

City of Willard
WATER ADVISORY BOARD

October 15, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present: Bryan Chapman, Kelly Davis, Kem Reed, Angie Wilson. (Absent: Scott Long)

Also Present: Rebecca Hansen, Carolyn Halverson, Trevor Hoffman, Genia Mount, Mike Ruesch, Marilyn Ulrey (resident), Wes Young

Upon motion by Angie Wilson, seconded by Kelly Davis, the committee voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

Upon motion by Davis, seconded by Wilson, the committee voted unanimously to approve minutes from the August 20, 2025, meeting.

Citizen Input: None.

Financial Statements: The committee acknowledged receipt of City of Willard financial statements.

Director's Report: Discussion of an ordinance establishing a customer round-up and donation assistance program for the City of Willard, Missouri, authorizing collection and administration of donated funds to assist customers in need.

City Administrator Wes Young explained that at the October 27 meeting, the Board of Aldermen will consider a proposal to implement a voluntary financial assistance program for utility customers. The proposal will be administered and disbursed by a third party.

In response to a question by Reed, Young stated the cut-off policy for nonpayment is 30 days, and the reconnect fee is \$50.

New Business: Water & Sewer Rate Increase Proposal

Young explained the Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance in 2024 requiring an annual review of water and sewer rates. He stated that Allgeier, Martin & Associates has been retained (engineering consultant) to identify and project essential capital improvements to the water and sewer systems.

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Halverson presented four options for rate increases, each of which apply to both water and sewer:

		Water BASE Rate	Water - Per 1000 Gal	Sewer BASE Rate	Sewer - Per 1000 Gal
CURRENT RATE		\$14.66	\$4.56	\$28.96	\$10.07
Rate Increase Option	10%	\$16.13	\$5.02	\$31.86	\$11.08
Rate Increase Option	12%	\$16.42	\$5.11	\$32.44	\$11.28
Rate Increase Option	15%	\$16.86	\$5.24	\$33.30	\$11.58
Rate Increase Option	20%	\$17.59	\$5.47	\$34.75	\$12.08

Halverson recommended the 20% rate increase. She stated the primary driver is the need for substantial improvements in existing water and sewer infrastructure.

Young explained the purpose of the rate increase proposal is for cost recovery. He stated the City will need a significant reserve fund in order to consider building a wastewater treatment facility in the future.

Halverson stated the City needs to build water and sewer reserve funds and needs the rate increases for planned maintenance and improvement projects, such as:

- Upgrade of Farm Road 94 Lift Station (sewer) and Force Main, 2026
- Meadows connection to Springfield and Meadows lagoon closure (sewer), 2026
- New well and water storage tower, 2028-29.

Halverson responded to a question by Reed about customer growth. She explained a 1% growth rate is assumed in the rate increase graphs (attached).

Young explained the importance of water and sewer infrastructure for economic development.

Davis asked about water main renewals. Young explained the City has prioritized I&I (Sewer Inflow & Infiltration) recovery this year, and \$100,000 is included in 2026 budget for water renewals and other improvements.

In response to a question by Wilson, Young explained the City is not seeking a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen from the Water Advisory Board at this time, but would like additional input at its next meeting. The Board of Aldermen will consider the four rate proposals at its 10/27/2025 meeting. A public hearing is tentatively planned for 12/8/2025, after which the Board of Aldermen will vote on a rate plan to take effect January 2026.

Wilson asked for a review of rate increases from the past five years. Young stated a rate increase of approximately 40 to 50% went into effect with April and May 2025 bills. The committee discussed the 2024 increase of 10% water and 10% sewer, and an increase in 2021. Young stated he will prepare details of past rate increases for the next meeting.

Wilson asked when the water tower painting project would take place. Young stated the City will carry in funds from 2025 budget into 2026 to paint the interior of Meadows water tower.

