

THIS IS NOT A BILL



City of Whitefish

1005 Baker Avenue, PO Box 158

Whitefish, MT 59937

(406) 863-2462 Fax (406) 863-2419

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION 16-____ TO REVISE WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES and POLICIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday September 6, 2016 at 7:10 p.m. at Interim City Hall, 1005 Baker Avenue, the Whitefish City Council will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public input regarding changes to the water and wastewater rates and policies for the City of Whitefish. Individuals may appear in person or submit written testimony regarding the proposed changes. Written comments may be delivered or mailed to the Whitefish City Clerk, 1005 Baker Avenue, PO Box 158, Whitefish, MT 59937, or emailed to mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org.

The City of Whitefish recently completed a Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Rate Study. Based on the recommendations of this study, the City is proposing to increase water and sewer utility service rates, effective October 1, 2016. The proposed rate increases are necessary to cover the cost of service, and provide for necessary capital improvements, namely a new wastewater treatment plant, which is expected to be commissioned in 2021. Based on preliminary engineering estimates for the facility, new debt associated with this facility is anticipated to be in the range of \$15 million to \$20 million.

To address costs attributable to the various wastewater user types and service zones, the City's Wastewater rate schedule distinguishes between three different service classes (SC-1, SC-2, and SC-3), in addition to the dedicated rates associated with providing service to Grinder and STEP users. The City's Water rate schedule distinguishes between three different service areas (Inside, Pressure Zone, and Outside City limits). The proposed rate changes for all of the water and wastewater categories are included in this notice. A map depicting the user categories can be found at www.cityofwhitefish.org.

Customers inside city limits with a 5/8" meter and in service class SC-1 with usage of 4,000 gallons of water and wastewater per month see a rate increase as follows:

- **Monthly domestic water costs will increase 1.0%, or approximately \$0.25, from \$40.53 to \$40.78;**
- **Monthly wastewater costs will increase 13.0%, or approximately \$4.53, from \$35.04 to \$39.57.**

Customers with a landscape/irrigation meter with usage of 10,000 gallons per month would see a rate increase as follows:

- **Monthly irrigation water costs will increase 15.0%, or approximately \$5.34, from \$35.46 to \$40.80.**

In addition to the proposed rate increases, the LOW INCOME and SENIOR DISCOUNT is proposed to change from an age-based system to an income verification system. This proposed change will use the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) application process as the means to verify eligibility.

For frequently asked questions, visit our city website: www.cityofwhitefish.org. For further information, you may contact Rose Elliott at the Public Works Department at (406) 863-2462 or at 1005 Baker Avenue, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Proposed WATER Rate Changes

