



## City of Rochester

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## No Rate Increase for City of Rochester Water Rates

**Rochester, Michigan – August 31, 2020** - City Council approves 0% water rate increase for 2020-2021 billing year.

On August 24, 2020 City Council in a unanimous vote to approve no rate increases for the 2020-21 billing year. The Infrastructure Committee recommended this no rate increase this year (September 2020 to August 2021) based off the recommendations of the water and sewer rate study completed by Raftelis. Mayor Stuart Bikson said "The City of Rochester has invested wisely in our water and sewer infrastructure. This investment will lead to zero rate increase this year and small increases into future years. Keeping water and sewer rate increases small and predictable is a goal of our City Council." This will ensure that the City will have the ability to maintain safe and reliable drinking water and sewage disposal systems, while recovering costs from usage.

The City of Rochester engaged Raftelis to develop water and sewer financial plans and develop rate structure alternatives to meet the City's objectives. Anthony Moggio, the City's Finance Director, said, "Transparency and Accountability are areas we strive for in the City of Rochester. That is why we contracted with Raftelis to provide a deep review of our rates to make sure that they are fair and equitable to the users. All the users of our water system can review and see through Raftelis's report that our rates are indeed fair and equitable. In fact, no rate change for this year and minor ones going forward is a testament to that." The general objective of the financial planning process was to determine the level of rate revenue required to provide for the financial sustainability of the utilities into the future.

The City still encourages residents and businesses to try the following conservation options and other tips to help reduce their sewer and water use, which will reduce their future bills:

- 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, which will indicate if water is continually passing through the meter for a 24-hour period. 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 please visit [www.rochestermi.org/rates](http://www.rochestermi.org/rates).

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