Halverson continued her presentation, explaining future projects:

2027 - Paint interior of water tower near high school

2028 - Paint exterior of Meadows water tower (\$300,000 estimate)

2028 - B to 94 Upgrades (sewer) (lobbyist under contract with City to try to get funding)

2029 - Storage tanks (water)

2029 - Well

Davis brought up the possibility of a bond issue to fund major projects, allowing rate increases to float bond payments rather than incremental rate increases to try to catch up on improvements.

Hoffman reported projects completed since April 2025 rate increases include Jackson Street water main replacement, hydrant, and tie-in; Mark Street main replacement; Langston St replacement of 400 feet of water main; replacement of water meters; purchase of a patch kit for sewer line repairs; sump pumps at B lift station (sewer); and inflow/infiltration mediation (sewer).

Young stated the public hearing would be advertised in bill inserts.

Unfinished Business

None

Upon motion to adjourn by Davis, seconded by Chapman, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

**Minutes Submitted by Angie Wilson, Secretary
Water Advisory Board**

**REPORT ON THE INCREASE IN
WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR
THE CITY OF WILLARD**



2026 Rate Study

Introduction

The critical need for a reliable and abundant water supply in Willard is essential for both the current and future residents and businesses of the city. To address this necessity, the city has engaged an engineering firm along with dedicated staff to identify essential capital improvements that will ensure a clean water supply and a safe wastewater system for the community.

Reasons for the Increase in Water and Sewer Rates

The primary driver behind the rate increase is the need for substantial improvements in the existing water and sewer infrastructure. The city's ongoing collaboration with the engineering firm Allgeier, Martin and Associates focuses on critical projects including the enhancement of the 94 Lift Station and Force Main, as well as the Meadows connection to Springfield. Additionally, the plan includes the closure of the lagoon system.

Strategic Planning and Communication

The city has emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and keeping the community informed about the key improvement areas outlined in the plan. Over the next several years, there will be focused efforts to communicate these updates with citizens and ensure their awareness and understanding.

Future Developments

Looking towards the future, further enhancements is the need to include the construction of a new well and water storage tower. These projects are vital to sustaining and improving the water quality and availability for Willard residents.

Current Rates vs Increased Rates

Staff would like to illustrate to you how these different rates affect the ability to afford the necessary improvements needed to maintain and improve the infrastructure.

Water

Rate increase proposals:

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Water Base</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Sewer Base</u>	<u>Block</u>
• Current Rates					
• Base Rate \$14.66	10%	\$16.13	\$5.02	\$31.86	\$11.08
• Block Rate per 1000 gallons \$4.56	12%	\$16.42	\$5.11	\$32.44	\$11.28
<u>Sewer</u>					
• Current Rates					
• Base Rate \$28.96	15%	\$16.86	\$5.24	\$33.30	\$11.58
• Block Rate per 1000 gallons \$10.07	20%	\$17.59	\$5.47	\$34.75	\$12.08

Other Cities are needing to raise rates as well in order to meet the need for a reliable water source for their community. Lets take a look at the reason for the need to increase the rates.

