ITEM #: 39
DATE: 04-25-23
DEPT: W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR FY 2023/24

BACKGROUND:

Each year as a part of the annual budget process, staff updates a spreadsheet model for the Water and Sewer Funds that reflects current and projected operating and capital expenses for the utilities over the next ten years, and the resulting annual ending fund balance in each of the funds. This model is used to establish a long-range pattern of rate increases that will fully finance these self-funded enterprise utilities, including an operating reserve that is slowly being increased to a target of 25%.

During the development of the FY 2023/24 budget, staff determined that an eight percent (8%) increase to water rates would be needed, effective July 1, 2023. While the need for an increase was shared with Council during the budget presentations, no formal action has yet been taken by Council to adjust the rates. Attached to this Council Action Form is a draft ordinance that will increase the water rates by 8%, effective for all bills mailed on or after July 1, 2023.

The slides attached with this Council Action Form provide a summary of the fund balance analysis in a format that is very similar to what has been used in prior years. Highlights from these slides will be shared at the Council meeting in a brief presentation.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve first reading of an ordinance to increase water rates by eight percent (8%) effective for bills mailed on or after July 1, 2023.
- 2. Direct staff to modify the rate ordinance to enact some alternate rate adjustment.
- 3. Do not adjust water rates and instead direct staff to reduce expenditures in order to maintain a positive Water Fund balance.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed rate increases are necessary to fund the on-going operations and maintenance budget plus the anticipated capital improvements projects in the Water Utility. The recommendation is part of a consistent, predictable pattern of rate increases projected over the next ten years. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION 28.201 THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING WATER RATES AND CHARGES REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

<u>Section One</u>. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amending Section 28.201 Water Rates and Charges, as follows:

Sec. 28.201. WATER RATES AND CHARGES

The rates and charges for water supplied to consumers by the water utility of the city, to be billed on or after July 1, 2023 are as follows:

(1) **Residential Rates.**

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- (b) **Rate per billing period.** For each monthly billing period a residential rate customer:
 - (i) shall be charged a minimum charge based on meter size, and in addition
 - (ii) shall be charged for water usage during the billing periods as follows:

 - (b) for bills mailed on or between November 1 and June 30 (winter period):

\$0.0257 \$0.0278 per cubic foot

(2) Non-residential (Commercial) Rates

..

- (b) **Rate per billing period:** For each monthly billing period a non-residential customer:
 - (i) shall be charged a minimum charge based on meter size, and in addition
 - (ii) shall be charged for water usage during the billing periods as follows:
 - (a) for bills mailed on or between July 1 and October 31 (summer period):

\$0.0337 \$0.0364 per cubic foot

(b) for bills mailed on or between November 1 and June 30 (winter period):

\$0.0257 \$0.0278 per cubic foot

(3) Non-Peaking Industrial Rate.

(b) Rate per Billing Period. For each monthly billing period a non-peaking industrial rate customer:

- (i) shall be charged a minimum charge based on meter size, and in addition
- (ii) shall be charged for water usage during the billing periods as follows:

 - (b) for bills mailed on or between November 1 and June 30 (winter period): \$0.0257 \$0.0278 per cubic foot

(4) Irrigation and Yard Water Service Rate.

- (b) **Rate per Billing Period.** For each monthly billing period an irrigation and yard water rate customer:
 - (i) shall be charged a minimum charge as described below, and in addition
 - (ii) shall be charged for water usage during billing periods as follows:
 - (a) for bills mailed on or between July 1 and October 31 (summer period): \$0.0371 \$0.0401 per cubic foot for the first 2000 cubic feet of usage \$0.0682 \$0.0737 per cubic foot for the next 3000 cubic feet of usage \$0.1137 \$0.1227 per cubic foot for all usage greater than 5000 cubic feet.
 - (b) for bills mailed on or between November 1 and June 30 (winter period): \$0.0257 \\$0.0278 per cubic foot

(5) Rural Water Rate.

