

Utility Rate Study and Culinary Water Increase

For the past few months, the Highland City Council has been working on updating the City's Master and Maintenance Plans for our utility systems including culinary water, pressurized irrigation, sewer, and storm drain. *These updates ensure that the City's utility systems are maintained and upgraded appropriately so that services continue to run smoothly for Highland residents now and in the future.*

While updating these plans, the City found that there is a need for a new culinary water well. As growth has occurred in Highland and surrounding areas, ground water has gone deeper and one of our wells that was first dug in 1986 is no longer able to reach current ground water levels. Digging this well deeper will allow the City to bring this well back online and again use it to provide drinking water to the City.

If the City moved forward with this well project in addition to the standard system maintenance, the Culinary Water Fund would run out of funds by 2023 without a revenue increase. As a result, the City Council is considering raising culinary water rates. *This increase would mean most Highland residents would see a monthly increase of \$3.67 on their utility bill* (see table below for rate details). This increase will allow the City to continue with needed maintenance and capital projects in our culinary system so that we can continue to deliver clean drinking water to residents.

Residential Culinary Water Rate	Current	Proposed	Difference (monthly)
Base (0-5,999 gallons)	\$12.24	\$15.91	\$3.67
Overage (6,000-15,999 gallons)	\$0.78 per thousand gallons	\$1.01 per thousand gallons	\$0.23
Overage (16,000+ gallons)	\$2.04 per thousand gallons	\$2.65 per thousand gallons	\$0.61

The plan updates showed that the pressurized irrigation, sewer, and storm drain funds all have the appropriate amount of funding to keep up on the proper maintenance and capital projects. As such, no increases are being considered for any of those funds.

Highland has not raised any utility rates since the 2016 Utility Rate Study. *Even with this increase, Highland's rate will be the lowest of surrounding cities' and over \$6 per month less than the average of the Alpine, American Fork, Cedar Hills, Highland's proposed, Lehi, and Pleasant Grove rates.* (see right)

The City Council will continue discussing this proposal at the May 18 City Council meeting. If adopted, the new culinary rate would take effect on the July utility bill. For more information about the potential rate change, please visit www.HighlandCity.org or call 801-756-5751.

