



CITY OF BINGEN NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2008

Proposed Water and Sewer Rates

The City will hold a public hearing November 18 on proposed water and sewer rates for 2008. In 2006, the city adopted an ordinance that provides for an automatic 5% increase (rounded to the nearest dollar) for water and sewer rates.

Revenue from water and sewer rates provides for the operation and maintenance costs of both systems. In addition, sewer revenue pays for a portion of the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant.

Funds are also set aside for capital improvements and equipment purchases and to make debt payments.

After a careful analysis of the rates for water and sewer, the city council is considering applying the 5% increase that would normally occur in the sewer rate to an additional increase in the water rate. A public hearing on the proposed water and sewer rates is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Base Water Rates

Type of User	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	2009 Proposed	% Change
Residential	\$17.50	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$23.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	11%
Commercial	\$31.00	\$37.00	\$39.00	\$41.00	\$43.00	\$47.00	9%
Light Industrial/Agricultural	\$93.00	\$112.00	\$117.00	\$123.00	\$129.00	\$142.00	9%
Heavy Industrial	\$310.00	\$372.00	\$390.00	\$410.00	\$430.00	\$473.00	9%

Percentage rates vary due to rounding.

Overage charges for water will increase from \$1.10 to \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons over allocated amount (6,000 gallons for residential users and 10,000 gallons for all other users).

Monthly Base Sewer Rates

Type of User	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	2009 Proposed	% Change
Residential	\$27.00	\$33.00	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$38.00	\$38.00	0%
Commercial	\$27.00	\$33.00	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$38.00	\$38.00	0%
Light Industrial/Agricultural	\$27.00	\$33.00	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$38.00	\$38.00	0%
Heavy Industrial	\$27.00	\$33.00	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$38.00	\$38.00	0%

Overage charges for sewer will stay the same – \$14.00 per ½ ERU. Residential customers are not charged overage charges for sewer.

Upcoming Public Hearings

- Water/Sewer Rate Increase
- 2009 Proposed Budget

The City will hold a public hearings on both items at its November 18 city council meeting scheduled at 7:00 p.m. at Bingen City Hall.

Information on these items or copies of documents can be obtained from city hall or by calling 509-493-2122.

Public comment will be taken at the hearings. Written comment can also be submitted to City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on November 18.

Bingen Council Members and Staff

Brian Prigel, Mayor
Sandi Dickey, Council Member
Laura Mann, Council Member
Betty Barnes, Council Member
Terry Trantow, Council Member
Tim Hearn, Council Member

Jan Brending, City Administrator
Dena Riggleman, Deputy Clerk
David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent
Jay Hicks, Public Works Maintenance
Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Manager
James Buckland, Treatment Plant Operator

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