- (b) Rate per billing period. For each monthly billing period, a rural water rate customer:
 - (i) shall be charged a Rural water minimum charge based on meter size.
 - (ii) shall be charged for water usage during billing periods as follows:
 - (a) for bills mailed on or between July 1 and October 31 (summer period): \$0.0427 \$0.0461 per cubic foot for the first 2000 cubic feet of usage \$0.0785 \$0.0848 per cubic foot for the next 3000 cubic feet of usage \$0.1307 \$0.1412 per cubic foot for all usage greater than 5000 cubic feet.
 - (b) for bills mailed on or between November 1 and June 30 (winter period): \$0.0296 \$0.0320 per cubic foot for all consumption

(7) **Minimum charges.** For each monthly billing, each customer shall be charged a minimum monthly charge based on the size of the water meter (s) and/or irrigation meter (s) at each location. The minimum monthly charge may be prorated, based on a 30-day billing period, for the customer's initial and/or final bills, provided that in no case shall the minimum monthly charge be less than six dollars and thirty-one cents (\$6.316.82).

••

The minimum monthly charge for each water meter location shall be as follows:

	Residential,		
	Non-Residential,		
Size of Meter	Non-Peaking Industrial, and Irrigation Account	Yard Water Accounts	Rural Water Accounts
5/8" or 5/8" x 3/4"	\$14.20	\$5.38	\$16.34
3/4 inch	\$28.40	\$8.35	\$32.66
1 inch	\$56.81	\$11.63	\$65.33
1-1/2 inch	\$113.62	\$16.04	\$130.67
2 inch	\$227.23	\$21.33	\$261.32
2 inch, battery of 2	\$440.13		\$506.15
2 inch, battery of 3	\$653.12		\$751.09
3 inch	\$454.36	\$27.74	\$522.52
4 inch	\$766.70	\$34.49	\$881.70
6 inch	\$1,277.82	\$41.31	\$1,469.50
8 inch	\$2,555.64	\$48.13	\$2,938.99
10 inch	\$3,833.46	\$54.55	\$4,408.48

(8) **Multiple dwellings** – **Mobile home parks.** Multiple dwellings, including mobile home parks, may be serviced from a single water meter. However, there shall be a surcharge added to the water rates set forth above, to be calculated as follows:

For a 5/8 inch meter serving 2 or more dwelling units	3.784 <u>4.09</u> /month/unit
For a ¾ inch meter serving 4 or more dwelling units	3.78 4.09/month/unit
For a 1 inch meter serving 8 or more dwelling units	3.78 4.09/month/unit
For a 1-1/2 inch meter serving 16 or more dwelling units	3.78 4.09/month/unit
For a 2 inch meter serving 30 or more dwelling units	. 113.27 <u>122.33</u> /month
for the first 30 units plus \$5.88 6.35/month per ur	nit
for each additional unit in excess of 30 units	
For a 3 inch or larger meter serving any number of dwellin	g units 5.205.62/month/unit
,, •••	
Section Two. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances,	in conflict herewith are
hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.	

Section Three. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this day of	
Renee Hall, City Clerk	John A. Haila, Mayor



FY 2023-24 Water Rates

April 25, 2023



National and State Trends

Data sources include:

- <u>2021 Cost of Clean Water Index</u>
 National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- 2021 Water and Wastewater Rate Survey
 American Water Works Association
- 2022 Iowa Water and Wastewater Rate Survey
 City of Ames Water and Pollution Control



National Trends

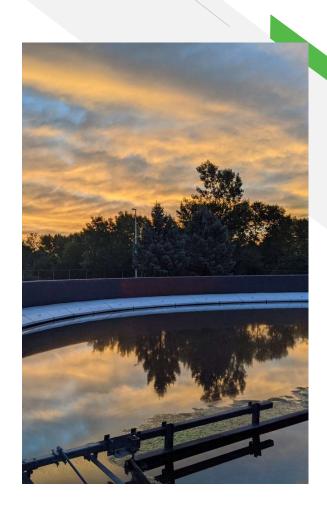
2021 Cost of Clean Water Index, NACWA

Average annual wastewater bill has doubled nationally in last 16 years (\$536 in 2020 versus \$255 in 2004)

