



MAYOR

George B McGill

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Carl E Geffken

CITY CLERK

Sherri Gard

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ward 1 - Jarred Rego

Ward 2 - Andre' Good

Ward 3 - Lavon Morton

Ward 4 - George Catsavis

At-Large Position 5 - Christina Catsavis

At-Large Position 6 - Kevin Settle

At-Large Position 7 - Neal Martin

AGENDA

Fort Smith Board of Directors

SPECIAL MEETING

July 11, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Blue Lion

101 North 2nd Street

Fort Smith, Arkansas

THIS MEETING IS BEING TELECAST LIVE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://fortsmithar.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1

SPECIAL MEETING

(Special Meeting called by Jarred Rego, Lavon Morton, Kevin Settle, and Neal Martin at the June 18, 2024 regular meeting)

ROLL CALL

PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING *(Section 2-37 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code)*

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Ordinance to provide for rates for services of the drinking water system and superseding ordinances in conflict herewith ~ *Morton/Good placed on agenda at the April 9, 2024 study session / Tabled at the April 16, 2024 regular meeting pending discussion at a special study session to include public comment / Morton/Good placed on May 21, 2024 regular meeting agenda at the May 7, 2024 regular meeting / Tabled at the May 21, 2024 regular meeting pending two (2) additional community input sessions / Placed on special meeting agenda at the June 18, 2024 regular meeting by concurrence of Directors Rego, Morton, Settle, and Martin ~ (Water Utilities)*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Performance Evaluation: City Administrator ~ *Added to agenda on July 6, 2024 by concurrence of Directors Lavon Morton, Christina Catsavis, Neal Martin, and George Catsavis ~*

ADJOURN



MEMORANDUM



TO: Carl E. Geffken, City Administrator
CC: Jeff Dingman, Deputy City Administrator
FROM: Lance A. McAvoy, Director of Water Utilities
DATE: June 27, 2024
SUBJECT: Water Rate Ordinance

SUMMARY

After the water rate study presentation by David Naumann, Burns & McDonnell, during the April 9, 2024, Board of Directors' Study Session; Directors Lavon Morton and Andre Good placed the first two (2) years of water rate increases on the April 16, 2024 Board Meeting agenda. The ordinance was tabled and officially placed on the May 21 Board of Directors' Meeting. At the May 21, 2024, Board Meeting, the item was tabled so that two (2) additional public meetings could be held.

The water rate study took a holistic look at the entire rate structure. Proposed changes to the structure include:

- Residential Rates going from a 3-tier structure to a 4-tier structure,
- Consolidating the industrial rate from 2-tiers to 1-tier,
- Establishing rates for contract water users north and south of the Arkansas River, and
- Establishing a surcharge of 1.5 times the normal rates for those retail customers living outside the City of Fort Smith.

The water rate increase for the first year is needed to cover both operating cost and debt service ratios needed to comply with the bond covenants.

At the request of the Board of Directors, two additional community input sessions regarding proposed water rates were held. The first meeting was held on Thursday, May 30th from 6:00-9:00 in the Rose Room at the Creekmore Park Community Center. The second meeting was held on Saturday, June 1st from 10:00-12:00 at the Elm Grove Community Center.

Attached is the ordinance for the 2024 and 2025 rate increases.

Please contact me should you or any Board of Director have a question or need additional information.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [7-11-2024_Item_ID_1009_Uilities.pdf](#)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR RATES FOR SERVICES
OF THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM AND SUPERSEDING
ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Directors of the City of Fort Smith,
Arkansas that:

SECTION 1: Ordinance No. 68-10 and all prior drinking water system rate ordinances are hereby repealed on the effective date of the rates established by this ordinance and replaced with the following:

Users of the drinking water system shall be and are hereby required to pay monthly drinking water user base charges and volume charges in accordance with the schedule set forth below. The user charge accrual shall commence on the date the customer makes the service connection or on the date the City's facilities are ready for use, whichever is later.

