



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: March 9, 2026

Prepared By: Dennis Carr, City Engineer
Paulette Hurd, Finance Director

Agenda Item: Water Infrastructure Fee Based on Meter Size

Explanation:

In March of 2024, the City entered into an agreement for CMT to prepare an IEPA Project Plan and Rate Study to secure a State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan. The water rate portion of that study was presented to the previous Council who chose not to act on the recommendation and asked that it be decided by the newly elected Council. On October 13, 2025, Council discussed a supplement to the rate study at a Committee of the Whole. Raftelis proposed that we adjust the fixed fee for water meters larger than the standard residential size (1" and above). This adjustment would primarily impact commercial accounts and the Illinois American Water Company, however, there are 10 residential properties with 1" meters due to being an apartment building, a larger home size or extended setbacks from the roadway that would also be affected. Raftelis also recommended adjusting the minimum increase from 2.5% to 4.0%. Currently rates are adjusted annually based on the CPI for Water-Sewer-Trash or 2.5% whichever is greater.

The consensus from the October 13 discussion was to move forward with the meter size adjustments, but not increase the minimum annual increase.

As part of the budget process and in order to implement increases for the new fiscal year, City ordinance needs to be updated to formalize these changes. See attached ordinance and proposed rate schedule to be brought for first reading at March 16, 2026 Council.

Fiscal Impact: The estimated additional \$80,000 of revenue that would be generated by this change has been included in the FY 2027 budget for the Water Fund.

**Recommendation/
Committee Discussion Summary:**

Staff requests discussion of the proposed fixed fees with the intent to formalize these rates through Ordinance adoption, with a first reading planned for the March 16, 2026 Council meeting.

Action Requested: None – informational only.

Attachments:

Fixed Fees Based on Meter size
Draft Ordinance
Water and Sewer Rates

**City of Washington
Fixed Fees based on Meter Size**

		Proposed	Current
Water Infrastructure Fee based on meter size	5/8"	\$ 19.23	\$ 18.37
	3/4"	\$ 19.23	\$ 18.37
	all Tax-Exempt	\$ 19.23	\$ 18.37
	1"	\$ 29.37	\$ 18.37
	1 1/2"	\$ 54.69	\$ 18.37
	2"	\$ 85.08	\$ 18.37
	3"	\$ 181.29	\$ 18.37
	4"	\$ 323.09	\$ 18.37
	6"	\$ 713.04	\$ 18.37

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance will update portions of the Water and Sewer Rates Fee Schedule and will amend Section 54-134(a) of the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WASHINGTON WATER AND SEWER RATES, AND AMENDING SECTION 54-134(a) OF THE CITY CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Washington is a home rule government pursuant to the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6(a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule power, the City of Washington may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs including the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as findings of the City Council.

Section 2. That Section 54-134(a) of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, be, and the same hereby is amended as follows:

Sec. 54-134. - Rates for city water service.

(a) The rates for city water service shall be as affixed from time to time by ordinance of the city council and as provided in the city fee schedule.

(1) From and after May 1, ~~2026~~~~2019~~ the flat rate for water service provided to residents of the city shall be as provided in the city fee schedule per 1,000 gallons of water used, as shown by the water meter readings. The rate shall apply to all water used beginning May 1, ~~2026~~, ~~2019~~.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1) of this section, from and after May 1, 2019 the flat rate for water service provided to residents of the city determined to be qualified under the Illinois Circuit Breaker Program as administered by the state department of revenue, now known as the Illinois Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program, shall be 18 percent. The application of and eligibility for this rate shall be in accordance with subsection (j) of this section. The rate shall apply to all water used beginning May 1, 2019.

(3) Effective May 1, 2019, a monthly infrastructure fixed fee shall be added to the volumetric/sewer flat charge. The rate shall be introduced over a five-year period beginning with an amount as provided in the city fee schedule in the first year, an additional \$4.00 in the second year, and additional \$3.00 in the third year, an additional amount as provided in the city fee schedule in the fourth year, and an additional amount as provided in the city fee schedule in the fifth year. **Effective May 1, 2026, the monthly infrastructure fixed fee shall be as provided in the city fee schedule.** Any senior citizen or circuit breaker discounts, as well as the nonresident surcharge are applicable to the monthly infrastructure fixed fee.