Average national wastewater sewer charges increased by 3.1% from 2020 to 2021

CPI: 4.7%

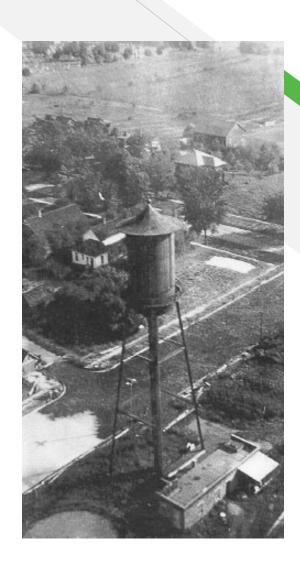
(First time in 21 years that sewer charges were outpaced by inflation)



National Trends

2021 Water & Wastewater Rate Survey, American Water Works Association

- Water utilities continue to shift away from declining block rate structures (12%) and towards inclining block structures (47%)
- Wastewater utilities are predominately uniform block structures
- Monthly billing intervals are most common (68.3%), followed by bimonthly (14.9%) and quarterly (12.6%)
- Charges were highest in the Northeast. Water charges were lowest in the South, and wastewater charges were lowest in the West.



National Trends

2016-2021

Water

National Average Annual Increase: 3.7%

Sewer

National Average Annual Increase: 4.5%

Average Annual Increase in CPI: 2.6%



Sources:

<u>2016 Water and Wastewater Rate Survey</u>, AWWA/Raftelis Financial Consultants <u>2021 Water and Wastewater Rate Survey</u>, AWWA/Raftelis Financial Consultants

Nationwide average for residential service, 1,000 cf/mo., 5/8" meter,

Iowa Trends

Percent of Iowa Utilities serving >10,000 with a rate increase in past two years:

• Drinking Water: 75% (29 of 39)

• More than 5%: 67% (26 of 39)

• More than 10%: 23% (9 of 39)

• Wastewater: 72% (31 of 43)

• More than 5%: 58% (25 of 43)

• More than 10%: 32% (14 of 43)

2022 versus 2020 Iowa Water & Sewer Rate Survey, City of Ames, Iowa



Iowa vs. National Trends

2017-2022

Water

National Average Annual Increase: 3.7%

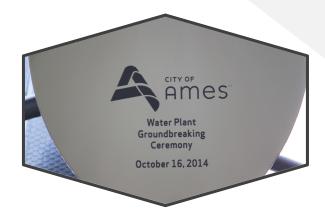
Iowa Average Annual Increase: 3.6%

<u>Sewer</u>

National Average Annual Increase: 4.5%

Iowa Average Annual Increase: 6.7%

Average Annual Increase in CPI: 3.9%



Iowa Sources: <u>2017 Water and Sewer Rate Survey</u>, City of Ames, IA 2022 Water and Sewer Rate Survey, City of Ames, IA

Iowa average for residential service, 600 cf/mo., 5/8" meter,

Recent Rate Adjustments in Ames

	Water	Sewer
FY 18/19	3.5%	3%
FY 19/20	7%	
FY 20/21	2%	5%
FY 21/22	6%	
FY 22/23		6%
Annual Average	3.7%	2.8%



Ames vs. Iowa & National Trends

2017-2022

Water

National Average Annual Increase: 3.7%
Iowa Average Annual Increase: 3.6%
Ames Average Annual Increase: 3.7%

