

ORDINANCE NO. 819

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YUTAN, SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND AND UPDATE THE RATES OF WATER AND SEWER USAGE AND SERVICE TO ADDRESS NEW DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PHASING OF RATE INCREASES OVER AN EIGHTEEN-MONTH PERIOD; TO PROVIDE FOR A PHASED SENIOR CITIZEN RELIEF PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO TOTAL MONTHLY MINIMUM RATES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF ANY SECTION, CLAUSE, PROVISION OR PORTION FOUND UNCONSTITUTIONAL OR INVALID; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE PUBLISHED EITHER IN PAMPHLET FORM OR BY POSTING; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL NOT BE MADE A PART OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF YUTAN, NEBRASKA.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Yutan, Nebraska, have the authority to set and fix utility rates by ordinance;

WHEREAS, the City has obtained DWSRF and CWSRF loans for essential infrastructure, necessitating annual debt service payments of **\$22,995.86** and **\$53,139.75**, respectively;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council deem it necessary to increase the water and sewer rate schedule to ensure financial viability and eliminate current operating deficits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUTAN, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. Phased Rate Adjustment Schedule

To ease the transition for residents, the total combined monthly rate increase of \$15.74 (consisting of \$12.24 for debt service, \$5.00 for infrastructure fees, and **\$1.50 reduction of Base Rates**) shall be implemented in three equal increments over an 18-month period:

- **Phase 1 (Initial Increase):** Effective the first day of the month following the passage of this Ordinance.
- **Phase 2 (Mid-Point Increase):** Effective nine (9) months after the Phase 1 increase.
- **Phase 3 (Final Increase):** Effective eighteen (18) months after the Phase 1 increase.

Section 2. Water Usage Rates (Within City Limits)

The water rates shall be adjusted as follows to reach the final minimum monthly rate of \$27.19:

Rate Component	Current	Phase 1 (Month 1)	Phase 2 (Month 10)	Phase 3 (Final - Month 19)
Base Rate	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00
Debt Service	\$0.00	\$1.23	\$2.46	\$3.69
Infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.83	\$1.67	\$2.50
Total Min. Monthly	\$22.00	\$23.06	\$25.13	\$27.19

- **Water Consumption Charge:** \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons, or fraction thereof.

Section 3. Sewer Usage Rates (Within City Limits)

The sewer rates shall be adjusted as follows to reach the final minimum monthly rate of \$38.05:

Rate Component	Current	Phase 1 (Month 1)	Phase 2 (Month 10)	Phase 3 (Final - Month 19)
Base Rate	\$27.50	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00
Debt Service	\$0.00	\$2.85	\$5.70	\$8.55
Infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.83	\$1.67	\$2.50
Total Min. Monthly	\$27.50	\$30.68	\$34.37	\$38.05

- **Sewer Consumption Charge:** \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water usage, based on the average usage from the previous January, February, and March.

Section 4. Phased Senior Citizen Relief Program

A discount program is established for residents age 65 and older. The discount shall be applied only to the Total Monthly Minimum rates (Water and Sewer) and shall not be included in any consumption charges.

- **Phase 1:** A 10% discount off the total monthly minimum.
- **Phase 2:** A 15% discount off the total monthly minimum.
- **Phase 3 (Final):** A 20% discount off the total monthly minimum.

Section 5. Billing and General Provisions

- **Electronic Billing (E-Mail):** Provided at no cost.
- **Mailed Paper Copies:** Residents receiving a mailed paper copy will be assessed an additional \$1.50 per billing cycle.
- **Office Pickup:** Paper copies available at the City Office at no charge.
- **Tap Fees:** Water tap fees remain \$687.50; sewer tap fees remain \$312.50.
- **Severability:** If any part of this Ordinance is found invalid, the remainder remains in effect.
- **Repealer:** Ordinance No. 795 and all other conflicting ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be in full force from and after its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

CITY OF YUTAN, NEBRASKA

By: _____ Matt Thompson, Its Mayor

ATTEST:

Brandy Bolter, City Clerk _____