



\$2.00 Rate increase for Water to take affect September 1, 2018 for all utility customers.

The new base rate for Water, Sewer, Storm and Water Bond will be \$80.80 for residential customers.

Each year during the budget process the city staff, budget committee and finance committee looks at the current utility rates and the funds that are needed to complete future projects that ensure safe drinking water for the city. The budget committee approved a rate increase of \$2.00 for both the Water and Storm Water Rates, but at the June 23rd City Council Meeting the City Council approved a \$2.00 Storm Water Rate increase affective August 1, 2018 but did not approve a rate increase for water.

Since this council meeting the city was notified of an increase in insurance for worker's compensation as well as general liability and auto. There was no previous notification given of these increases. We were also notified of a requirement to produce a Water Management and Conservation Plan in order to become compliant with our water permit rights. These increases will cost the city an additional \$25,000 during this fiscal year.

The Water Fund has seen a rate increase total of \$1.12 in the past 10 years while our expenses to maintain our current standard have increased about 9% each year over the past 5 years.

The City Council makes every effort to keep utility rates as low as possible, but it was determined at the City Council Meeting on July 23rd that a rate increase was needed as soon as possible and it couldn't wait until next year.

We know that rate increases can cause a hardship for some households and we have information on local resources that may be able to provide some assistance. You can reach out to Tracy at City Hall if you would like more information on these programs. Her email address is tracy.jensen@ci.monroe.or.us or you can call her at (541) 847-5175.