Sewer

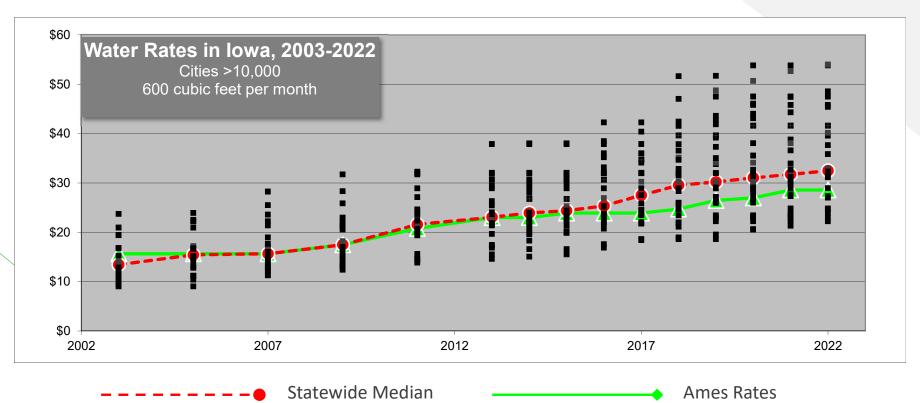
National Average Annual Increase: 4.5% Iowa Average Annual Increase: 6.7% Ames Average Annual Increase: 2.8%

Average Annual Increase in CPI: 3.9%



Iowa Trends in Water Rates

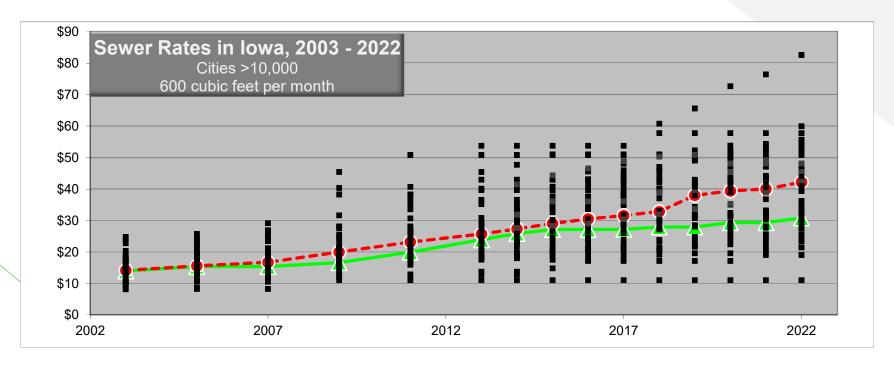
2003-2022, Cities with population >10,000 with lime softening, 600 cf per month



^{**} Ames is at the 26th percentile, based on 2022 rates **

Iowa Trends in Sewer Rates

2003-2022, Cities with population >10,000, 600 cf per month



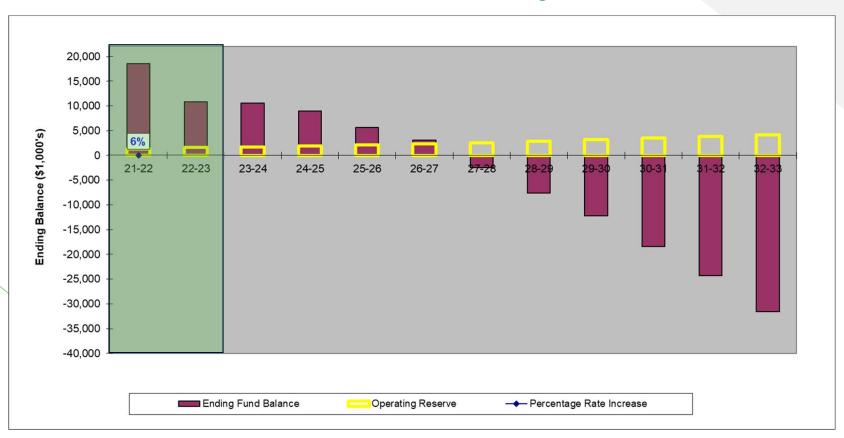
^{**} Ames is at the 21st percentile, based on 2022 rates **

