



ORDINANCE NO. 2024-15

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CITY OF RICHMOND ORDINANCE NO. 2022-31; ESTABLISHING WATER, WASTEWATER, SURFACE WATER, AND SOLID WASTE SERVICE RATES FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND, TEXAS, AND ORDERING OTHER MATTERS RELATIVE TO RENDERING WATER, WASTEWATER, SURFACE WATER, AND SOLID WASTE SERVICE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The current charges and rate schedules set for water, wastewater, surface water, and solid waste service have been reviewed by the City Commission and such rates and regulations for customers inside and outside the city limits are in need of adjustment.

The Commission finds that the proposed charges and rate schedules for water, wastewater, surface water, and solid waste service are just and necessary to continue the high level of service provided to our residents and customers.

The Commission hereby repeals Ordinance No. 2022-31 dated September 19, 2022 and adopts the following; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

Section 1. The monthly rates to be charged and collected by the City of Richmond, from all customers obtaining service from the City are hereby fixed as set forth below:

(a) WATER RATES

(1) Minimum Bill- all customers are assessed a minimum bill based on their meter size. See table below:

5/8" Meter	\$16.71 minimum monthly charge
1" Meter	\$23.39 minimum monthly charge
1.5" Meter	\$30.08 minimum monthly charge
2" Meter	\$48.46 minimum monthly charge
3" Meter	\$183.80 minimum monthly charge
4" Meter	\$233.93 minimum monthly charge
6" Meter	\$350.89 minimum monthly charge
8" Meter	\$484.56 minimum monthly charge
10" Meter	\$668.37 minimum monthly charge

(2) **Volumetric Rates** - Customers are also billed a fee based on their respective consumption amounts based on customer classification. See table below:



Residential Volumetric Rates

First 2,000 gallons (minimum)	See minimum bill table above
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 2,000	\$2.92 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 5,000	\$3.20 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 10,000	\$3.47 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 20,000	\$3.75 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 50,000	\$4.03 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 75,000	\$4.32 per 1,000 gallons

Irrigation Volumetric Rates

First 5,000 gallons	\$3.85 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 5,000	\$4.13 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 10,000	\$4.41 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 20,000	\$4.69 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 50,000	\$4.96 per 1,000 gallons
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 75,000	\$5.25 per 1,000 gallons

Volumetric Rates for All other Classes

Schools	\$4.90 per 1,000 gallons
Government	\$4.90 per 1,000 gallons
Cooling Towers	\$5.66 per 1,000 gallons
Commercial	\$4.90 per 1,000 gallons
Industrial	\$4.22 per 1,000 gallons

- (3) **Rates for Customer outside City Limits:** Not including those customers within developments with Strategic Partnership Agreements, the rates for customers outside the City of Richmond shall be two (2) times the City rate set forth above.

(b) SURFACE WATER RATES

A fee of \$2.98 per thousand gallons will be assessed as a groundwater reduction fee. This fee will be retained to meet the unfunded mandates set forth by the Fort Bend Subsidence District in reducing groundwater pumpage.

(c) WASTEWATER RATES

(1) Residential Rates—In City

First 2,000 gallons

\$24.98 Minimum



(minimum)	Monthly Charge
Residential Senior Usage per 1,000 gallons over 2,000	\$19.98 Minimum \$3.75 Volumetric Rate

Residential Customer Wastewater Rates are determined by winter water consumption for months January, February, and March.

New customers, with no historical usage, are billed for wastewater usage at the City's overall winter water consumption.

(2) Commercial Rates—In City

First 2,000 gallons (minimum)	\$24.98 minimum monthly charge
Usage per 1,000 gallons over 2,000	\$3.75 volumetric rate

Commercial Rates are billed based on monthly water consumption.

(3) Rates for Customer outside City Limits: Not including those customers within developments with Strategic Partnership Agreements, the rates for customers outside the City of Richmond shall be up to two (2) times the City rate set forth above.

(d) RECLAIMED WATER RATES

Unless provided in a specific agreement with another governmental entity, reclaimed water will be provided to customers at the discretion of the City. Customers who receive reclaimed water will be charged at a rate of \$1.68 per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(e) BULK WATER

No deposit will be required for bulk water purchased at the City of Richmond City Hall. Bulk water customers will be charged \$5.15 per one thousand (1,000) gallons assessed for the usage of bulk water within city limits. At the discretion of the City of Richmond, a construction meter may be set for construction purposes with a deposit of a minimum of \$1,600; said deposit to be adjusted by the City Manager as needed.

SECTION 2. SOLID WASTE SERVICE RATES

Single family residential per month \$22.00
 Charges for Special Services as provided in waste hauling contract.
 Single family residential service outside the City of Richmond shall be two (2) times the per month set forth above.



