Where does my utility payment go each month?

The **base rate** for one residential utility customer per month is:

$80.80*

Effective September 1, 2018

$28.48—for Water

$7.12—General Operating Expenses

- Chemicals
- Permit Fees
- Equipment
- Operating Supplies
- Professional Development
- Much More

$10.25—Personnel Expenses

- Administrative Staff
- Public Works Staff

$11.11—Capital Outlay Projects

Projects completed in FY 2017-2018

- Water Meter Upgrades
- SCADA System Upgrades
- Water Reservoir Cleaning

Projects Scheduled for FY 2018-2019

- Permanent Water Source Project
- Updating Water System Master Plan
- New Water Treatment Plant Software
- Emergency preparedness for water treatment plant
- Water Meter Upgrades

$35.47—Sewer

$8.16—General Operating Expenses

- Operating Supplies
- Chemicals
- Permit Fees
- Professional Development
- Much More

$12.77—Personnel Expenses

- Administration staff (billing staff)
- Public Works staff

$14.54—Capital Outlay Projects

- Upgrades to the Testing Process
- Future Upgrades for Equipment
- Televising and Analysis of Sewer Lines

$6.00 Stormwater

$2.58— General Operating Expenses

- Supplies
- Maintenance and Repairs
- Tools
- Equipment

$0.90—Personnel Costs

- Public Works Staff

$2.52—Capital Outlay Projects

Projects completed in FY 2017-2018

- 7th to 8th Street
- 8th Street ditch and culvert upgrade

Projects scheduled for FY 2017-2018

- Main Street
- 9th Street from Commercial to Orchard
- 6th/7th Street to Pine

$10.85 Water Bond

$10.85—to pay water revenue bond

Bonds are loans made to large corporations or government entities.

This bond allowed the city to complete a new water treatment facility and upgrade our water quality.

This bond was approved for $555,520 at 4.5% interest rate for 40 years.

Our payoff date for this bond is September, 2048.

Inside the water treatment plant

*Please note this rate does not include water charges over the base amount of 4,000 gallons

Each year the utility rates are reviewed through the budget process. Rates are based on funds needed to complete future projects that ensure the quality of service maintains or increases at the level it is at currently. Before the budget is adopted there is always a public hearing during a City Council meeting. Public input is always encouraged during this process.

Water Utility Rates—The base water rate has increased a total of $1.12 over the past 10 years. The city works hard to ensure safe drinking water for the community and follows the state mandated standards:

- Protect the drinking water source
- Practice effective water treatment
- Conduct regular monitoring for contaminants to assure safety
- Protect the distribution system piping and finished water storage from recontamination
- Practice competent water system operation, maintenance, and construction

On average, our expenses to maintain this standard has increased around 9% each year for the past 5 years.

In 2018-2019, the city staff will be working on updating the City's Water Master Plan, and securing a permanent permit for year round water, updating our emergency preparedness equipment, and installing new water treatment plant software. In addition to these projects city staff will be continuing to replace the old water meters to a radio read water meter. Water meters wear out over time and often don't function at the capacity they should be. More importantly, a water meter registers the amount of water delivered to a customer so an appropriate bill for that water can be charged. That charge determines the amount of revenue the City receives. Water that is not registered through inefficient meters is considered "lost water" or unaccounted for water. A goal of the Water Meter Replacement program is to account for all of the water that is dispersed through the City's distribution system. Lost water has a fiscal impact on the City because lost water does not generate revenue but still costs the City to pump, treat, and distribute the water and thus the ratepayers ultimately have to pay for it.

Sewer Utility Rates—Oregon law requires owners of wastewater systems and drinking water systems (public and private) to have their systems under responsible control and direction of certified operators. Trained and certified operators are necessary to ensure that the systems are managed in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. Dave Claborn our Public Works Superintendent is a certified operator. Dave and the rest of our Public Works team follow all rules and regulations the state mandates for wastewater treatment.

This year City staff will be working on televising part of the wastewater system to determine where the most significant I & I (Inflow and Infiltration) is occurring. I & I is clean stormwater, and/or groundwater that enters the sewer system through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, or improperly connected storm drains, down spouts and sump pumps. Most inflow comes from stormwater and most infiltration comes from groundwater. I & I increases the amount of wastewater that enters the system and needs to be treated. In addition to televising the lines, public works staff will be working on updating in-house testing.

StormWater Utility Rates—In 2015 the city contracted with an engineering firm to look at our current Storm Water System and create a Storm Water Master Plan. This Storm Water Master Plan provides an overview of the existing Storm Water facilities within the study area, as well as identifies any piping deficiencies due to sizing, age, or other factors. All of the existing storm drain system components were analyzed for deficiencies that exist presently. Facilities have also been evaluated for deficiencies that are expected to occur within a 20-year planning period. Deficiencies were identified related to the age of infrastructure, anticipated development, and capacity. To repair and update our system the engineering firm recommended 6 projects to be completed that total just under $1.5 millions dollars. Two of these projects were recommended to be completed within 5 years from the date the Storm Water Plan was completed (2015).

In November of 2013, the city established a funding mechanism to address issues with Storm Water, by implementing a Storm Water Fee to all utility customers. Since this fund started 5 years ago the city has received just under $40,000 in total revenue. Our public works staff completed two storm water projects this fiscal year and have three more projects planned next fiscal year. With limited funds and staff time, the plan is to complete smaller projects right now while working on creating the revenue to tackle the larger projects.