

ORDINANCE NO. _____ OF 2023

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-165 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
RELATIVE TO SEWER RATES AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT
THERETO**

BY:

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the City of Shreveport needs to increase its water and sewer rates, to allow it to pay for the budgeted operating expenses of the system and assist in meeting the City's coverage requirements for its bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has recommended that water rates be increased by 10%, effective March 1, 2024, to generate the revenues necessary to meet those operating expenses and to assist in meeting the covenants the City agreed to when it sold Utility Revenue Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport, in due, legal and regular session convened, that Section 94-165 of the Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Section 94-165. Sewer Charges

The following monthly rates shall be charged for wastewater collection and treatment provided for customers served by the sanitary sewer system of the city. The charges provided in this section are to be for the full repayment of the costs of operation, maintenance and replacement of the wastewater collection and treatment system.

- 1) *Monthly sewerage charge.* A monthly service charge for all users is established as follows, effective with all customer bills rendered on or after April 1, 2024:

Inside City \$10.93

Outside City \$21.86

- (2) *Quantity charges.*

- (a) *Residential customers.* Quantity charges for metered residential customers shall be based on 100 per cent of water consumption, unless the individual customer's average monthly water usage, rounded to the nearest whole number, is less for the bills issued in the months of November, December, January and February, calculated after the months with the highest and lowest metered water usage have been eliminated. If a customer does not have water usage history for all of the months in the calculation (November,

December, January and February), then the quantity charge shall be based on either their metered water consumption or 6,000 gallons of consumption, whichever is less.

- (b) *Commercial and industrial customers.* Quantity charges for commercial and industrial customers connected to the sewerage system shall be based on 100 per cent of metered water usage, provided that the director of water and sewerage or his authorized designee shall be authorized to adjust these charges to account for such factors as product use and cooling tower evaporation. The customer shall bear the burden of proof regarding product use or evaporation losses when requesting an adjustment.
- (c) *Calculation.* Effective with all customer bills rendered on or after April 1, 2024, all quantity charges shall be calculated at the following rates per 1,000 gallons of metered water use or applicable average calculated in accordance with subsection (2)(a) above.

Inside City \$10.93 per 1,000 gallons

Outside City \$21.86 per 1,000 gallons.

- (3) *Excessive strength surcharge.* In addition to the charges listed in subsection (2), all monitored commercial and industrial customers shall pay for excessive wastewater strengths (BOD and SS), based on the following formula, effective January 1, 2024.

$S = V_s \times 8.34 (\$0.104 (\text{BOD} - 250) + \$0.034 (\text{SS} - 250))$ where:

S = Surcharge in dollars

V_s = Sewage volume in million gallons

8.34 = Pounds per gallon of water

\$0.104 = Unit charge for BOD, in dollars per pound

BOD = Strength index in parts per million by weight

\$0.034 = Unit charge for suspended solids, in dollars per pound

SS = Suspended solids strength, in parts per million by weight

- (4) *Contract customers.* The city council may authorize contracts with municipalities, political subdivisions, governmental entities or private firms to furnish sewerage services at rates and charges other than those set forth herein.

- (5) *Nonmetered customers.* Users which do not have metered sewage discharge shall be charged in a manner both adequate to the operation, maintenance and replacement needs of the sewerage system and proportional to one-time users.

- (6) *Flat rate charges.* The following residential customers shall be assessed flat rate monthly charges – all customers who are served by the sewerage system but not by the water distribution system. Effective with all customer bills rendered on or after April 1, 2024, the flat rate charge shall be \$83.47 for inside-city customers and \$166.94 for outside-city customers.

- (7) *Rate review.* The rate structure will be reviewed periodically to assure that the current charges are adequate to cover operation, maintenance and replacement and to assure that operation, maintenance and replacement costs are being distributed appropriately among users and user classes.

(8) *Payment of increased costs.* Any user which discharges any toxic pollutants which cause an increase in operation, maintenance or replacement costs shall pay in full for such increased costs.

(9) *Use of water service.* Any user of the city's sanitary sewerage system is required also to contract with the city for water service, if available.

(10) *Reuse water charges.* Any user desiring to use water shall contact the director of the department of water and sewerage to determine if reuse water is available. If such water is determined by the director to be available, the director shall establish a reasonable charge for same, based on the quantity of reuse water to be consumed.

(11) *Application of rates.* The authorized sewer rate shall apply to the first billing cycle in which all water consumption on the customer's bill occurs on or after the effective date of the increase.

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office