Multi-family residential. Monthly rates will be set according to volume and frequency of pickups including charges for overfilled containers and extra pickups; at a rate consistent with 15% above the cost to provide service, as provided in the waste hauling contract.

Shops and small business establishments. Monthly rates will be set according to volume and frequency of pickups at a rate consistent with 15% above cost to provide service, as set forth in the waste hauling contract.

All others, including large shops, stores, restaurants, and other commercial businesses. Monthly rates will be set according to volume and frequency of pickups at a rate consistent with 15% above cost to provide service, as set forth in the waste hauling contract.

Dumpster rental rate. Monthly rates will be set according to volume and frequency of pickups, as set forth in the waste hauling contract.

Special Pickup At Cost + 15%

The rates established by this Section 2 are subject to adjustment as follows: The fees for the solid waste collection and disposal services, after February 2023 and annually thereafter may be adjusted upward or downward to reflect changes in the cost of operations, as reflected by fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index.

The following series from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will be used in the calculation:

CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

Series Title: All items in Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX, urban wage earners and clerical workers, not seasonally adjusted

Series ID: CWURS37BSA0

Seasonality: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Survey Name: CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

Measure Data Type: All items

Area: Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX

Item: All items

After February 2023 and annually thereafter (the "Rate Modification Date"), the fees shall be increased or decreased for the period beginning October 1st of that year. In the event that the BLS series report specified above is no longer published, updated, or otherwise hinders the calculation of the rate, the City may determine an alternative BLS report to use. In no case will the increase or decrease in the rates, based on the CPI, exceed 2.5%.

SECTION 3. FROZEN PIPES

No deductions will be made for the time any service pipe may be frozen. No deductions will be made for running water to prevent pipes from freezing.



SECTION 4. DEPOSITS

The deposit required for residential services is **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)**. Senior citizens, age 65 years or above, shall be required to pay a deposit of **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$75.00)** for services. The deposit will be offset against any balance on the customer's account upon discontinuance, disconnection, or termination of the account. The remainder of deposit, if any, shall be mailed to the customer. The amount of the required deposit for all commercial/industrial or combination residential and commercial/industrial service shall be based upon the estimated water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste charges for two (2) months.

SECTION 5. DISCOUNTS

Persons over the age of sixty-five (65) years shall receive a discount of five dollars (\$5.00) on single-family residential water service and five dollars (\$5.00) on single family residential wastewater service, upon application to the utility billing department.

SECTION 6. City Manager or Finance Director shall have the authority to adjust monthly charges on water or wastewater due to excess usage from leakage on the customer side of connection. Adjustment will be calculated from the last twelve (12) months billing cycles and averaged. Adjustments will be limited to one (1) time, per calendar year, per customer. Customers who fill their swimming pools may call the city to request a reading of the water meter before they fill the pool and then once the pool has been filled for an adjustment to their wastewater bill.

SECTION 7. (a) All bills for services rendered by the water and wastewater systems shall be paid monthly by the due date as shown. If the bill is not paid by the following month's bill, a 10 percent (10%) past due service charge will be assessed and a past due notice, requesting payment, will be sent to the customer. The customer may request a hearing with the City Manager, or her designee, to determine if there are sufficient circumstances to warrant the failure to timely pay the outstanding bill. If such bill is not paid within five (5) days after the past due notice water service will be discontinued.

(b) All bills for solid waste collection and services shall be paid monthly by the due date as shown. If the bill is not paid by the following month's bill, a 10 percent (10%) past due service charge will be assessed and a past due notice, requesting payment, will be sent to the customer. If such bill is not paid within five (5) days after the past due notice solid waste service will be discontinued. Accumulation of solid waste will be treated as a nuisance under Article IV "Unhealthy, Unsightly, and Unsafe Conditions," of Chapter 22 "Nuisances," of the Richmond Code.

SECTION 8. RECONNECT FEE

In the event of discontinuance of services an additional sum of **THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$35.00)** shall be charged for reconnection to the system.

SECTION 9. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

Where payment for any fine, fee, permit, license, service, or other item is required by this or any other ordinance or resolution of the City and such payment is made by check, a **THIRTY DOLLAR (\$30.00)** fee shall be charged if the check is returned for any reason by the issuer's bank.



Section 10. Repeal. Any ordinance or other part of any other ordinance in conflict herewith shall be and is hereby repealed only to the extent of such conflict.

Section 11. Severability. In the event any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, provision, sentence or part of this Ordinance or the application of the same to any person or circumstance shall for any reason be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect, impair, or invalidate this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provision hereof other than the part declared to be invalid or unconstitutional; and the City Commission of the City of Richmond, Texas, declares that it would have passed each and every part of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, or whether there be one or more parts.

Section 12. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective on October 1, 2024, from and after its adoption and approval.

Passed and approved this the 16th day of September, 2024.




Carl A. Drozd, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Gary W. Smith, City Attorney