Rate Schedule
Effective August 1, 2024

<u>Retail Base Charge</u>	<u>Per Account</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
5/8" or 3/4"	Meter	\$6.00
1"	Meter	\$12.05
1 1/4"	Meter	\$14.22
1 1/2"	Meter	\$25.64
2"	Meter	\$37.04
3"	Meter	\$111.91
4"	Meter	\$183.19
6"	Meter	\$265.32
8"	Meter	\$408.51
10"	Meter	\$542.31
<u>User Class</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Retail Volume Charge		
Residential 1-3 CCF	CCF	\$2.66
Residential 4-7 CCF	CCF	\$3.86
Residential 8-16 CCF	CCF	\$5.26
Residential ≥17 CCF	CCF	\$6.76

Rate Schedule
Effective August 1, 2024

<u>User Class</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
<u>Retail Volume Charge</u>		
Irrigation	CCF	\$6.76
Commercial	CCF	\$3.50
Industrial	CCF	\$3.50
 <u>Wholesale Base Charge</u>		
<u>Per Account</u>		<u>Dollars</u>
1 ½"	Meter	\$25.64
2"	Meter	\$37.04
3"	Meter	\$111.91
4"	Meter	\$183.19
6"	Meter	\$265.32
8"	Meter	\$408.51
10"	Meter	\$542.31
 <u>User Class</u>		
<u>Wholesale Volume Charge</u>		
Contract Water Users North of the Arkansas River	CCF	\$2.52
Contract Water Users South of the Arkansas River	CCF	\$3.04

Rate Schedule
Effective January 1, 2025

<u>Retail and Wholesale Base Charge</u>		<u>Dollars</u>
5/8" or ¾"	Meter	\$6.75
1"	Meter	\$13.56
1 ¼"	Meter	\$16.00
1 ½"	Meter	\$28.85
2"	Meter	\$41.67
3"	Meter	\$125.90
4"	Meter	\$206.09
6"	Meter	\$298.49
8"	Meter	\$459.57
10"	Meter	\$610.10
 <u>User Class</u>		
<u>Retail Volume Charge</u>		
Residential 1-3 CCF	CCF	\$4.10
Residential 4-7 CCF	CCF	\$5.95
Residential 8-16 CCF	CCF	\$8.11
Residential ≥17 CCF	CCF	\$10.42

Rate Schedule
Effective January 1, 2025

<u>User Class</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Retail Volume Charge		
Irrigation	CCF	\$10.42
Commercial	CCF	\$5.38
Industrial	CCF	\$5.38
Wholesale Volume Charge		
Contract Water Users North of the Arkansas River	CCF	\$3.90
Contract Water Users South of the Arkansas River	CCF	\$4.58

SECTION 2: The volumetric rate/charge for all direct retail users outside the corporate limits of the City of Fort Smith shall be 1.5 times the standard retail volumetric rate/charge of the applicable retail user class, as set forth in the rate schedules above.

SECTION 3: Low income residential users inside the corporate limits of the City of Fort Smith may apply for Project Concern. If the residential user meets the qualifications for Project Concern, base and volumetric rates for such user will be 0.5 times the standard base and volumetric residential rate.

SECTION 4: In addition to rates and charges established by this Ordinance, the City Administrator, through his/her authorized representative, is authorized and directed to cause the \$0.40 per active meter service per month charge mandated by Act 788 of 2019 (and any subsequent amended amount by subsequent legislation) to be collected and to cause the sum collected to be paid to the Arkansas Department of Health pursuant to Act 788 of 2019 and the subsequent legislation.

SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall not repeal the City's Water Conservation Code Codified at Section 25-136 to Section 25-143 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code.

SECTION 6: The codifier of the City's Ordinances may codify or not codify the provisions of this Ordinance at the codifier's discretion.

SECTION 7: Emergency Clause. It is hereby determined that the adoption of rates for services of the drinking water system of the City as set forth herein is essential to the proper operation and maintenance of the City's Water Utilities and Solid Waste Department. Therefore, an emergency is declared so that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect as of August 1, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of July 2024.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



_____ publish once

City of Fort Smith - Director Request to Add Items to July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 11, 2024 Special Meeting Agendas CORRECTION

Fort Smith, Arkansas sent this bulletin at 07/06/2024 02:56 PM CDT



Director Request to Add Items to July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting
and July 11, 2024 Special Meeting Agendas

MEDIA NOTIFICATION July 6, 2024

CORRECTION TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH. The previous Media Notification identified the incorrect concurring directors; therefore, such has been corrected below.