Current Rate vs New Rate Revenues Compared to Expenses

10 % Rate Increase

Current New Expense

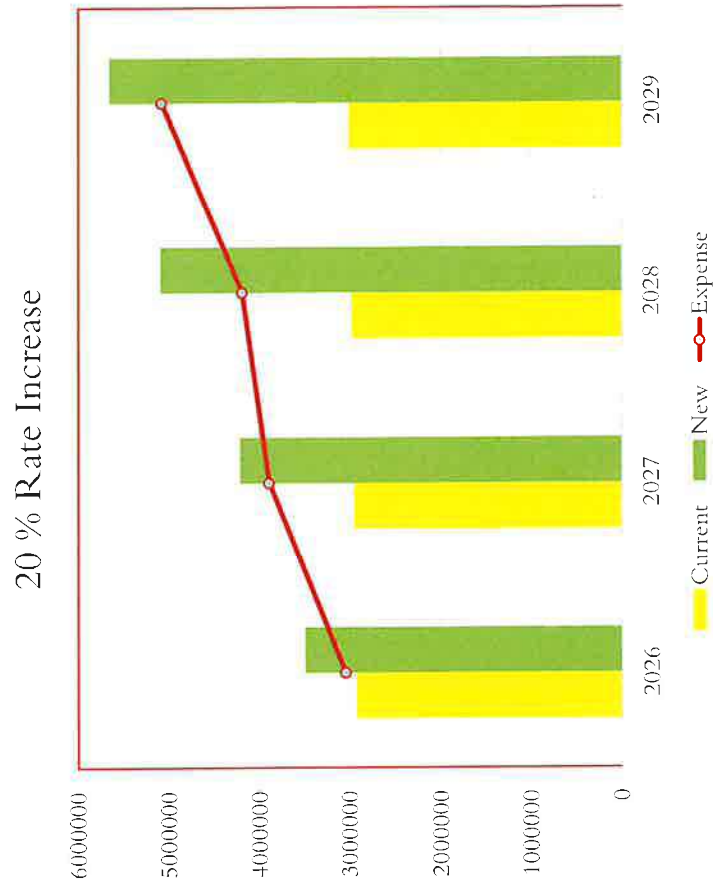
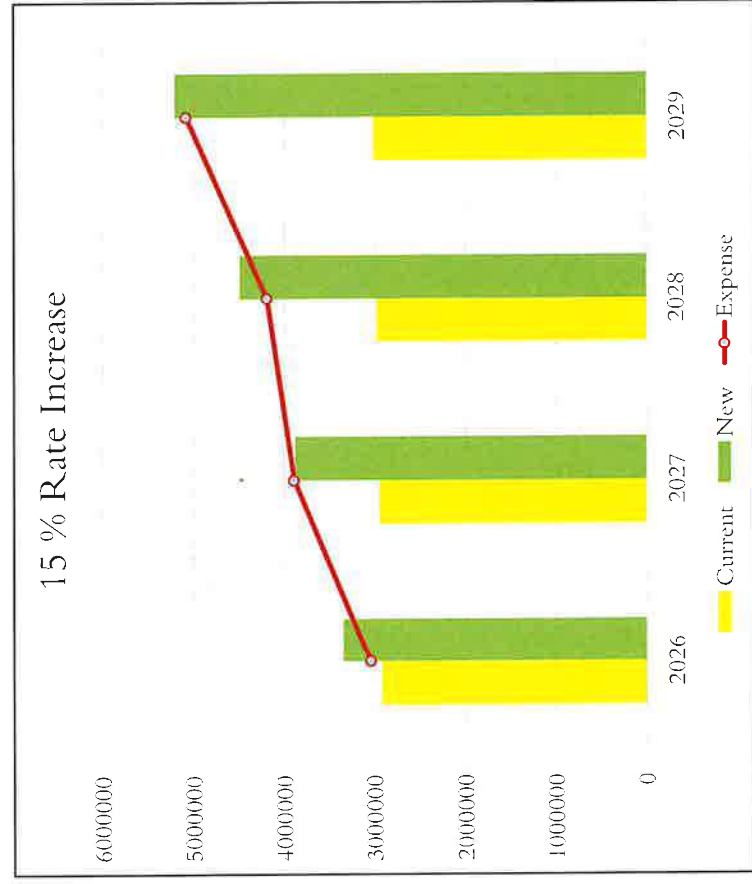


