

**CITY OF NORMAN
ORDINANCE O-2223-36**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AMENDING SECTION 21-113 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, TO BE RENUMBERED AS SECTION 34-214 EFFECTIVE MARCH 30, 2023, CONTINGENT ON VOTER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE O-2223-37, INCREASING THE MONTHLY BASE FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL METERED USERS TO TEN DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS (\$10.90); INCREASING THE MONTHLY WATER RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL METERED USERS TO THREE DOLLARS AND FORTY-SIX CENTS (\$3.46) PER 1,000 GALLONS FOR THE FIRST 5,000 GALLONS OF WATER USED, FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$4.50) PER 1,000 GALLONS FOR 5,001 TO 15,000 GALLONS USED, SIX DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS (\$6.75) PER 1,000 GALLONS FOR 15,001 TO 20,000 GALLONS USED, AND NINE DOLLARS AND FIFTY-ONE CENTS (\$9.51) PER 1,000 GALLONS FOR WATER USED IN EXCESS OF 20,000 GALLONS; INCREASING THE MONTHLY BASE FEE FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL METERED USERS TO TEN DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS (\$10.90); INCREASING THE MONTHLY WATER RATES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL METERED USERS TO FOUR DOLLARS AND SIXTY-NINE CENTS (\$4.69) PER 1,000 GALLONS OF WATER USED UP TO SUCH CUSTOMER'S AVERAGE WINTER CONSUMPTION AS DEFINED HEREIN, AND SEVEN DOLLARS AND FOUR CENTS (\$7.04) PER 1,000 GALLONS OF WATER USED IN EXCESS OF SUCH CUSTOMER'S AVERAGE WINTER CONSUMPTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR SAID INCREASE SUBJECT TO VOTER APPROVAL; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Norman's City Charter requires the approval of the voters in Norman prior to increasing rates for utilities provided by the City of Norman;

WHEREAS, staffing, operations, maintenance, and capital improvement projects for the water utility are funded by water rate revenues, with no funding from the City's General Fund or from sales tax revenue;

WHEREAS, water rates in Norman have been increased only twice since 2000, with the most recent increase approved by the voters occurring in 2015;

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has mandated that the City of Norman begin disinfection of groundwater in order to maintain chlorine residual throughout the distribution system thereby necessitating a centralized facility with buildings, chemical systems, piping, and site improvements to meet this requirement, which will also allow future treatment processes, water storage, and pumping facilities should more stringent future regulations require additional treatment of groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the City's water system is comprised of approximately 640 miles of transmission and distribution mains, requiring maintenance and replacement on an ongoing basis;

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has passed the Lead and Copper Rule Revision mandating new requirements for utilities regarding lead in drinking water and requiring replacement of lead pipes and is developing other more stringent regulations that could necessitate new or additional treatment facilities of City water;

WHEREAS, in addition to new regulatory requirements, since the last rate increase in 2015, operational and maintenance costs have continued to increase, necessitating additional funding;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Norman, in the State of Oklahoma, as follows:

SECTION 1: **AMENDMENT** “34-214 Rates For Water Service” of the City of Norman Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

BEFORE AMENDMENT

34-214 Rates For Water Service

- (a) The water rates and charges hereinafter enumerated shall be collected for the purposes of providing funds for the continued operation, improvement, servicing and maintenance of the City water system and for other municipal governmental purposes related to providing utility services.
- (b) The following monthly rates shall apply to each residential metered user (including residence, mobile home, or other single-family dwelling unit, apartment, townhouse or dwelling):
 - (1) \$6.00 base fee;
 - (2) \$3.35 per 1,000 gallons for zero to 5,000 gallons;
 - (3) \$4.10 per 1,000 gallons for 5,001 to 15,000 gallons;
 - (4) \$5.20 per 1,000 gallons for 15,001 to 20,000 gallons;
 - (5) \$6.80 per 1,000 gallons for over 20,000 gallons.
- (c) The base rate and the first 5,000 gallons of usage for residential metered users under subsection (b) of this section who are low income as defined by section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937, amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, will be calculated at a reduction of 25 percent.
- (d) In addition to the monthly rates set forth herein, all households (defined as a residential unit consistent with the purposes statement of R-1 and R1-A zoning districts) shall be assessed a high usage surcharge of \$0.35 per thousand gallons of usage over 20,000 gallons used during the peak water demand months of July and August (billed in August and September, respectively).
- (e) The following monthly rates shall apply to each nonresidential metered user (including business, industrial, or commercial establishments):
 - (1) Average winter consumption: the average of a nonresidential metered user's water consumption for the monthly billings generated by the City in

December, January, and February of the most recent year.

