

1 Introduced May 28, 2024, by Councilman  
2 Tamborella, seconded by Councilwoman  
3 Haggerty, (by request of Administration)

4 **Item No. 24-05-3536**

5  
6 **ORDINANCE NO. 4184**

7 An ordinance amending Articles II and III of Chapter 28 of the City of Slidell's  
8 Code of Ordinances with respect to utility fees for City water and sewer services.  
9

10 WHEREAS in order to meet the fiscal need to charge fair market rates to  
11 operate and maintain the City's water and sewer systems, it is necessary and appropriate  
12 to amend the user fees for such services as set forth in Chapter 28 of the City's Code of  
13 Ordinances.  
14  
15

16 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council as follows:  
17

18 1. Chapter 28, Article II, Division 1 of the Code, at section 28-29(a) and (b) is  
19 amended and restated, and section 28-29(h) is added, to read as follows:  
20

21 (a) The monthly rate for the service of water to residences and commercial and  
22 industrial establishments within the city limits who have no water meters shall  
23 be the sum of \$35.02 a month for residential, and \$43.74 a month for  
24 commercial and industrial establishments, except for single offices with no  
25 more than one sink and one toilet, the rate shall be \$34.87. At such time  
26 when water meters are installed at such residences and commercial and  
27 industrial establishments, water will be billed at the rate as outlined in  
28 subsection (b) of this section. There shall be no free service to any consumer  
29 connected to the water system of the city.  
30

31 (b) Where water meters are installed for residences and commercial and  
32 industrial users, the following monthly rate shall be charged for water service  
33 furnished by the city:

34 Residential:

35 First 5,000 gallons .....\$24.76

36 Thereafter, each 1,000 gallons .....\$2.39

37 Commercial:

38 First 5,000 gallons .....\$27.17

39 Thereafter, each 1,000 gallons .....\$2.39

1 **ORDINANCE NO. 4184**  
2 **ITEM NO. 24-05-3536**  
3 **PAGE 2**

4  
5 \* \* \* \*

6 (h) At the start of each fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, and at the start of  
7 every fiscal year thereafter, the utility rates set forth in this section shall be  
8 adjusted up by five (5%) percent from the then existing rates, without further  
9 action of the council.

10  
11 2. Chapter 28, Article II, Division 1 of the Code, at section 28-34(a) is amended and  
12 restated, and section 28-34(c) is added, to read as follows:

13 (a) The following monthly rate for the service of water to residences and  
14 businesses not in the city limits shall be charged:

15 (1) Where no meters are installed, the charge for residences shall be  
16 \$58.26.

17 (2) Where meters are installed, the charge for residences shall be a  
18 minimum charge of \$58.26 and \$4.78 per 1,000 gallons in excess of  
19 15,000.

20 (3) Where no meters are installed, the charge for businesses shall be  
21 \$87.31.

22 (4) Where meters are installed, the charge for businesses shall be a  
23 minimum of \$87.31, plus \$4.96 per 1,000 gallons in excess of 16,000.

24 \* \* \* \*

25 (c) At the start of each fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, and at the start of  
26 every fiscal year thereafter, the utility rates set forth in this section shall be  
27 adjusted up by five (5%) percent from the then existing rates, without further  
28 action of the council.

29  
30  
31 3. Chapter 28, Article III, Division 2 of the Code, at section 28-131(c)(1) and (2) is  
32 amended and restated, and section 28-131(n) is added, to read as follows:

33 \* \* \* \*

34 (c) Rates and charges. The rates and charges for the use of the wastewater  
35 services of the city, for each and every residence, commercial or industrial  
36 establishment now or hereafter connected to the city's treatment facilities  
37 shall be in accordance with the following:  
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1 **ORDINANCE NO. 4184**  
2 **ITEM NO. 24-05-3536**  
3 **PAGE 3**

4  
5 (1) Minimum charge.

6  
7 a. The monthly rate for the collection and disposal of sewage to  
8 residences and commercial establishments within the city limits  
9 who have no water meters shall be according to the following  
10 schedule: \$42.53 per month, except for single offices with no  
11 more than one sink and one toilet, the rate shall be \$31.37.