12 % Rate Increase

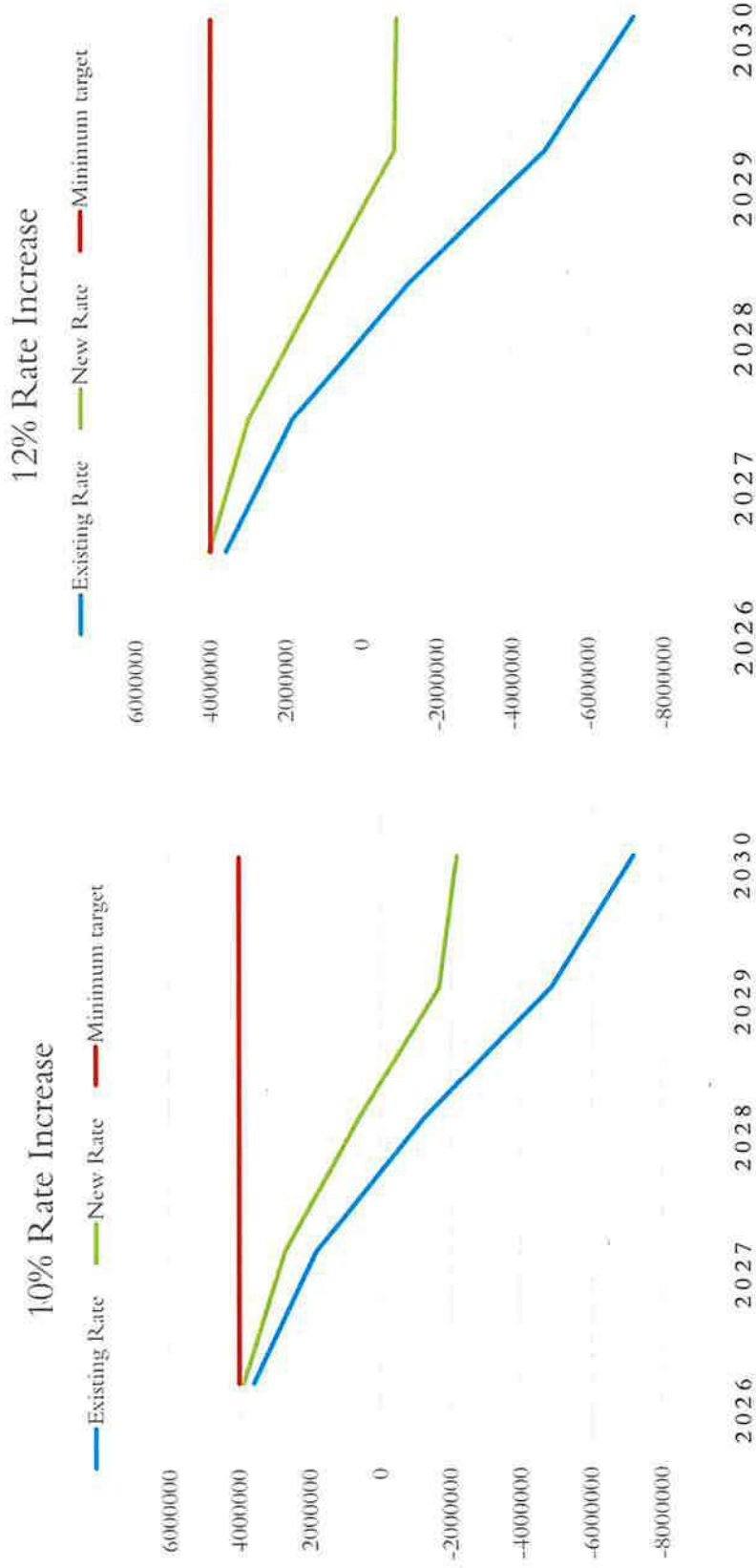
Current New Expense



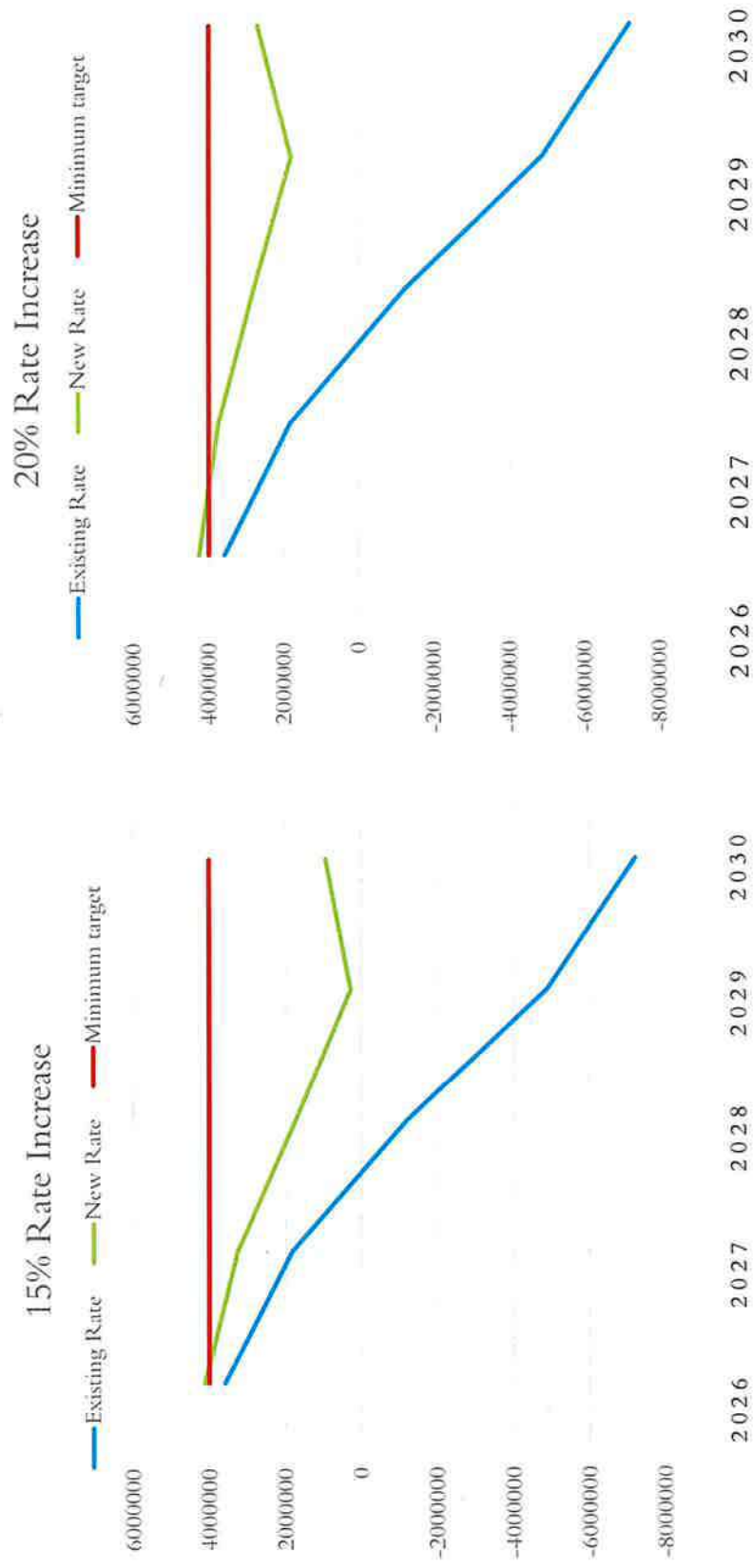
Current Rate vs New Rate Revenues Compared to Expenses



Projected End of Year Balance in the Next 5 Years



Projected End of Year Balance in the Next 5 Years



Projected Timeline and Impact

Year	Project	Objective
2026	Upgrade of the 94 Lift Station and Force Main	Improve system capacity and reliability
2026	Meadows connection to Springfield & Lagoon Closure	Improve system capacity and reliability
Future	New Well and Water Storage Tower	Secure long-term water supply

Conclusion

Investing in the water and sewer infrastructure is crucial for the long-term sustainability and growth of Willard. While the increase in rates may pose an initial burden, the anticipated improvements are essential for ensuring that the community continues to have access to clean safe water and a safe wastewater system , thereby supporting both residential needs and economic development.