PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION 10574 TO ESTABLISH WATER, SEWER, AND STORM DRAIN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL UTILITY SERVICE RATES

The City of Great Falls is proposing to raise residential and commercial water, sewer, and storm drain utility service rates, effective July 1, 2025. The increases are necessary to provide adequate revenue to finance the capital improvements program, to meet debt service coverage requirements and to maintain appropriate reserves.

Staff is proposing a normal rate increase of 10%, as well as an increase with capital improvement investments of 21.17% for water, 26.26% for sewer, and 57.6% for storm drain. The options for each are listed below:

Typical Residential Customers

Residential customers with a lot size of 7,500 square feet and a 3/4 " meter who use 600 cubic feet of water per month and have a winter quarter average of 600 cubic feet per month to calculate their sewer rate would see rate increases as follows:

- A water bill would increase \$2.32 or 10%, from \$23.20 to \$25.52 per month;
- A sewer bill would increase \$2.89 or 10%, from \$28.91 to \$31.80 per month; and
- A storm drain bill would increase \$.83 or 10%, from \$8.34 to \$9.17 per month.

With a normal rate increase, the average monthly Residential utility bill would increase \$6.04 or 10%.

Or,

- A water bill would increase \$4.89 or 21.17%, from \$23.20 to \$28.09 per month;
- A sewer bill would increase \$7.61 or 26.26%, from \$28.91 to \$36.52 per month; and
- A storm drain bill would increase \$5.11 or 57.6%, from \$8.34 to \$13.45 per month.

With capital improvement investments, the average monthly Residential utility bill would increase \$17.61 or 27%.

Typical Commercial Customers

Commercial customers with a lot size of 7,500 square feet with a 1" meter and consumption of 2,400 cubic feet of water and sewer per month would see rate increases as follows:

- A water bill would increase \$7.26 or 10%, from \$72.69 to \$79.95 per month;
- A sewer bill would increase \$9.22 or 10%, from \$92.22 to \$101.44 per month; and
- A storm drain bill would increase \$1.19 or 10%, from \$11.96 to \$13.15 per month.

With a normal rate increase, the average monthly Commercial utility bill would increase \$17.67 or 10%.

Or,

- A water bill would increase \$15.41 or 21.17%, from \$72.69 to \$88.10 per month;
- A sewer bill would increase \$24.51 or 26.26%, from \$92.22 to \$116.73 per month; and
- A storm drain bill would increase \$6.90 or 57.6%, from \$11.96 to \$18.86 per month.

With capital improvement investments, the average monthly Commercial utility bill would increase \$46.82 or 27%.

Public Hearing

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Commission Chambers, 2 Park Drive S. Documents pertaining to this agenda item are posted on the City's website at https://greatfallsmt.net under "Meetings," and are on file for public inspection during regular office hours at the City Clerk's Office, 2 Park Drive South, Room 204, or contact us at (406) 455-8451. Comments can be mailed to City of Great Falls, City Clerk, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403-5021.

For further information, contact a City of Great Falls Utility Billing Clerk at (406) 727-7660 or Room 104 of the Civic Center, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.