Forces Driving Drinking Water Capital Expenses

- New and Replacement Well Capacity
- Infrastructure Renewal/ Replacement
- Recent jumps in commodity prices; especially chemicals



Water Fund Rate Model – No Adjustments



Approach to Rates: Timing & Magnitude

- Meet debt coverage requirements
 - (SRF requires 110% coverage)
- Meet operating reserve target
 - Gradual increase over time until achieve 25% of the Fund's annual operating expenses
- Smaller percentage increases on a more frequent basis, as opposed to larger increases on a less frequent basis
 - Ideally, less than 10% at a time

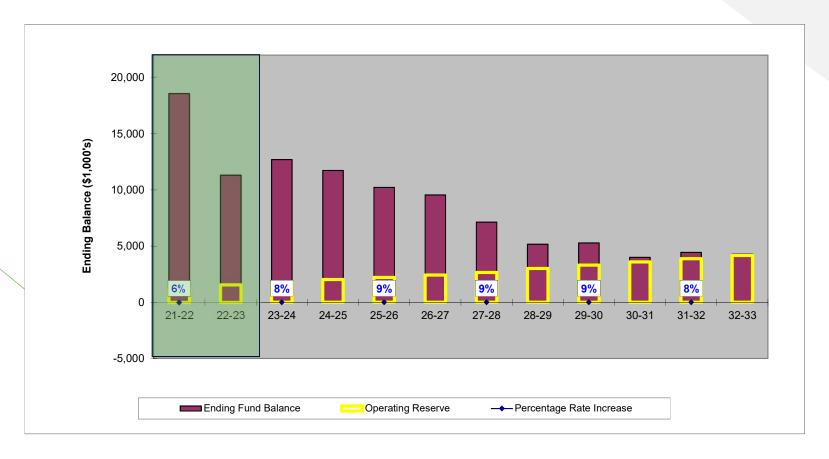


Water and Sewer Rate Projections

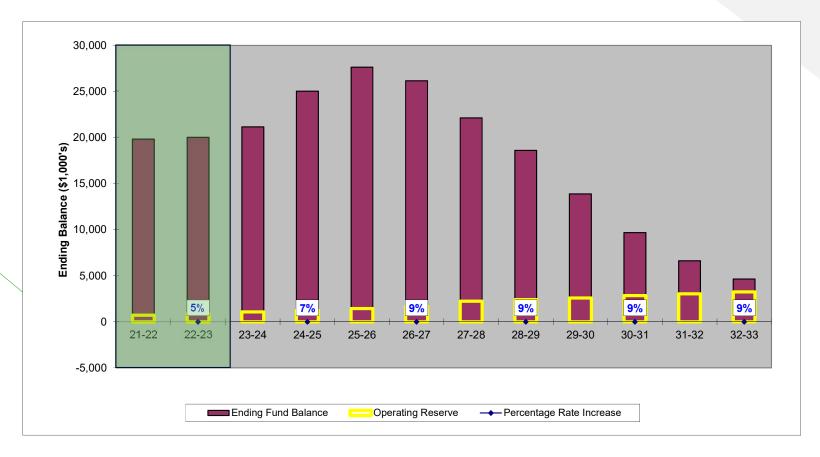
	Last Year	Current Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
Water Fund	6%		8%		9%		9%		9%		8%	
Sewer Fund		5%		7%		9%		9%		9%		9%



Water Fund Rate Model



Sewer Fund Rate Model



Iowa Trends

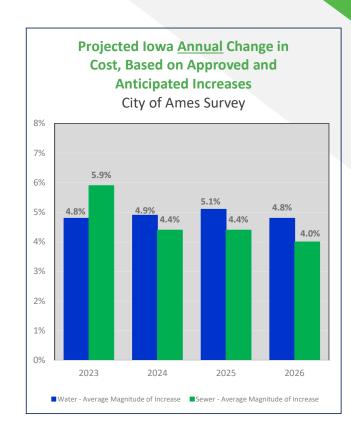
Water

• Over the next four years between 43% and 53% of utilities anticipate a rate increase in any given year (several declined to respond to this question)