On Monday, July 1, 2024 at approximately 8:35 a.m., Director Lavon Morton submitted a request to the City Clerk's Office to add the following item to both the July 9, 2024 regular meeting and July 11, 2024 special meeting agendas:

*EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Performance Evaluation - City Administrator*

Director Morton acknowledged that the City Administrator will be out of town and not in attendance at the July 9, 2024 regular meeting; therefore, the purpose for the addition of same to the July 11, 2024 special meeting to allow the City Administrator to participate in the executive session at the immediately aforementioned special meeting.

The requested addition to the agendas requires the concurrence of four (4) directors; therefore, all remaining members of the Board of Directors were contacted with most being by voicemail message.

All, but one (1) director responded and initially, Directors Christina Catsavis and Neal Martin concurred with the request. Directors Kevin Settle, Andre' Good, and George Catsavis did not concur. Director Jarred Rego could not be reached.

The request requires the concurrence of four (4) directors prior to forty-eight (48) hours of the requested meeting date; therefore, the City Clerk's Office was awaiting response from the last director, which must be obtained by 6:00 p.m., Sunday, July 7, 2024.

Today, July 6, 2024, Director George Catsavis contacted the City Clerk and advised he now concurs with the requested additions to the July 9, 2024 regular meeting and July 11, 2024 special meeting.

Since concurrence of four (4) directors has now been obtained, i.e. Directors Lavon Morton, Christina Catsavis, Neal Marin, and George Catsavis, the above item has been placed on the July 9, 2024 regular meeting and July 11, 2024 special meeting agendas as requested.

Sherri Gard, MMC
City Clerk
479-784-2207
sgard@fortsmithar.gov

POWERED BY



City of Fort Smith - Director Request to Add Items to July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 11, 2024 Special Meeting Agendas

Fort Smith, Arkansas sent this bulletin at 07/06/2024 02:38 PM CDT



Director Request to Add Items to July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 11, 2024 Special Meeting Agendas

MEDIA NOTIFICATION **July 6, 2024**

On Monday, July 1, 2024 at approximately 8:35 a.m., Director Lavon Morton submitted a request to the City Clerk's Office to add the following item to both the July 9, 2024 regular meeting and July 11, 2024 special meeting agendas:

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Sherri Gard, MMC
City Clerk
479-784-2207
sgard@fortsmithar.gov

POWERED BY



City of Fort Smith Board of Directors - Special Meeting Called for July 11, 2024

Fort Smith, Arkansas sent this bulletin at 06/18/2024 09:45 PM CDT



Board of Directors Special Meeting Called for July 11, 2024

MEDIA NOTIFICATION June 18, 2024

At the City of Fort Smith Board of Directors June 18, 2024 regular meeting, Directors Jarred Rego, Lavon Morton, Kevin Settle, and Neal Martin called for a special meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 11, 2024 at the Blue Lion, 101 North 2nd Street, to consider the following item:

- *Ordinance to provide for rates for services of the drinking water system and superseding ordinances in conflict herewith ~ Morton/Good placed on agenda at the April 9, 2024 study session / Tabled at the April 16, 2024 regular meeting pending discussion at a special study session to include public comment / Morton/Good placed on May 21, 2024 regular meeting agenda at the May 7, 2024 regular meeting / Tabled at the May 21, 2024 regular meeting pending two (2) additional community input sessions / Placed on special meeting agenda at the June 18, 2024 regular meeting by concurrence of Directors Rego, Morton, Settle, and Martin ~ (Water Utilities)*

Once finalized, the agenda board packet for the special meeting will be uploaded to the City of Fort Smith website. When accomplished, Notice of same will be distributed in like manner.

Sherri Gard, MMC
City Clerk
479-784-2207
sgard@fortsmithar.gov

POWERED BY

