ORDINANCE # 2020-14
INTRODUCED BY Botsford
DATE INTRODUCED 7/7/2020
ITEM NUMBER 2020-07-02
PUBLIC HEARING 8/4/2020
ADOPTED/TABLED 8/4/2020
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AMENDED BY ORDINANCE #
DATE AMENDED

ADOPTION **INTRODUCTION**

CITY OF COVINGTON
STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2020-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON AMENDING THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES: CHAPTER 98 UTILITIES, ARTICLE IV. RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 98-122. WATER RATES AND SECTION 98-123. SEWERAGE RATES

WHEREAS, the City of Covington last updated its sewer and water rates in 2011, which included annual CPI adjustments (see Exhibit 1 for 2020 rates); and

WHEREAS, the cost of maintaining and operating the City of Covington's sewer and water infrastructure has continued to increase above and beyond the revenue generated by utility billing; and

WHEREAS, to address the funding shortage, the City of Covington has been subsidizing the cost of utility operations by increasing amounts every year; and

WHEREAS, the approved Utility Fund Transfer for 2020 is approximately $2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, essential City departments remain underfunded and understaffed as critical infrastructure needs continue to be deferred due to funding shortages; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the City amend the utility bill rate structure to adequately fund the operation and maintenance of utility services; and

WHEREAS, it is the Mayor's recommendation to increase utility rates for the first 300,000 gallons of usage: $7 base water increase, $5 base sewer increase (base rate includes the first 3,000 gallons of water and sewer usage) with an increase of $.50 for water and $.75 for sewer for every 1,000 thereafter;

WHEREAS, utility rates for usage over 300,000 gallons will remain at the current rates; and

WHEREAS, utility rates will be amended as follows:

Sec. 98-122. - Water rates.

(a) For all users of the city water system inside the city limits who are not served by a meter, monthly flat rates shall be applied as follows:

Residential user: ~~$20.00~~ $18.45

Low impact commercial/institutional user: ~~$30.00~~ $41.36

~~High impact commercial/institutional user: $400.00~~

Senior citizen/disabled user: ~~$7.50~~ $8.60

(b) All metered users inside the city limits are subject to the following monthly rates for water service:

	~~Consumption~~	
~~Meter size~~	~~First 3,000 gallons~~	~~3,001 gallons and above~~
	~~Minimum~~	~~Rate per 1,000 gallons~~
~~5/8"~~	~~$10.00~~	~~$1.28~~
~~¾"~~	~~10.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~1"~~	~~10.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~1½"~~	~~10.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~2"~~	~~40.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~4"~~	~~60.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~6"~~	~~80.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~8"~~	~~100.00~~	~~1.28~~
~~Senior citizen/disabled user~~	~~4.45~~	~~.82~~

Meter Size	Consumption < or = 300,000 gallons		Consumption > or = 300,001 gallons	
	First 3,000 gal Minimum	3,001 gal and above Rate per 1,000 gal	First 3,000 gal Minimum	3,001 gal and above Rate per 1,000 gal
5/8"	$ 18.45	$ 1.96	$ 11.45	$ 1.46
3/4"	$ 18.45	$ 1.96	$ 11.45	$ 1.46
1"	$ 18.45	$ 1.96	$ 11.45	$ 1.46
1 1/2"	$ 18.45	$ 1.96	$ 11.45	$ 1.46
2"	$ 52.81	$ 1.96	$ 45.81	$ 1.46
4"	$ 75.72	$ 1.96	$ 68.72	$ 1.46
6"	$ 98.61	$ 1.96	$ 91.61	$ 1.46
8"	$ 121.52	$ 1.96	$ 114.52	$ 1.46
Senior citizen / disable user	$ 8.60	$ 1.20	$ 5.10	$ 0.95

(c) The rates established in this section are effective September 1, ~~2011~~ 2020. These rates shall be automatically increased every January 1, commencing January 1, ~~2013~~ 2022, by the addition of an amount equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers—Water and sewer and trash collection services for the immediately preceding year multiplied times the utility rate then in effect. The rate shall not decrease.

(d) The rates for residential users outside the city limits shall be 25 percent more than the rates for residential users inside the city limits, and shall be subject to the same annual increases set forth in (c).

(e) The rates charged to mixed users shall be the higher of the two applicable user rates with the exception that existing multi-unit structures on a single compound meter will be billed at the lower rate per unit.

Sec. 98-123. - Sewerage rates.