12 b. The monthly rate for residential and commercial users who  
13 have water meters shall be as follows:

14 First 4,000 gallons .....\$22.72

15  
16 Each additional 1,000 gallons up to 20,000 .....\$4.28

17  
18 Each additional 1,000 gallons thereafter .....\$3.59  
19

20 For residential customers, the above rates for greater than 4,000 gallons  
21 shall be reduced by ten percent for June, July, and August readings.  
22

23 (2) Monthly rate. The monthly rate for commercial users outside the city  
24 limits who have water meters installed shall be according to the  
25 following schedule:  
26

27 First 16,000 gallons .....\$90.22

28  
29 Each additional 1,000 gallons up to 24,000 gallons .....\$8.54

30  
31 Each additional 1,000 gallons thereafter .....\$7.00  
32

33 \* \* \* \*

34  
35 (n) At the start of each fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, and at the start of  
36 every fiscal year thereafter, the utility rates set forth in this section shall be  
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1 **ORDINANCE NO. 4184**  
2 **ITEM NO. 24-05-3536**  
3 **PAGE 4**

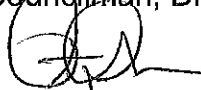
4 adjusted up by five (5%) percent from the then existing rates, without further  
5 action of the council.  
6

7 These amendments and restatements shall become effective July 1, 2024.  
8  
9

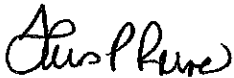
10 **ADOPTED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.  
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12 

13  
14 Kenny Tamborella  
15 President of the Council  
16 Councilman, District E

17 

18 Greg Cromer  
19 Mayor

20  
21 

22 Thomas P. Reeves  
23 Council Administrator

DELIVERED	6/28/24
1:00pm	to the Mayor
RECEIVED	7/9/24
3:16 pm	from the Mayor

(b) The city shall install backflow prevention devices or methods on all new residential domestic water connections or as deemed necessary by the City of Slidell and shall assess a fee of \$50.00 per meter for such installation.

(c) The sewer connection fee shall be \$850.00, plus a \$60.00 set-up fee.

(d) All such charges shall be due and payable by the property owner upon submission of an application for a building permit or, if no building permit is required, an application for sewer or water connection.

(e) The tap fee specified in subsection (a) of this section may be increased in the event that replacement of concrete, asphalt or landscaping and the like is required as a result of making the connection. The city shall determine any such additional cost which shall be paid in accordance with subsection (c) hereof.

(Code 1966, § 20-5; Ord. No. 3017, 7-10-2001; Ord. No. 3321, 3-14-2006; Ord. No. 3404, 6-12-2007; Ord. No. 3643, 3-13-2012; Ord. No. 3745, 10-28-2014)

**Sec. 28-26. Work done by city in connecting and disconnecting water services; fees.**

If water service to a customer is scheduled to be discontinued by the city due to nonpayment or late payment of the water bill account, a service charge of \$50.00 shall be charged to such customer.

(Code 1966, § 20-5.1; Ord. No. 3017, 7-10-2001; Ord. No. 3179, 4-27-2004; Ord. No. 3659, 6-26-2012)

**Sec. 28-27. Work done by owner in making connection.**

Each property owner required to connect with the city waterworks system shall make all other connections from his property line to the premises.

(Code 1966, § 20-6)

**Sec. 28-28. Administrative fee for new accounts; property owner responsible for water charges.**

Water customers shall be charged a \$60.00 administrative fee for the establishment of all new accounts. All property owners shall be held responsible for the payment for all water furnished by the city to their premises.

(Code 1966, § 20-7; Ord. No. 3074, 6-25-2002)

**Sec. 28-29. Monthly rates for services; use of funds.**

→ (a) The monthly rate for the service of water to residences and commercial and industrial establishments within the city limits who have no water meters shall be the sum of \$20.50 a month for residential, and \$25.60 a month for commercial and industrial establishments, except for single offices with no more than one sink and one toilet, the rate shall be \$20.80. At such time when water meters are installed at such residences and commercial and industrial establishments, water will be billed at the rate as outlined in subsection (b) of this section. There shall be no free service to any consumer connected to the water system of the city.

→ (b) Where water meters are installed for residences and commercial and industrial users, the following monthly rate shall be charged for water service furnished by the city:

Residential:	
First 5,000 gallons . . . . .	\$14.50
Thereafter, each 1,000 gallons . . . . .	1.40
Commercial:	
First 5,000 gallons . . . . .	15.90
Thereafter, each 1,000 gallons . . . . .	1.40

(c) Exemptions concerning water bills. Handicapped/disabled heads of household citizen or citizens 65 years or older of the city shall pay the following for water consumption: First 1,000 gallons, \$1.40; each 1,000 gallons thereafter, \$0.60. The term "handicapped/disabled person" shall include any person who has impairments which, regardless of cause or manifestation, for all prac-

tical purposes, confines the person to a wheelchair, or any person who has impairments which cause the person to walk with difficulty or insecurity and includes, but is not limited to, those persons using braces or crutches, amputees, arthritics, spastics, and those with pulmonary or cardiac illnesses who may be semiambulatory. Each application shall be accompanied by a currently dated physician's statement certifying that the applicant is a handicapped/disabled person.

