

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-005

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT REGULATIONS AND A REVISED SCHEDULE OF WATER AND SEWER RATES, CHARGES, AND FEES TO BE CHARGED BY THE TOWN OF GURLEY, ALABAMA, AND TO REPEAL ANY INCONSISTENT PRIOR ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the Town of Gurley, Alabama is authorized to own and establish rates and charges related to the use of a water system and a sanitary sewer system, pursuant to Ala. Code §11-50-1 and §11-50-121 et seq., respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Town has invested in development of water and sanitary sewer systems to serve the needs of its residential and commercial customers; and

WHEREAS, the Town last amended its schedule of charges for and sewer services provided by the Town in Ordinance 2013-003, adopted on July 16, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds it necessary and advisable to further revise the schedule of rates for water and sewer services provided by the Town and to establish other regulations and procedures related to provision of water and sewer service; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds it desirable to consolidate all of its rates and other regulations relating to provision of water and sewer service in one ordinance and to repeal all previous ordinances relating to such service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Gurley that the following schedule of rates, fees, and charges and related regulations and procedures is adopted as of the effective date stated below:

ARTICLE I. WATER SERVICE

SECTION 1.1. WATER RATES.

The Town hereby establishes a schedule of monthly rates for water service from the Town's water system as shown below. The minimum charge shall apply to each single unit plus the commodity charge for usage above the minimum. Where a single meter serves multiple residential or commercial units, the base rate shall apply to each unit regardless of occupancy. The base rate for multiple units served by a common meter includes 2,000 gallons times the number of units served by a common meter.

Residential Water Rates:

Inside Town Limits	2017-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
First 0-2,000 gallons	21.80	22.24	22.68	23.13	23.59	24.06	24.54	25.03
Over 2,000 gallons per 1000 gallons	6.40	6.53	6.66	6.79	6.93	7.07	7.21	7.35

Outside Town Limits	2017-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
First 0-2,000 gallons	26.80	27.33	27.87	28.42	28.98	29.55	30.14	30.74
Over 2,000 gallons per 1000 gallons	6.40	6.53	6.66	6.79	6.93	7.07	7.21	7.35

Commercial Water Rates:

Inside Town Limits	2017-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1" meter or smaller First 0-2,000 gallons	21.80	22.24	22.68	23.13	23.59	24.06	24.54	25.03
1 ½ - 2" meter First 0-2,000 gallons	34.80	35.50	36.21	36.93	37.67	38.42	39.19	39.97
3" meter First 0-2,000 gallons	73.80	75.28	76.79	78.33	79.90	81.50	83.13	84.79
4" meter First 0-2,000 gallons	138.80	141.58	144.41	147.30	150.25	153.26	156.33	159.46
Over 2,000 gallons per 1000 gallons	6.40	5.53	6.66	6.79	6.93	7.07	7.21	7.35

Outside Town Limits	2017-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1" meter or smaller First 0-2,000 gallons	26.80	27.33	27.87	28.42	28.98	29.55	30.14	30.74
1 ½ - 2" meter First 0-2,000 gallons	39.80	40.59	41.40	42.22	43.06	43.92	44.79	45.68
3" meter First 0-2,000 gallons	78.80	80.37	81.97	83.60	85.27	86.97	88.70	90.47
4" meter First 0-2,000 gallons	143.80	146.67	149.60	152.59	155.64	158.75	161.92	165.15
Over 2,000 gallons per 1000 gallons	6.40	5.53	6.66	6.79	6.93	7.07	7.21	7.35

¹ The minimum charge is per month per meter and includes 2,000 gallons of water. The minimum charge for residential rates assumes a meter size of 1" or less. Meter sizes vary by meter size as shown.

² The rates automatically change to the new rate on January 1 of that year.

SECTION 1.2. SERVICE DEPOSIT

(a) Deposits Generally. Each person desiring to become a water customer of the Town shall, before receiving water service, make a deposit as provided herein to the Town guaranteeing payment of charges for such water service. The established service deposit (except as indicated) shall also serve as a deposit for sewer service obtained under Article II of this Resolution and may be used by the Town to guarantee payment of charges for sewer service.

(b) Required Service Deposits.