(4) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the flat rate for water service provided to commercial water customers located in the Illinois American Water Company's, or its successors in interest, territory that utilizes a three inch or greater sized water meter upon its connection to the city's water service shall be an amount as provided in the city fee schedule per 1,000 gallons of water used, as shown by the water meter readings. The rate shall apply to all water used by applicable customers beginning May 1, 2022. The flat rate provided for herein shall be eligible for any discount and automatic increase identified in this section.

(4) The rates for water service described in subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this section shall automatically increase on ~~May 1, 2026 and annually through May 1, 2033, by 2.5 percent (2.5%)~~ ~~May 1, 2019, and annually, each May 1 thereafter, by 2.5 percent or the Consumer Price Index~~ for Water, Trash, and Sewer (CPI-W, T&S), whichever is greater, and rounded to the nearest hundredth percent. The rate of CPI-W, T&S shall be calculated annually on January 1 using the preceding 12-month period as measured by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Effective May 1, 2019 and annually each May 1 thereafter, the automatic water service rate increase shall be applied on the June bill for May water usage.

Section 3. The City Fee Schedule for Water and Sewer Rates effective May 1, 2026, will be as shown on Attachment A to this Ordinance, subject to amendment from time to time by the City Council at its discretion.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall otherwise be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication as required by law.

Section 5. Any Section or provision of this Ordinance that is construed to be invalid or void shall not affect the remaining sections or provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect thereafter.

Section 6: That all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ day of _____, 2026.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

MAYOR

ATTEST:

WATER AND SEWER RATES

**Usage As of May 1, 2026 - 4.7% increase for Water/4.7% incr. for Sewer
Including Infrastructure Fee based on Meter Size**

		Single Meter	Dual Meters
Regular (Resident)	Water per 1000 gallons	\$ 6.02	\$ 6.02
	Sewer per 1000 gallons	\$ 12.53	\$ 12.53
	Volumetric Charge per 1000	\$ 18.55	\$ 18.55
	<1" meter Water Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 19.23	\$ 19.23
	Sewer Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 6.27	\$ 6.27
	Technology Fee	\$ 3.85	\$ 5.50
Senior Citizen/ Disabled (Resident)	Water per 1000 gallons	\$ 5.42	\$ 5.42
	Sewer per 1000 gallons	\$ 11.28	\$ 11.28
	Volumetric Charge per 1000	\$ 16.70	\$ 16.70
	<1" meter Water Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 17.31	\$ 17.31
	Sewer Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 5.64	\$ 5.64
	Technology Fee	\$ 3.85	\$ 5.50
Circuit Breaker (Resident)	Water per 1000 gallons	\$ 4.94	\$ 4.94
	Sewer per 1000 gallons	\$ 10.27	\$ 10.27
	Volumetric Charge per 1000	\$ 15.21	\$ 15.21
	<1" meter Water Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 15.77	\$ 15.77
	Sewer Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 5.14	\$ 5.14
	Technology Fee	\$ 3.85	\$ 5.50
Non-Resident	Water per 1000 gallons	\$ 7.22	\$ 7.22
	Sewer per 1000 gallons	\$ 15.04	\$ 15.04
	Volumetric Charge per 1000	\$ 22.26	\$ 22.26
	<1" meter Water Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 23.08	\$ 23.08
	Sewer Infrastructure Fee per Account	\$ 7.52	\$ 7.52
	Technology Fee	\$ 3.85	\$ 5.50
Beck's Car Wash	Water per 1000 gallons	\$ 7.00	
	Technology Fee	\$ 3.85	
Water Infrastructure Fee based on meter size	5/8"	\$ 19.23	
	3/4"	\$ 19.23	
	all Tax-Exempt	\$ 19.23	
	1"	\$ 29.37	
	1 1/2"	\$ 54.69	
	2"	\$ 85.08	
	3"	\$ 181.29	
	4"	\$ 323.09	
	6"	\$ 713.04	
Sewer Flat Rates	Regular (Resident)	\$ 73.69	
	Fixed Fee	\$ 6.27	
		\$ 79.96	per month
	Senior Citizen/Disabled (Resident)	\$ 34.35	
	Fixed Fee	\$ 5.64	
		\$ 39.99	per month
	Circuit Breaker (Resident)	\$ 28.11	
	Fixed Fee	\$ 5.14	
		\$ 33.25	per month
	Non-Resident	\$ 88.42	
	Fixed Fee	\$ 7.52	
		\$ 95.94	per month