

City of Tonganoxie
2020 Utility Rate Structure Changes Information

Beginning with February 1, 2020 utility billing, customers may notice that utility rates have been revised. The information below outlines the changes that were approved in October 2019.

Why is it necessary to change water and sewer rates?

The City of Tonganoxie is responsible for providing safe and reliable drinking water & sanitary sewer service to residents 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. In 2019 the City of Tonganoxie worked with Carl Brown of GettingGreatRates.com, a third-party consultant, to complete the first comprehensive utility rate study in over 20 years. A utility rate study is a set of calculations used to compute the necessary consumer charges. The desired type of rate structure for Tonganoxie, referred to as “cost of service,” allows the utility to recover the cost associated with providing & maintaining the utility service and to allow for reasonable fund balance to prepare for future high-cost infrastructure needs. Ultimately, the analysis provided a sound basis to project the utility’s variable, and capacity costs. The full report can be found on the City’s website.

With receipt of the study report, the City Council had a clear evaluation tool which allowed for reliable water and sewer service provision and ensured that average users would not face drastic future rate hikes. The newly approved rate structure is based on both water meter sizes and usage levels. Ordinance 1476, which enacted the adjustment to water and sewer rate structure, was approved by the City Council on October 7, 2019 and the ordinance summary was published in the *Tonganoxie Mirror* on October 16, 2019. The new rate structure takes effect on bills generated February 1, 2020 and minimum charges listed for meters larger than 1" are effective July 1, 2021.

What changed?

Major changes in the rate structure include:

- Changing the basis of monthly minimum charges for water & sewer to be based on water meter size
- Incorporating the “debt service” charge within the monthly minimum charges for water & sewer
- Removing the 1,000 gallon “credit” included in previous monthly minimum charges
- Adjusting the unit charge per 1,000 gallons for both water and sewer
- Changing system development fees or “connection fees” to be based on water meter size
- Temporary adjustment (until July 1, 2021) of the monthly water & sewer minimum charges for properties with meters over 1” in size

How will my utility bill be impacted?

Depending on the number of gallons of water utilized per month, a customer should see only a slight increase in their monthly utility bill. Assuming just the utilization of water, sewer, and trash service from the City by a user with a 5/8” water meter, the estimated impact on monthly utility bills would be as follows:

Usage	2019 Utility Bill	2020 Utility Bill
Minimum user (<1,000 Gallons)	\$61.27	\$55.17
2,000 Gallon User	\$71.56	\$76.79
4,000 Gallon User	\$92.14	\$98.41
6,000 Gallon User	\$112.72	\$120.03
12,000 Gallon User	\$174.46	\$184.89

The Tonganoxie City Council is committed to keeping utility rates fair and reasonable for residents & businesses and seeks to find ways to reduce costs and maximize efficiencies. To learn more about the City’s budget or the 2019 Utility Rate Analysis Study, please visit <https://www.tonganoxie.org/utilities/pages/2019-water-and-sewer-rate-study-analysis>

City of **Tonganoxie**

Billing Item	2019 Monthly Rates	2020 Monthly Rates
Water Charges	0 – 1,000 gallons: \$11.46 Unit Charge per 1,000 gallons: \$5.70	Minimum based on water meter size. See table below.
Sewer Charges	0 – 1,000 gallons: \$17.81 Unit Charge per 1,000 gallons: \$4.59	Minimum based on water meter size. See table below.
Debt Service	\$11.50	Included within Water & Sewer Minimums
Trash Charges	\$16.00	\$16.00
Recycling (Optional)	\$4.50	\$4.50
Extra Container (Optional)	\$3.00	\$3.00
Fire Special Assessment	\$3.00	\$3.00
Connect/Reconnect Fee	\$30.00	\$30.00

2020 Rates became effective February 1, 2020.

*Minimum charges listed for meters larger than 1" are effective July 1, 2021.

WATER Minimums by Meter Size			
Meter Size	Monthly Minimum	Unit Charge Per \$1,000 Gallons	System Development Fee
5/8"	\$ 18.73	\$ 6.32	\$ 3,000
3/4"	\$ 18.73	\$ 6.32	\$ 3,000
1" and Larger*	\$ 30.68	\$ 6.32	\$ 3,538
1 1/2"	\$ 50.61	\$ 6.32	\$ 4,434
2"	\$ 74.51	\$ 6.32	\$ 5,510
2 1/2"	\$ 110.38	\$ 6.32	\$ 7,124
3"	\$ 138.27	\$ 6.32	\$ 8,917
4"	\$ 209.99	\$ 6.32	\$ 13,759
6"	\$ 409.23	\$ 6.32	\$ 25,952
8"	\$ 648.32	\$ 6.32	\$ 52,849
10"	\$ 1,684.35	\$ 6.32	\$ 77,953
SEWER Minimums by Meter Size			
Meter Size	Monthly Minimum	Unit Charge Per \$1,000 Gallons	System Development Fee
5/8"	\$ 15.94	\$ 4.49	\$ 3,000
3/4"	\$ 15.94	\$ 4.49	\$ 3,000
1" and Larger*	\$ 32.24	\$ 4.49	\$ 3,733
1 1/2"	\$ 59.40	\$ 4.49	\$ 4,956
2"	\$ 92.01	\$ 4.49	\$ 6,423
2 1/2"	\$ 140.91	\$ 4.49	\$ 8,624
3"	\$ 178.94	\$ 4.49	\$ 11,069
4"	\$ 276.74	\$ 4.49	\$ 17,670
6"	\$ 548.42	\$ 4.49	\$ 34,297
8"	\$ 874.43	\$ 4.49	\$ 70,973
10"	\$ 2,287.14	\$ 4.49	\$ 105,204

For questions related to your utility bill, please call City Hall at (913) 845-2620.