- (2) All nonresidential metered users shall pay a base fee of \$6.00 for each water meter.
- (3) The water rate for consumption up to a nonresidential metered user's average winter consumption shall be \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- (4) The water rate for consumption exceeding a nonresidential metered user's average winter consumption shall be \$4.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.

(Code 1976, § 21-113; Ord. No. O-7374-32; Ord. No. O-7475-6; Ord. No. O-7475-59; Ord. No. O-7980-53; Ord. No. O-9495-60; Ord. No. O-9899-29; Ord. No. O-0506-20; Ord. No. O-1415-15, § 7; Ord. No. O-1415-30, § 13)

AFTER AMENDMENT

34-214 Rates For Water Service

- (a) The water rates and charges hereinafter enumerated shall be collected for the purposes of providing funds for the continued operation, improvement, servicing and maintenance of the City water system and for other municipal governmental purposes related to providing utility services.
- (b) The following monthly rates shall apply to each residential metered user (including residence, mobile home, or other single-family dwelling unit, apartment, townhouse or dwelling):
 - (1) \$~~10.90~~~~6.00~~ base fee;
 - (2) \$~~3.46~~~~3.35~~ per 1,000 gallons for zero to 5,000 gallons;
 - (3) \$~~4.50~~~~4.10~~ per 1,000 gallons for 5,001 to 15,000 gallons;
 - (4) \$~~6.75~~~~5.20~~ per 1,000 gallons for 15,001 to 20,000 gallons;
 - (5) \$~~9.51~~~~6.80~~ per 1,000 gallons for over 20,000 gallons.
- (c) The base rate and the first 5,000 gallons of usage for residential metered users under subsection (b) of this section who are low income as defined by section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937, amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, will be calculated at a reduction of 25 percent.
- (d) In addition to the monthly rates set forth herein, all households (defined as a residential unit consistent with the purposes statement of R-1 and R1-A zoning districts) shall be assessed a high usage surcharge of \$0.35 per thousand gallons of usage over 20,000 gallons used during the peak water demand months of July and August (billed in August and September, respectively).
- (e) The following monthly rates shall apply to each nonresidential metered user (including business, industrial, or commercial establishments):
 - (1) Average winter consumption: the average of a nonresidential metered user's water consumption for the monthly billings generated by the City in December, January, and February of the most recent year.
 - (2) All nonresidential metered users shall pay a base fee of \$~~10.90~~~~6.00~~ for each water meter.
 - (3) The water rate for consumption up to a nonresidential metered user's average winter consumption shall be \$~~4.69~~~~3.80~~ per 1,000 gallons of water.

- (4) The water rate for consumption exceeding a nonresidential metered user's average winter consumption shall be ~~\$7.04~~^{4.20} per 1,000 gallons of water.

(Code 1976, § 21-113; Ord. No. O-7374-32; Ord. No. O-7475-6; Ord. No. O-7475-59; Ord. No. O-7980-53; Ord. No. O-9495-60; Ord. No. O-9899-29; Ord. No. O-0506-20; Ord. No. O-1415-15, § 7; Ord. No. O-1415-30, § 13)

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE Should any part or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinances a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE The rates described above shall be effective for all billings issued on or after the 1st day of September, 2023, and thereafter conditioned upon said rate increase being approved by a majority of the registered voters voting in an election called for the purpose of approving or rejecting said rates; Said election to be held on the 13th day of June, 2023.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF NORMAN CITY COUNCIL APRIL 11, 2023.

AYE

NAY

ABSENT

ABSTAIN


 X

Presiding Officer

Attest



Larry Heikkila, Mayor, City of
Norman



Brenda Hall, City Clerk, City of
Norman