- Standard Household Meter \$125.00 cash deposit
- Standard Household Irrigation Meter \$125.00 cash deposit
- Commercial Meter \$300.00 cash deposit
- Commercial Irrigation Meter \$300.00 cash deposit
- Temporary Fire Hydrant Meter \$700.00 cash deposit (Refundable on return of meter)

(c) A failure to post and maintain the required service deposit shall serve as a basis for refusal or termination of service for failure to pay charges due to the Town.

(d) Governmental entities or agencies may be exempted from service deposits required by this section.

SECTION 1.3. NEW WATER INSTALLATION SERVICE (TAP) FEES

(a) There is hereby imposed the following schedule of service (tap) fees (by size of meter) for new water service installations.

Size of Meter:	Amount of Fee:
1" or less Single Register Meter	\$750.00 ¹
2" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	2,000.00
3" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	6,000.00
4" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	7,000.00

¹ Actual cost of installation may be assessed if costs exceed \$750.00

(b) Determination of size of meters to be required for all such new water service installations, and the required type of backflow preventer, for purposes of applying the schedule adopted in this section, shall be within the sole discretion of the Town.

(c) Service provided upon payment of the water installation service charges outlined in the schedule in Section 1.3(a) above will include tapping the main, installing a corporation stop, installing a meter box and service line to a point adjacent to the customer's property line within a dedicated right-of-way or easement, and installation of the appropriate meter and backflow preventer if deemed necessary or advisable, including the cost of the meter and backflow preventer.

SECTION 1.4. METER SET; WATER SERVICE FEES

(a) There is hereby imposed the following schedule of water service fees (by meter size) for setting a meter for new service where the main has been tapped and service lines previously installed to customer's property line:

Size of Meter:	Amount of Fee:
5/8" Register Meter	\$ 150.00
5/8" Register Meter (Second Meter on Existing Service Line)	250.00
1" Single Register Meter	200.00
1" Single Register Meter (Second Meter on Existing Service Line)	300.00
2" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	1,600.00
3" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	2,200.00
4" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	3,200.00
6" Compound Register Meter with Bypass	5,700.00

(b) Determination of size of meters to be required for all such new meter installations shall be within the sole discretion of the Town.

- (c) Service provided upon payment of the service charges outlined in the schedule in Section 1.4(a) above will include only installation of the necessary meter and backflow preventer, if deemed necessary or advisable.

ARTICLE II. WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SERVICE

SECTION 2.1. WASTEWATER DISPOSAL RATES

The Town hereby establishes a schedule of monthly rates for wastewater disposal service by the sanitary sewer system of the Town based on water usage as shown below. Rates for residential sewer disposal shall apply to any customer to whom residential water rates apply. Commercial sewer disposal rates shall apply to provision of sewer disposal services to all other customers of the Town. The minimum charge shall apply to each single unit plus the commodity charge for usage above the minimum. Where a single meter serves multiple residential or commercial units, the base rate shall apply to each unit regardless of occupancy. The base rate for multiple units served by a common meter includes 2,000 gallons times the number of units served by a common meter.

Sewer Rates:

Inside Town Limits	2017-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Residential first 0-2000 gallons ¹	22.50	22.95	23.41	23.88	24.36	24.85	25.35	25.86
Commercial first 0-2000 gallons ¹	57.50	58.65	59.82	61.02	62.24	63.48	64.75	66.05
Outside town limits first 0-2000 gallons ¹	67.50	68.85	70.23	71.63	73.06	74.52	76.01	77.53
Over 2,000 gallons per 1000 gallons ²	4.10	4.18	4.26	4.35	4.44	4.53	4.62	4.71

Outside Town Limits	2017-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Residential first 0-2000 gallons ¹	27.50	28.05	28.61	29.18	29.76	30.35	30.95	31.56
Commercial first 0-2000 gallons ¹	62.50	63.75	65.02	66.32	67.64	68.99	70.36	71.76
Outside town limits first 0-2000 gallons ¹	67.50	68.85	70.23	71.63	73.06	74.52	76.01	77.53
Over 2,000 gallons per 1000 gallons ²	4.10	4.18	4.26	4.35	4.44	4.53	4.62	4.71

- ¹ The minimum charge is based on water flow through the customer’s meter up to 2,000 gallons on a per month per meter basis.
- ² The commodity charge is based on water flow through the customer’s meter in amounts over the 2,000 gallons included in the minimum charge. The charge is per month per meter per 1,000 gallons.
- ³ The commodity charge for sewer does not apply for water flow through irrigation meters.
- ⁴ The rates automatically change to the new rate on January 1 of that year.