The provisions of chapter 2, administration, sections 2-241 through 2-246 of this Code shall be applicable to this subsection.

(d) The rate for industrial users of the water services of the city shall be those established in the rate schedule for commercial users, provided that the city council may, in its discretion, enter into special contracts with such industrial users as demonstrate to the satisfaction of the council that the application of such rates will produce a hardship to them.

(e) Every user who is now, or hereafter shall be, connected to the system shall be charged the rates set forth in this section, except as provided for in section 28-34.

(f) All funds collected under this section shall be set aside in a special fund to be used solely for the purpose of operation, extensions, improvements and renovations to the water and sewerage systems of the city.

(g) All laws of the state with respect to connection to available water and sewer mains shall be enforced.

(h) → (Code 1966, § 20-7.1; Ord. No. 3002, 5-8-2001; Ord. No. 3066, 5-28-2002)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 3066 provides that at the start of every fiscal year these fees shall be adjusted by a percentage amount equal to the new percentage change in the CPI (Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers), or five percent whichever is less.

**Sec. 28-30. Reserved.**

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 3074, adopted June 25, 2002, deleted § 28-30 in its entirety. Former § 28-30 pertained to water deposits and derived from Code 1996, § 20-7.2.

**Sec. 28-31. Reduction on prepared bills.**

(a) All customers of the city who prepay their water, garbage and sewerage bill for one year shall receive a five percent reduction on such bill.

(b) In addition to specific authority granted elsewhere in this section, the director of finance of the city is authorized to promulgate, make and publish reasonable rules and regulations for the purpose of the proper administration and enforcement of this section, provided that such rules and regulations shall not be inconsistent with the

provisions of this section or other ordinances of this city, or the laws and constitution of the state. (Code 1966, § 20-7.3)

**Sec. 28-32. Charges declared lien; collection.**

The charge made by the city for water furnished shall, when duly recorded in the mortgage records of St. Tammany Parish, be a lien and privilege upon the property, and such amount shall be carried as an assessment against such property upon the tax roll of the city, and may be collected in the same manner as are all taxes of the city.

(Code 1966, § 20-8)

**Sec. 28-33. Tampering with system.**

(a) *Prohibited without permit.* It shall be unlawful for any person, without permission, to tamper with, remove, adjust, repair or make any connection with any part of the waterworks system of the city, which shall include the water meter and all accessories thereto.

(b) *Who grants permit.* The permission as required in this section shall be granted only by the superintendent of the waterworks system of the city.

(c) *Obstruction or damage to meter boxes.* Meter boxes are to remain free of obstruction and shall not be damaged. With the approval of the director of finance or the director of public operations or designee, damage or obstruction of water meters may cause the resident to be assessed additional charges as follows:

Broken meter tops.....	\$75.00
Broken valves.....	75.00
Broken locks.....	75.00
Broken lens.....	125.00
Broken radio transmitter register (RTR).....	150.00
Oil or foreign material in box....	100.00
Cars blocking meter box (24 hours from date and time to clear)....	50.00
Trash piled up on meter boxes...	50.00

Unauthorized meter turn on. . . . .	150.00
Parking in no parking zone. . . . .	Per city court

(d) *Penalty for violation of section.* Violations of provisions of this section shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 or 60 days in jail, or both. Additionally, any person who makes any connection to the city waterworks system without permission shall be assessed a charge for the water used, plus the cost of labor and materials necessary to disconnect the unauthorized connection. (Code 1966, § 20-9; Ord. No. 2861, 2-9-1999; Ord. No. 3404, 6-12-2007; Ord. No. 3498, 9-9-2008; Ord. No. 3643, 3-13-2012)

**Sec. 28-34. Water rate for users outside the corporate limits.**

→ (a) The following monthly rate for the service of water to residences and businesses not in the city limits shall be charged:

- (1) Where no meters are installed, the charge for residences shall be \$34.10.
- (2) Where meters are installed, the charge for residences shall be a minimum charge of \$34.10 and \$2.80 per 1,000 gallons in excess of 15,000.
- (3) Where no meters are installed, the charge for businesses shall be \$51.10.
- (4) Where meters are installed, the charge for businesses shall be a minimum of \$51.10, plus \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons in excess of 16,000.

(b) Houses, businesses or other users connected to the city water system but not paying for city water may be billed retroactively at these rates for three years. (Code 1966, § 20-10; Ord. No. 3002, 5-8-2001; Ord. No. 3066, 5-28-2002)

*Editor's note*—Ord. No. 3066 provides that at the start of every fiscal year these fees shall be adjusted by a percentage amount equal to the new percentage change in the CPI (Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers), or five percent whichever is less.

