

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 offered by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib:

ORDINANCE 24-16
ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 114 ARTICLE II, NATURAL GAS, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CLEARLY DEFINE THE CATEGORIES OF CONSUMER, MANDATORILY LINK (FLAT) RATES TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AND INCREASE THE GAS SYSTEM RATES CHARGED BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH UTILITIES DIVISION TO MEET THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL GAS

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 cost of operating the St. James Parish natural gas distribution system continues to increase due to inflation, required maintenance, and system upgrades; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of operating the St. James Parish natural gas distribution system continues to rise due to stricter regulatory requirements and the need to maintain minimum standards in accordance with federal and state doctrine; and,

WHEREAS, there have been recent, numerous, and costly modification projects completed throughout the natural gas distribution system that increased the gas supply to meet the demand of all St. James Parish consumers: and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL, that Chapter 114, Article II, Section 114-27 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: N. Poche, T. Poche, Long, Jasmin, Nash, Etienne-Steib, and Louque
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

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

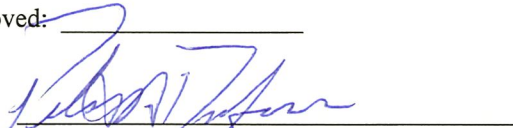

Council Chairman


Secretary

Delivered to Parish President: 08-21-2024

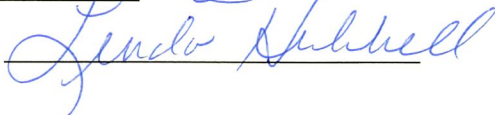
Approved: 8-21-2024

Disapproved: _____


Parish President

Returned to Secretary on 08-21-2024

At 8:57 AM/PM

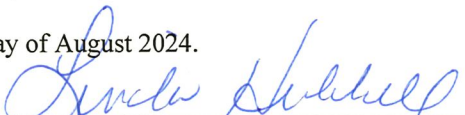
Received by 

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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. 114-27. - Natural gas rates established.

- (a) Unit rates charged for natural gas service by the gas and water distribution system of the St. James Parish Utilities Division shall be determined by actual or averaged consumption per month and are hereby categorized to be: Residential, Commercial, and Industrial.
- (b) All such unit rates shall be established by the St. James Parish Council and automatically adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index identified in Sec. 114-28.
- (c) Unit rates shall be calculated using the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (WACOG) methodology as illustrated in Sec. 114-29 of this ordinance.
- (d) System charges (flat rates) for both the water and natural gas distribution systems shall be equal, standardized, and automatically adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index identified in Sec. 114-28 and Sec. 114-49 of this ordinance.
- (e) Reconnection fees, shut-off fees, or any other fees not specifically addressed by this section shall be as established by the St. James Parish Council.
- (f) The basic natural gas service rates for commercial or industrial consumers shall be negotiated with the parish utilities division on a case-by-case basis, but in no way shall the rates be less than the rates established in this section.
- (g) All gas rates shall be established by the St. James Parish Council using a phased increase as illustrated in the chart below:

Gas Rate Phased Increases					
Rate Type	Current Rate	1/1/2025	4/1/2025	7/1/2025	10/1/2025
Gas System Rate (Flat)	\$8.50	\$11.00	\$13.50	\$16.00	\$18.50
Gas Unit Rates	Gas unit rates will be established using the WACOG methodology illustrated in Sec. 114-29 of this ordinance.				
Remarks	Using the phased method listed above, 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.				