

PASSED

The following ordinance which was previously introduced at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of July 2024, a summary thereof having been published in the official journal together with a notice of public hearing which was held in accordance with said public notice, was brought up for final passage on a motion offed by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib:

ORDINANCE 24-15
ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 114 ARTICLE III, WATER, OF
THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CLEARLY DEFINE
THE CATEGORIES OF CONSUMER, MANDATORILY LINK ALL WATER
RATES TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AND INCREASE THE
WATER UNIT AND SYSTEM RATES CHARGED BY THE ST. JAMES
PARISH WATER DISTRICTS 1 AND 2 TO MEET THE COSTS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF POTABLE WATER

WHEREAS, St. James Parish Government operates and maintains a natural gas and water utility system for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers within St. James Parish, Louisiana,

WHEREAS, the utilities division of St. James Parish Government is considered an enterprise resource organization and taxes or millages do not exist to support its funding; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of operating and maintaining the St. James Parish gas and water utility system is funded solely by fees collected for products and services provided to consumers; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of operating the St. James Parish water collection, treatment, and distribution systems continue to increase due to inflation, increased maintenance costs, and system upgrades; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of maintaining the St. James Parish water collection, treatment, and distribution systems continue to rise due to stricter, unfunded, state and federal mandates; and,

WHEREAS, the increased costs associated with regulatory requirements and the need to maintain minimum water standards in accordance with federal and state doctrine; and,

WHEREAS, there have been recent, numerous, and costly modification projects completed throughout the water system to increase the water supply to meet the demand of all St. James Parish consumers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL, that Chapter 114, Article III, Section 114-48 of the St. James Parish Code of Ordinances shall be amended as described in Exhibit A attached hereto:

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: T. Poche, Nash, T. Poche, Long, Jasmin, Etienne-Steib, and Louque
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

And, the ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 21st day of August 2024.



Council Chairman


Secretary

Delivered to Parish President: 08-21-2024

Approved: 8-21-2024

Parish President

Returned to Secretary on 8-21-2024

At 8:57 AM/PM

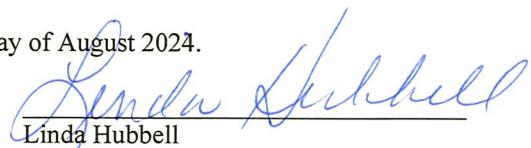
Received by Linda Hibbel

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Linda Hubbell, Secretary of the Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the St. James Parish Council in regular meeting held on the 21st day of August 2024.

Signed at Vacherie, Louisiana, this 22nd day of August 2024.



Linda Hubbell
Secretary

(S E A L)

EXHIBIT A

Sec. 114-48. - Water rates established.

- (a) Unit rates charged for water service by the St. James Parish Utilities Division shall be determined by **actual or averaged** consumption per month and are hereby **categorized** to be: Residential, Small Business, Commercial, and Industrial. All such rates shall be as established by the St. James Parish Council and **automatically adjusted annually in accordance with the CPI identified in Sec. 114-49.**
- (b) System charges (flat rates) for both the water and the natural gas distribution systems shall be equal, standardized, and automatically adjusted annually in accordance with the CPI identified in Sec. 114-28 and Sec. 114-49 of this ordinance.
- (c) Any established consumer who has not had water service for the entire previous calendar year shall have his water rate established with respect to definition and an average of his prior months' consumption.
- (d) For their water rate to be established, any new consumer shall declare to the parish utilities division, to the best of their knowledge, their intended use and anticipated consumption at the commencement of service. Failure to do so shall subject the consumer to a penalty not to exceed 1½ times the correct rate as determined by definition and average monthly consumption for the amount of water consumed.
- (e) These base rates are established for the parish utilities division, and any cost adjustments would be added to these rates under regulations previously adopted by the parish council.
- (f) All water rates shall be established by the St. James Parish Council as illustrated in the chart below:

Water Rate Phased Increases					
Rate Type	Current Rate	1/1/2025	4/1/2025	7/1/2025	10/1/2025
Residential - Small Business Water Unit Rate	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.50	\$3.75	\$4.00
Residential - Small Business Water System Rate (Flat)	\$11.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$18.50
10/1/2024					
Commercial Unit Rate	\$3.25	\$4.25			
Commercial System Rate	\$34.50	\$36.50			
Industrial Unit Rate	\$4.00	\$4.50			
Industrial System Rate	\$200.00	\$211.60			
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Using the phased method listed above for residential-Small Business, St. James Parish utility rates will increase per quarter until the target rates are reached on October 1, 2025. Rate increases thereafter will be in accordance with the appropriate consumer price index identified in this ordinance.</i>				