**Sec. 28-35. Private water wells prohibited.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Code, drilling or maintaining private water wells is prohibited within the City of Slidell. (Ord. No. 3009, 6-12-2001)

**Sec. 28-36. Groundwater protection ordinance.**

(a) It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to contamination of the public water supply and to maximize groundwater protection/pollution control procedures within the service area of the City of Slidell and minimize land use restrictions that:

- (1) Protect human life and health;
- (2) Minimize expenditure of public money for costly pollution remediation projects;
- (3) Minimize regulations on land use;
- (4) Minimize business interruptions;
- (5) Insure that the public is provided with a safe potable water supply now and for future generations;
- (6) Protect the natural resources of the state.

(b) In order to accomplish its purposes, this ordinance shall employ the following methods:

- (1) Establish groundwater protection areas, which means that area within a maximum radius of one thousand feet of a public water well and/or wellfield.
- (2) Inventory and plot on a map all potential sources of contamination within the designated groundwater protection area;
- (3) Frequent monitoring of existing and future activities within the groundwater protection area that have been identified as potential sources of contamination;
- (4) Develop contingency plans for alternative drinking water supplies to help mitigate contamination of the current public water supply;
- (5) Site new wells properly to maximize yield and minimize potential contamination;



- (4) Any permit issued pursuant to this division which permits a provisional discharge within the meaning of this subsection shall remain in effect for a period of not more than one year, during which time the discharger may be required to construct at his expense adequate pretreatment facilities to reduce BOD and/or TSS to those levels established by this division.

(f) *Grease trap/interceptor maintenance and record requirements.* Grease traps/interceptors shall be cleaned on a regular basis to ensure efficient operation. The necessary frequencies of cleaning will vary depending on the nature of the facility. Factors that may affect cleaning frequency are types of food, cooking methods, cleaning techniques, carry-out verses dine-in, and the volume of grease discharged. Facilities with high grease loading may need to clean their traps/interceptors as often as monthly. Facilities with undersized interceptors, especially under-the-counter units, shall clean their interceptors weekly or even daily if necessary.

To properly clean a grease trap/interceptor, the entire contents (liquids and solids) need to be pumped out. Leaving accumulated solids in the bottom of grease traps/interceptors can lead to short-circuiting and reduce retention times, as well as, producing unpleasant odors.

Maintenance of external large grease traps/interceptors shall be performed by qualified grease or septic haulers. These services shall empty the entire contents with a pumper truck and haul the grease to an approved site.

*Inspections and record keeping.* The city inspectors shall inspect all traps/interceptors and review all cleaning records. Customers who fail to contact city inspectors after an attempt has been made by such inspector shall be subject to the penalties under this section. Maintenance and cleaning records shall be kept on file and accessible by the customer for the city inspectors review upon request. Receipts or manifests from private pumping septic and grease haulers should indicate destination of hauled material. The records shall

be made available to the City of Slidell upon request. Maintenance records should contain the following information.

- Date of maintenance
- Item removed
- Approximate amount removed
- Disposal location
- Authorized signature or initials for verification

Customers who fail to comply with grease trap/interceptor maintenance and record requirements shall be subject to penalties under subsections 28-131(m)(1) and (2) of this division. (Code 1966, § 14-46; Ord. No. 3017, 7-10-2001; Ord. No. 3614, 5-24-2011; Ord. No. 3817, 6-14-16; Ord. No. 3823, 7-12-16)

**Sec. 28-131. Sewer user charge.**

(a) *Administration.* The management and application of the user charge system shall be administered by the city office of water and wastewater.

(b) *Extraneous flows.* The city will apply charges for operation and maintenance pertaining to extraneous flows (i.e. infiltration/inflow) in the same manner that it distributes the cost of operation and maintenance among users for their actual use.

➤ (c) *Rates and charges.* The rates and charges for the use of the wastewater services of the city, for each and every residence, commercial or industrial establishment now or hereafter connected to the city's treatment facilities shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) *Minimum charge.*

- a. The monthly rate for the collection and disposal of sewage to residences and commercial establishments within the city limits who have no water meters shall be according to the following schedule: \$24.90 per month, except for single offices with no more than one sink and one toilet, the rate shall be \$18.70.

b. The monthly rate for residential and commercial users who have water meters shall be as follows:

First 4,000 gallons . . .	\$13.30	21.04
Each additional 1,000 gallons up to 20,000 ..	2.50	4.07
Each additional 1,000 gallons thereafter . . . . .	2.10	3.42

For residential customers, the above rates for greater than 4,000 gallons shall be reduced by ten percent for June, July, and August readings.