Effective: 10/1/2016

User Category	Current Rates		Proposed Rates		Proposed % Increase	
	Fixed	Volumetric (per 1,000 gal)	Fixed	Volumetric (per 1,000 gal)	Fixed	Volumetric (per 1,000 gal)
Inside City						
Inside - 5/8"	\$ 24.85	\$ 3.92	\$ 25.10	\$ 3.92	1.01%	0.00%
Inside Low Income - 5/8"	\$ 6.21	\$ 3.92	\$ 6.30	\$ 3.92	1.45%	0.00%
Inside - 3/4"	\$ 36.68	\$ 3.92	\$ 37.00	\$ 3.92	0.87%	0.00%
Inside Low Income - 3/4"	\$ 9.17	\$ 3.92	\$ 9.30	\$ 3.92	1.44%	0.00%
Inside - 1"	\$ 52.06	\$ 3.92	\$ 52.60	\$ 3.92	1.04%	0.00%
Inside Low Income - 1"	\$ 13.02	\$ 3.92	\$ 13.20	\$ 3.92	1.41%	0.00%
Inside - 1.5"	\$159.74	\$ 3.92	\$159.80	\$ 3.92	0.04%	0.00%
Inside Low Income - 1.5"	\$ 39.94	\$ 3.92	\$ 39.95	\$ 3.92	0.03%	0.00%
Inside - 2"	\$263.88	\$ 3.92	\$263.90	\$ 3.92	0.01%	0.00%
Inside - 3"	\$315.93	\$ 3.92	\$319.10	\$ 3.92	1.00%	0.00%
Inside - 4"	\$521.83	\$ 3.92	\$527.00	\$ 3.92	0.99%	0.00%
Pressure Zone						
PZ - 5/8"	\$ 28.39	\$ 4.98	\$ 29.80	\$ 5.23	4.95%	5.00%
PZ Low Income - 5/8"	\$ 7.10	\$ 4.98	\$ 7.50	\$ 5.23	5.65%	5.00%
PZ - 3/4"	\$ 42.60	\$ 4.98	\$ 44.70	\$ 5.23	4.94%	5.00%
PZ Low Income - 3/4"	\$ 10.66	\$ 4.98	\$ 11.20	\$ 5.23	5.17%	5.00%
PZ - 1"	\$ 61.53	\$ 4.98	\$ 64.60	\$ 5.23	4.99%	5.00%
PZ Low Income - 1"	\$ 15.39	\$ 4.98	\$ 16.20	\$ 5.23	5.28%	5.00%
Outside City						
Outside - 5/8"	\$ 31.95	\$ 5.76	\$ 32.30	\$ 5.76	1.10%	0.00%
Outside Low Income- 5/8"	\$ 7.99	\$ 5.76	\$ 8.10	\$ 5.76	1.34%	0.00%
Outside - 3/4"	\$ 46.15	\$ 5.76	\$ 46.60	\$ 5.76	0.97%	0.00%
Outside Low Income - 3/4"	\$ 11.53	\$ 5.76	\$ 11.70	\$ 5.76	1.49%	0.00%
Outside - 1"	\$ 68.63	\$ 5.76	\$ 69.30	\$ 5.76	0.98%	0.00%
Outside Low Income- 1"	\$ 17.15	\$ 5.76	\$ 17.33	\$ 5.76	0.98%	0.00%
Outside - 1.5"	\$185.77	\$ 5.76	\$185.80	\$ 5.76	0.01%	0.00%
Outside - 2"	\$307.65	\$ 5.76	\$307.70	\$ 5.76	0.02%	0.00%
Irrigation						
Inside - 5/8"	\$ 10.66	2.48	\$ 12.30	2.85	15.42%	15.00%
PZ - 5/8"	\$ 14.20	3.56	\$ 17.80	4.44	25.33%	25.00%
Outside - 5/8"	\$ 14.20	4.38	\$ 15.70	5.03	9.55%	15.00%
Inside - 3/4"	\$ 15.39	2.48	\$ 16.00	2.85	3.98%	15.00%
PZ - 3/4"	\$ 21.29	3.56	\$ 23.10	4.44	8.49%	25.00%
Outside - 3/4"	\$ 20.12	4.38	\$ 20.40	5.03	1.40%	15.00%
Inside - 1"	\$ 26.03	2.48	\$ 26.10	2.85	0.25%	15.00%
PZ - 1"	\$ 35.50	3.56	\$ 35.50	4.44	0.01%	25.00%
Outside - 1"	\$ 33.13	4.38	\$ 33.20	5.03	0.23%	15.00%
Inside - 1.5"	\$ 65.08	2.48	\$ 65.10	2.85	0.04%	15.00%
PZ - 1.5"	\$ 65.08	3.56	\$ 65.10	4.44	0.03%	25.00%
Inside - 2"	\$110.04	2.48	\$110.10	2.85	0.05%	15.00%
Inside - 4"	\$221.27	2.48	\$239.60	2.85	8.00%	15.00%

Proposed WASTEWATER Rate Changes

Effective: 10/1/2016

User Category	Current Rates		Proposed Rates		Proposed % Increase	
	Fixed	Volumetric (per 1,000 gal)	Fixed	Volumetric (per 1,000 gal)	Fixed	Volumetric (per 1,000 gal)
Inside City						
Inside SC-1	\$20.96	\$ 3.52	\$21.81	\$ 4.44	4.06%	26.14%
Inside Low Income SC-1	\$ 5.24	\$ 3.52	\$ 5.45	\$ 4.44	4.01%	26.14%
Inside SC-2	\$36.66	\$ 6.25	\$38.13	\$ 7.07	4.01%	13.12%
Inside Low Income SC-2	\$ 9.18	\$ 6.25	\$ 9.55	\$ 7.07	4.03%	13.12%
Inside SC-3	\$42.75	\$ 8.77	\$44.47	\$ 9.92	4.02%	13.11%
Inside Low Income SC-3	\$10.69	\$ 8.77	\$11.11	\$ 9.92	3.93%	13.11%
Grinder	\$53.42	\$ 13.34	\$55.56	\$ 14.55	4.01%	9.07%
Grinder Low Income	\$13.36	\$ 13.34	\$13.89	\$ 14.55	3.97%	9.07%
Pack Rat (STEP)	\$55.52	\$ 16.49	\$57.75	\$ 18.32	4.02%	11.10%
Pack Rat (STEP) Low Income	\$13.89	\$ 16.49	\$14.44	\$ 18.32	3.94%	11.10%
Outside City						
Outside SC-1	\$24.48	\$ 5.41	\$25.47	\$ 6.83	4.04%	26.25%
Outside SC-2	\$41.08	\$ 8.62	\$42.72	\$ 9.76	3.99%	13.23%
Outside SC-3	\$47.11	\$ 10.43	\$49.01	\$ 11.80	4.03%	13.14%
Resthaven	\$59.59	\$ 21.26	\$61.99	\$ 23.62	4.03%	11.10%
Big Mountain	\$71.87	\$ 8.62	\$74.76	\$ 9.76	4.02%	13.23%

Inside = Inside City Limits

Outside = Outside City Limits

SC-1: areas in which wastewater is pumped one time to reach the wastewater plant.

SC-2: areas in which wastewater is pumped two times to reach the wastewater plant.

SC-3: areas in which wastewater is pumped a minimum of two times, and sometimes three times (depending upon location) to reach the wastewater plant.

STEP: septic-tank-effluent-pump system

PZ = Pressure Zone

Irrigation Averaging = Max Usage of 12,000 per Month

