

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01-11**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-12-08-02, RELATIVE TO ADOPTING MONTHLY WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL, MULTI-FAMILY, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY THAT ANY VIOLATION OF THE TERMS OF THIS ORDINANCE IS DECLARED TO BE A MISDEMEANOR AND ANY PERSON FOUND TO BE GUILTY THEREOF SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00), EACH DAY THAT SUCH VIOLATION CONTINUES SHALL CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE OFFENSE AND SHALL BE PUNISHABLE ACCORDINGLY; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Princeton is a General A Law Municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes the need for efficient use of existing water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to ensure that the community develops in a manner which reflects the objectives and values of the community's citizenry, property owners and decision makers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Princeton, Texas, does find and determine that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Princeton, Texas, to provide an ordinance which sets rates to be charged for water and wastewater service within and outside the City of Princeton, Texas, to residential customers, multi-family customers, commercial customers, industrial customers and wholesale customers and hereby amends Ordinance No. 2015-12-08-02; therefor

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS:**

**Section 1. ESTABLISHING UTILITY RATES**

That the water and wastewater rates for the City of Princeton, Texas, attached hereto as Utility Rates – Exhibit "A" and made part hereof for all purposes is, and the same hereby, adopted as the official policy of the City.

**Section 2. DEFINITIONS**

Words or phrases not expressly prescribed herein are to be defined in accordance with other applicable ordinances of the City. In the

absence of such ordinances, such words or phrases shall be in accordance with their customary usage in municipal government. For the purposes of this Ordinance, wastewater and sanitary sewer have the same intended meaning and are thereby interchangeable.

*Commercial Customers:* Generally defined as customers whose business is primarily engaged in the sale of goods, commodities or services to consumers.

*Industrial Customers:* Generally defined as customers whose business is primarily engaged in manufacturing, processing, assembling or storing/distributing products or goods.

*Inside Customers:* Generally defined as customers who are connected to the water/wastewater system within the corporate limits of said City.

*Multi-Family Customers:* Generally defined as customers with two (2) or more dwelling units served by a single meter.

*Outside Customers:* Generally defined as customers who are connected to the water/wastewater system outside of the corporate limits of said City.

*Public Facility:* A facility owned, leased or under the responsibility of the City of Princeton.

*Residential Customers:* Generally defined as customers that are single family or separately metered duplex dwelling units, or other premises containing dwelling units for which each unit is individually metered.

*Wholesale Customers:* Generally defined as customers to whom the City sells water for resale or use under the terms of a specific agreement.

### **Section 3. MONTHLY WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES**

It is the intent of this Section that the City be paid for water and wastewater service for each consumer according to the applicable rates established in Exhibit "A", whether or not they are on a separate meter. Where more than one customer is connected to one or more meters, the minimum rate will be charged for each customer connected thereto.

#### **3.1 Monthly Water Rates**

All water shall be metered and paid for in accordance with the applicable rates established in Exhibit "A". All unmetered water

shall constitute theft of service and shall be subject to penalties specified under Section 6.

Residential, commercial and industrial designated accounts will be charged a minimum base amount based on the water meter size plus the applicable volume rate per 1,000 gallons for all usage.

Hotel/motel designated accounts will be charged a minimum base amount per room at the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " water meter rate plus the applicable volume rate per 1,000 gallons for all usage over 2,000 gallons per room. The occupancy rate for this type of use shall be figured at 65%.

Public facility designated accounts will be charged the applicable volume rate per 1,000 gallons of usage.

Wholesale designated accounts will be charged the applicable volume rate per 1,000 gallons of usage and in accordance with the specific terms of each wholesale agreement.

### **3.2 Monthly Wastewater Rates**

Wastewater usage shall be determined as detailed in this subsection and shall be paid for in accordance with the applicable rates established in Exhibit "A". All unauthorized sanitary sewer connections shall constitute theft of service and shall be subject to penalties specified under Section 6.

Metered wastewater usage will be charged based on the applicable volume charges per 1,000 gallons supplied.

### **3.3 Adjustments**

Water adjustments are averaged over the previous 3 months and the following 2 months. Leak adjustments are only done once per year. Leak adjustments may take up to 3 months in some cases in order to assure the proper adjustment.

### **3.4 Water Service New Connections**

Customer service connection fee shall be \$50.00. The water service deposit shall be \$150.00. The total of \$200.00 is due upon connection of service. Upon request for discontinuance of service and after final and full billing any remaining service deposit will be refunded.

### **3.5 Water Service Late Fee**

After the 10th day of the month a past due amount of ten percent (10%) or a minimum of \$10.00 will accrue.

### **3.6 Water Reconnection Fee**

Non-payment of utility billing after the 20th of the month will require service to be disconnected. Service will be reconnected after the following fees have been paid.

- a. During regular business hours the fee is \$40.00
- b. During non-business hours the fee is \$80.00

## **Section 4. NOTICE**

Within 60 days after approval of this Ordinance, the City Secretary or Utility Billing Department is directed to provide written notice to each ratepayer who resides outside the corporate limits of the City of the new rates. The notice shall include, at a minimum, the effective date of the new rates, the new rates, and the location where additional information on rates can be obtained. Notice may be provided electronically if the City has access to a ratepayer's email address.

## **Section 5. PENALTY**

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance or who shall fail to comply with any provision hereof shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable accordingly.

## **Section 6. PUBLICATION**

The caption of this Ordinance shall be published one (1) time in the official newspaper for such publication of the City of Princeton.

## **Section 7 SEVERABILITY**

That should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this Ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole, or any part or provision thereof other than the part so decided to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional.

**Section 8. CONFLICTS**

Any and all Ordinances or portions thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed and superseded to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 9. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall be effective upon its passage by the City Council and publication as required by law.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS,  
THIS 11TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.**

APPROVED:



John-Mark Caldwell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lesia Thornhill, City Secretary