



City of Rochester

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Rochester Updates Water Rates

Rochester, Michigan – August 16, 2019 - City Council approves 1.7% water rate increase, water rate study, and keeps sewer rates the same.

On August 12, 2019 City Council voted 5-0 to approve the Great Lakes Water Authority rate increase of 1.7% as a pass through increase. The new rate will go into effect on September 1, 2019. Council also voted to retain the current sewer rates, and to proceed with a water rate study at the recommendation of the City's Infrastructure Committee and staff. The approved changes are attributable to increases from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA). Depending on the water source, residents and businesses will see water rate increases as follows:

- The GLWA water rates will increase from \$4.98/per 100 cubic feet (cf) to \$5.06/per 100 cubic feet (cf). The 2019 increase equates to between \$1.51 to \$8.71 more per quarter for the average residential consumer.
- The Well water rates will increase from \$0.99/per 100 cubic feet (cf) to \$1.01/per 100 cubic feet (cf). The effective new rate will increase costs between \$2.06 and \$14.66 more per quarter for the average residential consumer.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to try the following conservation options and other tips to help reduce their sewer and water use, which should also reduce their future bills:

- Check for leaks. Water leaks are expensive and knowing your usage is critical to recognizing when your money is running down the drain. Check your meter for the Leak Alarm icon. If water is continually passing through the meter for a 24-hour period, the Leak Alarm icon will be present on the water meter screen. Visit the City's website to learn how to read your water meter: <https://tinyurl.com/ybdc4dpt>
- Install an irrigation meter.
- Replace your water thirsty turf with a lower maintenance option.
- Decrease your "Peak Hour" demand by watering your lawn during non-peak periods from 12:00(Midnight) to 5:00am to reduce capital investment and energy costs. These simple, proactive changes in watering habits can offset future rate increases.

For additional information on the City's sewer and water rates and the changes that become effective on September 1, 2019, please visit www.rochestermi.org/rates.

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