(a) For sewerage system users inside the city limits who are not also metered water users, the following monthly flat rates shall be applicable:

Residential user: ~~$25.00~~ $22.20

Low impact commercial/institutional user: ~~$40.00~~ $50.81

High impact commercial/institutional user: ~~$100.00~~ $150.25

Senior citizen/disabled user: ~~$8.50~~ $8.67

(b) For sewerage system users inside the city limits who are also metered water users, the following monthly rate, based on water consumption, shall be applicable:

	~~Consumption~~	
~~Meter size~~	~~First 3,000 gallons~~	~~3,001 gallons and above~~
	~~Minimum~~	~~Rate per 1,000 gallons~~
~~5/8"~~	~~$15.00~~	~~$1.80~~
~~¾"~~	~~15.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~1"~~	~~15.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~1½"~~	~~15.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~2"~~	~~60.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~4"~~	~~90.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~6"~~	~~120.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~8"~~	~~150.00~~	~~1.80~~
~~Senior citizen/disabled user~~	~~5.38~~	~~1.06~~

Meter Size	Consumption < or = 300,000 gallons		Consumption > or = 300,001 gallons	
	First 3,000 gal Minimum	3,001 gal and above Rate per 1,000 gal	First 3,000 gal Minimum	3,001 gal and above Rate per 1,000 gal
5/8"	$ 22.20	$ 2.82	$ 17.20	$ 2.07
3/4"	$ 22.20	$ 2.82	$ 17.20	$ 2.07
1"	$ 22.20	$ 2.82	$ 17.20	$ 2.07
1 1/2"	$ 22.20	$ 2.82	$ 17.20	$ 2.07
2"	$ 73.72	$ 2.82	$ 68.72	$ 2.07
4"	$ 108.08	$ 2.82	$ 103.08	$ 2.07
6"	$ 142.41	$ 2.82	$ 137.41	$ 2.07
8"	$ 176.76	$ 2.82	$ 171.76	$ 2.07
Senior citizen / disable user	$ 8.67	$ 1.60	$ 6.17	$ 1.22

(c) The rates established in this section are effective September 1, ~~2011~~ 2020. These rates shall be automatically increased every January 1, commencing January 1, ~~2013~~ 2022, by the addition of an amount equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers—Water and sewer and trash collection services for the immediately preceding year multiplied times the utility rate then in effect. The rate shall not decrease.

(d) The rates for residential users outside the city limits shall be 25 percent more than the rates for residential users inside the city limits, and shall be subject to the same annual increases set forth in [subsection] (c).

(e) The rates charged to mixed users shall be the higher of the two applicable user rates with the exception that existing multi-unit structures on a single compound meter will be billed at the lower rate per unit.

WHEREAS, the City Council has held its public hearing in accordance with law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that it hereby amends the utility bill rate structure as set out above in order to adequately fund the operation and maintenance of utility services.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all other sections of Chapter 98 Utilities shall remain the same and in full force.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

WHEREUPON, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION by Botsford, seconded by Weiss.

YEAS: 7 **ABSENT:** 0

NAYS: 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of August, 2020.

LARRY ROLLING
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Bonnie D. Champagne
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
COUNCIL CLERK

Presented to the Mayor on this 5th day of August, 2020, at 10:45 o'clock A.M.

Bonnie D. Champagne
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
COUNCIL CLERK

Approved ✓ or Vetoed ___ by the Mayor on this 5th day of August, 2020.

Mark R. Johnson
MARK R. JOHNSON
MAYOR

Received from the Mayor on this 6th day of August, 2020, at 9:30 o'clock A.M.

Bonnie D. Champagne
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
COUNCIL CLERK

2020 Utility Rates (3.1% Increase based on CPI)

Water Minimum 3,000 gal	*Each Additional 1,000 gal*	*Sewer Minimum 3,000 gal*	*Each Additional 1,000 gal*	Meter Size / Description
5.10	.95	6.17	1.22	**Senior Citizen / Disability 3/4"(stand alone) & unmetered flat rate**
		28.65	*Flat Rate*	**Sewer (Residential) Flat Rate**
34.36	*Flat Rate*	45.81	*Flat Rate*	**Water / Sewer Low Impact Commercial & unmetered flat rate**
		145.25	*Flat Rate*	**Sewer High Impact Commercial/Institutional & unmetered flat rate**
11.45	1.46	17.20	2.07	**3/4" or 5/8" (stand alone) & unmetered flat rate**
14.33	1.85	21.48	2.58	**3/4" or 5/8" out of city (25% increase)**
11.45	1.46	17.20	2.07	**1" (stand alone)**
14.33	1.85	21.48	2.58	**1" out of city (25% increase)**
45.81	1.46	68.72	2.07	**3/4" or 5/8" compound (tied to 2") & 2" stand alone**
11.45	1.46	17.20	2.07	**Multi Unit 3/4" or 5/8" Compound meter**
68.72	1.46	103.08	2.07	**1" compound (tied to 4") or 4" (stand alone)**
11.45	1.46	17.20	2.07	**Multi Unit 1" Compound meter**
91.61	1.46	137.41	2.07	**1.5" compound (tied to 6" meter)**
91.61	1.46	137.41	2.07	**2" compound (tied to 6" meter)**
45.81	1.46	68.72	2.07	**Multi Unit 2" Compound meter**
114.52	1.46	171.76	2.07	**2" compound (tied to 8" meter)**

Garbage Monthly Fee	
17.87	Garbage Residential (Per Cart)
17.87	Garbage Commercial (Per Cart)
9.20	Garbage Discounted Rate

EXHIBIT 1