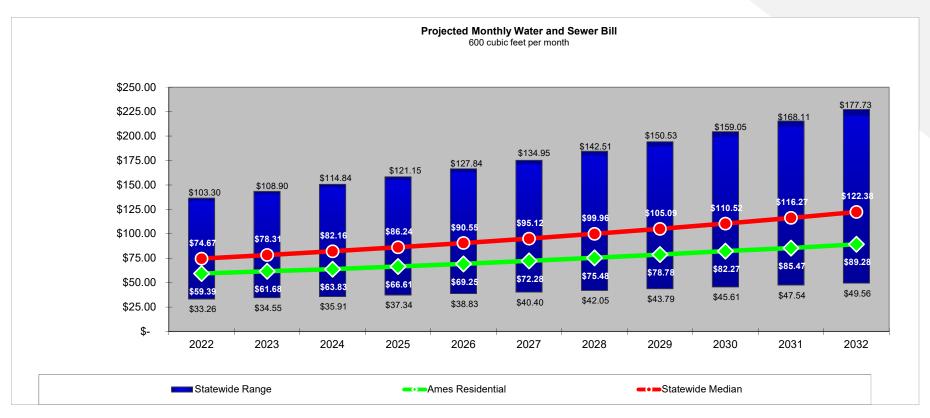
Sewer

• Over the next four years between 23% and 26% of utilities anticipate a rate increase in any given year (several declined to respond to this question)

2022 Iowa Water & Sewer Rate Survey, City of Ames, Iowa



Rate Projections vs. Statewide Trends



Revised Water Rates

		8%	
	Existing	<u>Increase</u>	New
Winter			
All customers; all consumption	\$0.0257	\$0.0021	\$0.0278
Summer			
Residential			
Block 1 (First 1,000 cf)	\$0.0257	\$0.0021	\$0.0278
Block 2 (Next 1,500 cf)	\$0.0454	\$0.0036	\$0.0490
Block 3 (Over 2,500 cf)	\$0.0682	\$0.0055	\$0.0737
Irrigation & Yard Water			
Block 1 (First 2,000 cf)	\$0.0371	\$0.0030	\$0.0401
Block 2 (Next 3,000 cf)	\$0.0682	\$0.0055	\$0.0737
Block 3 (Over 5,000 cf)	\$0.1137	\$0.0091	\$0.1227
Non-Residential			
All consumption	\$0.0337	\$0.0027	\$0.0364
Non-Peaking Industrial			
All consumption	\$0.0257	\$0.0021	\$0.0278





 Water minimum bills, multiple dwelling unit fees, bulk water charge would also adjust by 8%

 Meter setting fees would be adjusted based on actual cost recovery.

Median Use Residential

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
600 kWh and 600 cf	\$81.10	\$5.20	\$28.57	\$30.82	\$145.69
Electric ECA	-\$0.66				-\$0.66
Totals	\$80.44	\$5.20	\$28.57	\$30.82	\$145.03
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.29	\$0.00	\$2.29
Totals	\$80.44	\$5.20	\$30.86	\$30.82	\$147.32
% Impact on Total Bill					1.58%

Recommended Action & Timeline

- Approve on first reading an ordinance to:
 - Adjust Water Rates by 8%
 - New rates effective for bills mailed on or after July 1, 2023
- Timeline
 - First reading on April 25
 - Second reading on May 9
 - Third reading and adoption on May 23







Additional Customer Bill Samples Follow

Minimal Use Residential

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
100 kWh and 100 cf	\$20.45	\$5.20	\$15.72	\$15.27	\$56.64
Electric ECA	-\$0.11				-\$0.11
Totals	\$20.34	\$5.20	\$15.72	\$15.27	\$56.53
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.26	\$0.00	\$1.26
Totals	\$20.34	\$5.20	\$16.98	\$15.27	\$57.79
% Impact on Total Bill					2.23%

