



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#23-0835**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** September 19, 2023

**TITLE:** Second Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 of the City's Code of Ordinances for Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater, Providing for Increases to Tapping Charges, Water Rates, Wastewater Rates, Master Meter Charges, Service Availability Charges, Sprinkling Meter Charges, and Private Fire Service Protection – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve on second reading an Ordinance amending Sections 28-76, 28-141, 28-143, 28-144 and 28-145 of the City's Code of Ordinances, to provide for alignment of charges for fiscal years 2024 through 2028 and beyond, to water and sewer cost of services, and to provide for increases to tapping charges, water rates, wastewater rates, master meter charges, service availability charges, sprinkling meter charges, and private fire service charges.

**Background**

On June 20, 2023, Staff presented the Water and Sewer Rate Structure options to meet all ongoing obligations, such as budgeted water and sewer operations; increased costs for budgeted capital improvements; beginning City-wide advanced water metering infrastructure (AMI) installation; and construction of the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center, along with maintaining existing debt service and minimum reserve targets. The Commission directed Staff to move forward with Financing Scenario #1: Level Debt Service, 30 Years (see Exhibit 1), to minimize loan interest costs to rate payers.

This Amendment will align the current and future water and sewer rates to the City's respective water and sewer cost of services and allow for rate increases to water and wastewater user rates and charges, to generate necessary funds for present and future operational and capital project needs across the Water and Sewer Fund.

This amendment establishes the current and future water and sewer rate structure as follows:

## Water and Sewer Charges Effect of Monthly Increase on Neighbors

(Example is based on a common residential meter and an average usage of 5,000 gallons/month)

5/8 Inch Meter	Current Rate FY2023	Proposed Rate FY2024*	Rate FY2025	Rate FY2026	Rate FY2027	Rate FY2028
<b>Total</b>	\$82.14	\$93.67	\$107.15	\$116.78	\$124.61	\$130.88

\*The above rate change is the average water and sewer bill with the blended 22.5% for water and 9% for sewer rate increases in the first year. The impact of the increase varies based upon user class and level of water consumption.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact in FY 2023. The additional revenue generated is designed to provide coverage of operating and debt service expenditures in FY 2024 and subsequent fiscal years.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure and Resiliency initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community
- Objective: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, stormwater, road, and bridge infrastructure

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready*

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element
- Goal 3: Develop and maintain an adequate water supply, treatment, and distribution system, which meets the existing and projected needs of the service area in an efficient, economical, and environmentally sensitive manner.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Financing Scenario #1 Level Debt Service, 30 Years

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance

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