SECTION 2.2. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO WASTEWATER DISPOSAL RATES

- (a) Secondary Meters. The schedule of rates established above shall be inapplicable and shall not serve as a basis for calculating a wastewater disposal service charge for water supplied through a secondary (irrigation) meter installed by the Town to provide water not serviced by the Gurley Sanitary Sewer System.
- (b) Mandatory Charge. The foregoing schedule of wastewater disposal rates shall be charged and imposed against any customer connected with the sanitary sewer system and any residence or business establishment required by law to be connected to the sanitary sewer system, whether or not such establishment has actually been connected with the sanitary sewer system as required.

SECTION 2.3. NEW WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSTALLATION SERVICE (TAP) CHARGES

- (a) There is hereby imposed the following schedule of new wastewater disposal system installation service (tap) charges (by type of installation) for new wastewater disposal service installations:

<u>Type of Installation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Residential (for each single family residence tapped to sewer)	\$750.00
Commercial (all other taps to sewer, including apartment complex and other multifamily residential connections)	Actual estimated cost of labor and materials plus 30%

- (b) The Town may establish such reasonable guidelines as it deems necessary for determining, in its sole discretion, the type of installation required and the actual estimated costs of labor and material for commercial taps.
- (c) Services provided upon payment of the wastewater disposal system installation service charges outlined in Section 2.3(a) above will include all services necessary to tap the sewer line in a dedicated easement or right-of-way and to make a connection between such sewer line and a service line provided and installed by the customer.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 3.1. MISCELLANEOUS FEES, AND CHARGES

There is hereby imposed the following miscellaneous fees, and charges for services provided by the Town.

- (a) New Water Account Charge * 30.00
- (b) Fire Protection Services Per Inch of Service Line:
 - (i) Monthly Availability Charge for Sprinklers (based on size of service line) 3.00
 - (ii) Standpipe Installation 25.00
 - (iii) Setting and Removing Fire Hydrant Meter 30.00
- (c) Returned Check Charge 35.00

(d) Late Charge on Statement	10% of amount delinquent monthly	
(e) Termination Reconnection Charge*		
(i) Normal Working Hours		50.00
(f) Service charge meter rereads if meter correct		15.00
(g) Replace broken valve		100.00

* Requires Certificate of Occupancy from Town Administrator

SECTION 3.2. LEAK ADJUSTMENT POLICY

The purpose of the Town of Gurley Water Leak Adjustment policy is to provide the customer with relief from an unusually high water bill resulting from a water supply line failure. The Billing Office will make an adjustment to a customer’s water bill according to this policy. To receive a billing adjustment due to a leak, the following conditions must be met:

1. The leak has to be in the customer’s supply line (in the yard or underneath the house). Leaking fixtures, malfunctioning appliances, running faucets, and similar situations do not qualify for a leak adjustment.
2. The Town of Gurley will only go back two months for a leak adjustment. Also, if it is a large leak, the water will be turned off after the second month until the leak is fixed. Our office will adjust for the first two (2) months after the leak was discovered.
3. An employee of the water department must verify the location and nature of the leak and verify that the leak was repaired.

Adjustments to the water bill will be based on “historic usage” of the customer over the previous 6 months, which shall reflect seasonal or other historic patterns. If the customer does not have at least six (6) months of previous bills to establish historical usage, then the adjustment will be based on the available data, which can include similar customers. The past usage for six (6) months is divided by 6 to arrive at an average monthly usage. The average total is subtracted from the gallons used during the month the leak occurred. This usage is not considered the leak amount and is billed according to our tariff. For large leaks, a payment plan can be set up if the customer desires.

SECTION 3.3. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

All ordinances or parts of ordinances previously adopted by the Town in conflict herewith, including but not limited to Ordinances 255, 264, 266R1, 269, 275, Ordinance 299, and 2013-003R1 are repealed as of the effective date of this ordinance.

SECTION 3.4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution and the rates, fees, and charges set out herein shall become effective on November 1, 2017.

READ, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of October, 2017.

Robert Sentell, Mayor and Presiding
Officer of the
Town Council of the Town of Gurley

ATTEST:

Tawnie Bryant, Town Clerk