charges are
11 added to Appendix B titled "Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges":
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<u>APPENDIX B – SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES</u>		
<u>Sec. 6 – County Water Utilities</u>		
<u>A. Manatee Utilities Water System</u>		
<u>Description</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of December 2025</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of September 2026</u>
<u>1. Monthly base rate (no gallons included)</u>	<u>\$28.75</u>	<u>\$29.61</u>
<u>2. Water usage rate – 0 to 2,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$2.19</u>	<u>\$2.25</u>
<u>3. Water usage rate – 2,001 to 5,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$3.06</u>	<u>\$3.15</u>
<u>4. Water usage rate – 5,001 to 8,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$3.94</u>	<u>\$4.06</u>
<u>5. Water usage rate – 8,001 or more (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$4.81</u>	<u>\$4.96</u>
<u>6. Late payment charge</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>	
<u>7. Meter installation fee</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	

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<u>8. New customer deposit</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>9. Connection fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
<u>10. Reconnect fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
<u>11. Insufficient funds (returned payment) charge</u>	<u>Reimbursement of actual amount County is charged</u>

B. University Oaks Utilities Water System

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of December 2025</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of September 2026</u>
<u>1. Monthly base rate (no gallons included)</u>	<u>\$16.09</u>	<u>\$20.12</u>
<u>2. Water usage rate – 0 gallons or more (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$5.16</u>	<u>\$6.45</u>
<u>3. Late payment charge</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>	
<u>4. Meter installation fee</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	
<u>5. New customer deposit</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	
<u>6. Connection fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
<u>7. Reconnect fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
<u>8. Insufficient funds (returned payment) charge</u>	<u>Reimbursement of actual amount County is charged</u>	

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SECTION 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, portion or provision of this ordinance is for any reason declared or held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such section, subsection,

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1 sentence, clause, phrase, portion or provision shall be deemed a separate, distinct and
2 independent provision, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be not affected by such
3 declaration or holding.
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5 **SECTION 3. Repeal.** As of the effective date of the fees, rates and charges set
6 forth in Section 5 below, the Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges for the University
7 Oaks Water System set forth in Resolution Number 2019-003 and for the Manatee
8 Utilities Water System set forth in Resolution Number 2019-004 are superseded and
9 replaced by this ordinance. All ordinances or parts of ordinances and all resolutions or
10 parts of resolutions of Levy County that are in conflict with this ordinance are, to the extent
11 of the conflict, hereby repealed.
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13 **SECTION 4. Inclusion in the Code.** The provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance
14 shall become and be made a part of the Levy County Code, and the sections of this
15 ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word "ordinance" may be changed
16 to "section," "article," "regulation," or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to
17 accomplish the codification.
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19 **SECTION 5. Effective Date.** In accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes,
20 the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners is directed to file this ordinance with the
21 Florida Department of State within 10 days after adoption and upon such filing, this
22 ordinance shall become effective; however, the fees, rates and charges shall become
23 effective on the dates listed in Section 1 of this ordinance.
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25 **PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED** on December 2, 2025.

26 **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
27 **OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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29 _____
30 Desiree Mills, Chair

31 **ATTEST:** Clerk of the Circuit Court
32 and Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of
33 County Commissioners
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35 _____
36 Matt Brooks, Clerk

37 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
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39 _____
40 Nicolle M. Shalley, County Attorney

Note: Additions shown underlined, deletions shown ~~stricken~~.