

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCREASE IN CITY SEWER RATES

The Stephenville City Council approved an increase in city sewer rates at its meeting on February 2. The increase will become effective on March 1, 2010. The fee structure that the city uses for calculating sewer rates was established in 1993. The first and only increase in that rate until now was in 2008.

Sewer rates will increase by twenty cents per thousand gallons from \$2.60 to \$2.80 for all customers, both commercial and residential. Sewer rates are calculated by the amount of water used.

A family using 5,000 gallons per month will see a monthly increase of about \$1.00 or \$12 per year. Stephenville still has one of the lowest sewer rates among towns its size or smaller. See the attached comparison of 2009 water and sewer rates compiled by the Texas Municipal League.

There are two utility billing cycles at the city—Cycle No. 1 covers the period of time from the 15th of one month to the 15th of the next month, and Cycle No. 2 covers the period of time from the 1st to the 31st of the month.

Customers on Cycle No. 2 will be the first ones to see the increase. Those bills will be mailed out on April 15 and due by April 30, and will cover the service period of March 1 through March 31. Cycle No. 1 customers will see their increase when bills are mailed on April 30 and due by May 15 for the service period of March 15 through April 15.

Sewer averaging concludes on February 28, and residential customers will be charged for the sewer rate based on their water usage during the months of December, January, and February. During the winter, city officials monitor how much water is used by each household. The average water use will determine the rate that the city will charge each household for wastewater for the next twelve months. The new rate will begin appearing on the April bill.

Water/Sewer Comparison

■ Sewer ■ Water