- b. *Commercial accounts.* Commercial users - commercial customers shall be billed on the same basis as residential accounts for each billing period.
- c. *Industrial accounts.* Monthly user charges for industrial users shall be computed on the basis of the following:

$$\text{Monthly water consumption} \times \text{Volume rate charge} + \text{surcharge} = \text{Monthly charge.}$$



- (2) *Monthly rate.* The monthly rate for commercial users outside the city limits who have water meters installed shall be according to the following schedule:

First 16,000 gallons . . . . .	\$52.80
Each additional 1,000 gallons up to 24,000 gallons . . .	5.00
Each additional 1,000 gallons thereafter . . . . .	4.10

- (3) *Volume rate charge.* To cover the remaining cost of operation and maintenance and, where necessary, major replacements for the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system, a volume-rate user charge is hereby established. The rate shall be computed on the basis of the following formula:

Projected sewerage budget in dollars - projected millage revenue = Annual water use in thousands of gallons.

User charge rate in dollars per 1,000 gallons of use.

Annual water consumption shall be computed by adding the annual residential, commercial and industrial account water use.

- (4) *Calculation of bills.*

- a. *Residential accounts.* Bills for each residential account shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Water use in thousands of gallons} \times \text{User sewerage charge rate per 1,000 gallons} = \text{Sewerage user charge.}$$

bill is ten days in default, rendition of water and/or sewage service to such premises shall be discontinued until such bill is paid following due notice and opportunity for hearing. Should the individual designated to pay the bills be in default, the owner of the property at the time of default shall be held responsible for the payment of the bill.

(k) *Sufficiency of charge.* The user charge rates shall never be reduced below an amount sufficient to provide for the operation and maintenance of the sewer system.

(l) *Applicability of charge.* None of the facilities or services afforded by the sewer system shall be furnished without a charge being made.

(m) *Penalties.*

(1) *Fine.* A person who continues discharging wastewater in violation of this section of the division is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 for each violation and for each day of violation.

(2) *Additional remedies.* In addition to proceeding under authority of subsection (m)(1) of this section, the city is entitled to pursue all other criminal and civil remedies to which it is entitled under authority of statutes or other ordinances against a person continuing prohibited discharges.

(Code 1966, § 14-47(a)—(m); Ord. No. 2889, 5-11-1999; Ord. No. 2912, 9-14-1999; Ord. No. 3002, 5-8-2001; Ord. No. 3066, 5-28-2002)

*Editor's note*—Ord. No. 3066 provides that at the start of every fiscal year these fees shall be adjusted by a percentage amount equal to the new percentage change in the CPI (Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers), or five percent whichever is less.

**Sec. 28-132. Pretreatment.**

(a) *Generally.* Pretreatment of waste prior to discharge may be required by the city pursuant to this division, or such pretreatment may be employed by the discharger and used in order to comply with the prohibitions and limitations set forth in this division. In any of these or other cases where pretreatment is employed or required, the pretreatment process shall comply with the requirements of this section.

(b) *Application for permit.* Where pretreatment prior to discharge is required, employed or proposed, a description of the pretreatment process shall be included in the permit issued to the discharger, and such pretreatment shall be expressly made a condition of the permit. As part of the material in support of the application for such a permit, or at any other time the city may require, the discharger using or proposing to use pretreatment shall, prior to commencement of construction, submit plans, specifications and other pertinent data or information relating to such pretreatment or flow-control facilities, for the review and approval by the city. All such plans shall be prepared by a state registered professional engineer and shall bear his signature and seal. Any subsequent alterations or additions to such pretreatment or flow-control facilities shall not be made without due notice to and prior approval of the city.

(c) *Operation.* If pretreatment or control of waste flows is required, such facilities shall be maintained in good working order and operated as efficiently as possible by the owner or operator at his own cost and expense, subject to the requirements of the rules and regulations of this section and all other applicable codes, ordinances and laws.

(d) *Dilution not acceptable.* The alteration of the characteristics of a polluted wastewater, to attain the limits for admission to either the public sanitary sewerage system or to attain the limits for discharge to a private sewage disposal system or receiving streams, by means of dilution, will not be allowed as an acceptable pretreatment process. The objective of an acceptable pretreatment process shall be the removal of the pollutants from the wastewater to the required level. (Code 1966, § 14-48)

**Sec. 28-133. Permits for industrial waste discharge.**

(a) *Required.*

(1) All persons proposing to discharge any industrial waste must first obtain a discharge permit therefor; and no person shall discharge industrial waste except