Median Use Residential

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
600 kWh and 600 cf	\$81.10	\$5.20	\$28.57	\$30.82	\$145.69
Electric ECA	-\$0.66				-\$0.66
Totals	\$80.44	\$5.20	\$28.57	\$30.82	\$145.03
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.29	\$0.00	\$2.29
Totals	\$80.44	\$5.20	\$30.86	\$30.82	\$147.32
% Impact on Total Bill					1.58%

Large Residential

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
1,000 kWh and 1,000 cf	\$129.62	\$5.20	\$38.85	\$43.26	\$216.93
Electric ECA	-\$1.10				-\$1.10
Totals	\$128.52	\$5.20	\$38.85	\$43.26	\$215.83
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.11	\$0.00	\$3.11
Totals	\$128.52	\$5.20	\$41.96	\$43.26	\$218.94
% Impact on Total Bill					1.44%

Small Commercial (GP)

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
2,000 kWh and 600 cf	\$254.40	\$5.20	\$33.37	\$30.82	\$323.79
Electric ECA	-\$2.20				-\$2.20
Totals	\$252.20	\$5.20	\$33.37	\$30.82	\$321.59
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.67	\$0.00	\$2.67
Totals	\$252.20	\$5.20	\$36.04	\$30.82	\$324.26
% Impact on Total Bill					0.83%

Small Commercial (GP)

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
5,000 kWh and 1,000 cf	\$612.60	\$5.20	\$46.85	\$43.26	\$707.91
Electric ECA	-\$5.50				-\$5.50
Totals	\$607.10	\$5.20	\$46.85	\$43.26	\$702.41
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.75	\$0.00	\$3.75
Totals	\$607.10	\$5.20	\$50.60	\$43.26	\$706.16
% Impact on Total Bill					0.53%

Small Commercial (GP)

Electric / Water Use	Electric Summer	Storm Water	Water Summer	Sewer	Total
10,000 kWh and 3,000 cf Electric ECA	\$1,209.60 -\$11.00	\$10.40	\$127.39	\$105.46	\$1,452.85 -\$11.00
Totals	\$1,198.60	\$10.40	\$127.39	\$105.46	\$1,441.85
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.19	\$0.00	\$10.19
Totals	\$1,198.60	\$10.40	\$137.58	\$105.46	\$1,452.04
% Impact on Total Bill					0.71%

Commercial (LP)

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
20,000 kWh and 5,000 cf	\$2,181.81	\$10.40	\$194.79	\$167.66	\$2,554.66
Electric ECA	-\$22.00				-\$22.00
Totals	\$2,159.81	\$10.40	\$194.79	\$167.66	\$2,532.66
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.58	\$0.00	\$15.58
Totals	\$2,159.81	\$10.40	\$210.37	\$167.66	\$2,548.24
					·
% Impact on Total Bill					0.62%

Commercial (LP)

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
60,000 kWh and 15,000 cf	\$6,221.55	\$15.60	\$558.10	\$478.66	\$7,273.91
Electric ECA	-\$66.00				-\$66.00
Totals	\$6,155.55	\$15.60	\$558.10	\$478.66	\$7,207.91
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44.65	\$0.00	\$44.65
Totals	\$6,155.55	\$15.60	\$602.75	\$478.66	\$7,252.56
					·
% Impact on Total Bill					0.62%

Commercial (LP)

	Electric	Storm	Water		
Electric / Water Use	Summer	Water	Summer	Sewer	Total
100,000 kWh and 20,000 cf	\$10,284.95	\$46.80	\$779.20	\$634.16	\$11,745.11
Electric ECA	-\$110.00				-\$110.00
Totals	\$10,174.95	\$46.80	\$779.20	\$634.16	\$11,635.11
Increase Due to Rate Change	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.34	\$0.00	\$62.34
Totals	\$10,174.95	\$46.80	\$841.54	\$634.16	\$11,697.45
% Impact on Total Bill					0.54%