



St. James Parish Council

Ryan Louque
Chairman

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Vondra Etienne-Steib
Vice-Chairwoman

Linda Hubbell
Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following entitled ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Parish Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, on February 7, 2024, and laid over for publication of notice:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 24-02 **ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 114 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE WATER RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH WATER DISTRICTS 1 AND 2

WHEREAS, pursuant to St. James Parish Code of Ordinances Section 114-48(a), the rates for water services charged by the gas and water distribution system shall be determined by the average consumption per month and is hereby established to be residential, commercial, and industrial. All such rates were initially established by the parish council; and,

WHEREAS, the utility department is primarily dependent upon water rated revenues for funding the operations and maintenance of critical infrastructure related to water collection, production, and distribution; and

WHEREAS, the utility department reviewed, analyzed, evaluated, and recommends proposed rates, which are set forth in the documents entitled St. James Parish Water Rate Study - 2023

WHEREAS, the water rate structure should be designed to generate revenues adequate to properly operate and maintain the water system, to comply with regulatory requirements, to fund water system capital projects, and to meet departmental service requirements.

WHEREAS, annual increases or decreases in water flat and unit rates shall follow the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Water, Sewer, and Trash Collection Services.

WHEREAS, using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Water, Sewer, and Trash Collection Services published in November of each year, the adjusted flat and unit water rates for St. James Parish shall be made annually on January 1st using the aforementioned index.

WHEREAS, all other fee increases or adjustments required to purchase material and equipment, or to operate, install, and remove water infrastructure for customers shall be established by the parish council; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. James Parish Council, that the water rates as specifically described in Exhibit A (attached hereto) are hereby adopted.

NOTICE IS HEREBY, FURTHER, GIVEN that the Parish Council of said Parish will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex, 2631 Hwy 20, Vacherie, LA at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance.

s/ Ryan Louque
Chairman

s/Linda Hubbell
Secretary

***Note:** St. James Parish will provide, upon request, reasonable accommodation to any disabled individual wishing to attend the meeting. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation is requested to contact 1-800-846-5277 (TDD), 1-800-947-5277 (Voice) or 562-2400 (Handicapped) to discuss the particular accommodation needed.*

Todd Poche	Courtney Long	Ryan Louque	Neal Poche	Anthony Jasmin	Vondra Steib	Donald Nash
District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7

Exhibit A

2024 ADJUSTED WATER REVENUE PROJECTIONS (Linked to CPI & Jurisdiction Average)

Customers	Number of Customers	Monthly Flat Rate	Total Minimum Charge	Annual Volume	Water Unit Rate	Total Sales Revenue	Grand Total Revenue	Average Monthly Bill	Percent Increase
Residential	5,480	\$18.06	\$1,187,626	409,203	\$4.65	\$1,902,794	\$3,090,420	\$47	58.4%
Commercial	386	\$21.16	\$98,013	279,857	\$3.44	\$962,708	\$1,060,721	\$229	5.8%
Industrial	55	\$211.60	\$139,656	95,000	\$4.23	\$401,850	\$541,506	\$820	5.8%
SJP WATER REVENUE ANALYSIS									
Grand Total (Sales)							\$4,692,647		
General & Administrative Costs							\$823,116		Do not alter this amount.
Water Distribution Expenses							\$3,620,800		Do not alter this amount.
Revenue Over/Under Expenditure (Profit/Loss)							\$248,731		Sales - Costs (Min 500K)
Percentage of Costs and Selling Price (Markup)							6.87%		(Revenue / Costs) X 100
Percentage of Revenue After COGS (Margin)							5.30%		(Revenue / Sales) X 100

2021 CURRENT WATER SALES REVENUE (Estimates)

Customers	Number of Customers	Monthly Flat Rate	Total Minimum Charge	Annual Volume	Water Unit Rate	Total Sales Revenue	Grand Total Revenue	Average Monthly Bill	Percent Increase
Residential	5,480	\$11.00	\$723,360	409,203	\$3.00	\$1,227,609	\$1,950,969	\$30	
Commercial	386	\$20.00	\$92,640	279,857	\$3.25	\$909,535	\$1,002,175	\$216	
Industrial	55	\$200.00	\$132,000	95,000	\$4.00	\$380,000	\$512,000	\$776	
SJP WATER REVENUE ANALYSIS									
Grand Total (Sales)							\$3,465,144		
General & Administrative Costs							\$823,116		Do not alter this amount.
Water Distribution Expenses							\$3,620,800		Do not alter this amount.
Revenue Over/Under Expenditure (Profit/Loss)							(\$978,772)		Sales - Costs (Min 500K)
Percentage of Costs and Selling Price (Markup)							-27.03%		(Revenue / Costs) X 100
Percentage of Revenue After COGS (Margin)							-28.25%		(Revenue / Sales) X 100
Notes									

Lutcher: Flat Rate: \$19.68 Unit Rate: \$4.24

Gramercy: Flat Rate: \$16.62 Unit Rate: \$3.52

St. John Parish: Flat Rate: \$17.88 Unit Rate: \$6.19