

NOTICE OF SEWER RATE INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 7, 2023, the City Council (the “Council”) of the City of East Helena, Montana (the “City”) adopted a Resolution of Intention of the City of East Helena, Montana to Increase Rates for the Users of the Municipal Sewer System.

The City currently charges users of the System monthly the following rates and charges using as a basis the following customer classifications:

Residential. Residential customers are charged using a flat rate per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU).

Commercial. Commercial customers are charged by being assigned individually, an equivalent residential customer billing factor that is based on the commercial customer's average daily metered water usage during winter months (December, January, and February). This billing factor shall be multiplied by the flat rate residential wastewater service charge in accordance with the sewer service rate schedule adopted from time to time by the City Council. New commercial customers are charged using an estimated winter months water usage, until complete metered water usage figures are available for that customer, at which time the service charge will be adjusted as necessary using the equivalent residential customer billing factor.

Monthly Sewer Service Rate Schedule.

Customer Class	Equivalent Residential Customer Billing Factor	Rate Structure	Monthly Charge
Residential	1.0	Flat rate	\$66.40
Commercial	Q/200	Flat rate	\$66.40 x billing factor

Billing factors for commercial customers shall be calculated to the nearest 1/10 of a whole number, with the minimum allowable billing factor being 1.0. “Q” is the average daily metered water usage (in gallons) for the commercial customer over the consecutive months of December, January, and February; and 200 is the estimated average daily metered water usage (in gallons) for a single EDU during these months.

The Council proposes to increase its sewer rates as shown below.

Commencing with the April 2023 billing, the Council proposes to increase the Monthly Charge by \$3.60 as shown below.

Customer Class	Equivalent Residential Customer Billing Factor	Rate Structure	Proposed Monthly Charge
Residential	1.0	Flat rate	\$70.00
Commercial	Q/200	Flat rate	\$70.00 x billing factor

For a residential user, the Proposed Monthly Charge represents an increase of approximately 5.4% over the current Monthly Charge.

Commencing with the July 2024 billing and concluding July 2027, the Council proposes to increase the Proposed Monthly Charge then in effect each fiscal year by \$1.50 as shown below.

Customer Class	Equivalent Residential Customer Billing Factor	Rate Structure	Proposed Monthly Charge
Proposed FY 2025 Rate Increase			
Residential	1.0	Flat rate	\$71.50
Commercial	Q/200	Flat rate	\$71.50 x billing factor
Proposed FY 2026 Rate Increase			
Residential	1.0	Flat rate	\$73.00
Commercial	Q/200	Flat rate	\$73.00 x billing factor
Proposed FY 2027 Rate Increase			
Residential	1.0	Flat rate	\$74.50
Commercial	Q/200	Flat rate	\$74.50 x billing factor
Proposed FY 2028 Rate Increase			
Residential	1.0	Flat rate	\$76.00
Commercial	Q/200	Flat rate	\$76.00 x billing factor

For a residential user, the proposed monthly charge in fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 represents an increase of 2.14%, 2.10%, 2.05% and 2.03%, respectively, over the then current monthly charge.

A public hearing on the proposed rate increase will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, commencing at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom and in the Council Chambers (Room 110) of City Hall, located at 306 E. Main Street, in East Helena, Montana. Further information about the proposed rate increase may be obtained by contacting Amy Thorngren, City Clerk-Treasurer, 306 E. Main Street, Room 103, East Helena, Montana 59635, phone: (406) 227-5456.

Done by Order of the Council of the City of East Helena, Montana, this 7th day of February, 2023.

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