

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RUSK, TEXAS, AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING WATER, SEWER, SOLID WASTE, AND RELATED UTILITY RATES AND FEES; PROVIDING FOR RATES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS; PROVIDING SPECIAL HIGH-VOLUME RATES FOR THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RUSK STATE HOSPITAL; PROVIDING FOR BULK WATER AND UTILITY SERVICE FEES; REPEALING CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rusk, Texas, has determined that it is appropriate to revise the rates and charges for municipal water, wastewater/sewer, and solid waste/garbage services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSK, TEXAS:

**SECTION 1
ADOPTION OF UTILITY RATE SCHEDULE**

The City Council hereby adopts the utility rates and fees set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes.

**SECTION 2
IMPLEMENTATION AND BILLING**

The revised rates and charges shall apply to utility service provided on and after the effective date of this ordinance. The City shall implement and bill the revised rates in accordance with its usual utility billing practices and applicable law.

**SECTION 3
RATES FOR SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, AND CHARITABLE OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Notwithstanding any contrary rate classification in Exhibit A, water, sewer, and solid waste services furnished to a school, church, or charitable or other nonprofit organization shall be charged at the applicable residential rate set forth in Exhibit A. For service outside the corporate limits, the applicable residential outside-city rate shall apply. All other generally applicable fees and charges in Exhibit A remain applicable.

**SECTION 4
CONTINUING PROVISIONS**

Except as expressly amended by this ordinance and Exhibit A, all existing utility billing procedures, service requirements, and other provisions of the City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5 NOTICE OF RATE DECISION

The City Secretary or the City's designee shall provide notice of the final rate decision to each ratepayer entitled to notice under applicable law. For ratepayers eligible to appeal who reside outside the corporate limits of the City, the notice shall be provided individually in writing within the time required by law and shall state, at a minimum, the effective date of the new rates, the new rates, and the location where additional information concerning the rates may be obtained. Notice may be provided electronically when authorized by applicable law. Nothing in this ordinance waives or substitutes for any additional notice, filing, or procedural requirement imposed by applicable law.

SECTION 6 ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

As part of the City's annual budget process, the City Manager or budget officer shall present to the City Council for consideration a proposed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the City's utility rates and fees established by this ordinance and Exhibit A. The presentation shall identify the proposed adjustment, the basis and methodology used to calculate it, and its anticipated effect on the City's revenues and utility customers. The COLA shall not automatically change any rate or fee and shall take effect only if separately approved by the City Council in an ordinance adopted in accordance with applicable law. Nothing in this section requires the City Council to approve a proposed COLA or to increase any rate or fee.

SECTION 7 EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect after adoption and publication as required by law; provided, however, that the revised rates shall not be implemented before completion of any applicable statutory or regulatory notice and rate-setting requirements.

SECTION 8 SEVERABILITY

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this ordinance are severable; and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section is declared unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 9 REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

INTRODUCED, READ and ADOPTED this the 25 day of Sept., 2026.


BEN MIDDLEBROOKS, Mayor

Attest:

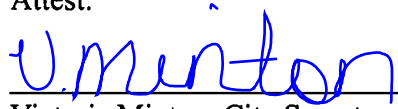

Victoria Minton, City Secretary

EXHIBIT A
UTILITY RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE

A. Residential Utility Rates — Inside City Limits

Service	Rate
Water, first 1,000 gallons	\$26.40 minimum
Water, each additional 1,000 gallons	\$6.95 per 1,000 gallons
Sewer, first 1,000 gallons	\$23.39 minimum
Sewer, each additional 1,000 gallons	\$6.95 per 1,000 gallons
Maximum billable residential sewer usage	12,000 gallons
Standard residential garbage	\$21.07 per month
Additional residential cart	\$8.00 per month

B. Residential Utility Rates — Outside City Limits

Service	Rate
Water, first 1,000 gallons	\$39.60 minimum
Water, each additional 1,000 gallons	\$10.43 per 1,000 gallons
Sewer, first 1,000 gallons	\$35.09 minimum
Sewer, each additional 1,000 gallons	\$10.43 per 1,000 gallons
Maximum billable residential sewer usage	12,000 gallons
Standard residential garbage	\$31.61 per month
Additional residential cart	\$12.00 per month

C. Commercial Water and Sewer

Service	Rate
Water, first 1,000 gallons	\$56.07 minimum
Water, each additional 1,000 gallons	\$6.95 per 1,000 gallons
Sewer, first 1,000 gallons	\$60.25 minimum
Sewer, each additional 1,000 gallons	\$6.95 per 1,000 gallons

D. Commercial Solid Waste

Service	Rate
Standard commercial cart	\$59.93 per month
Additional commercial cart	\$10.00 per month

E. Commercial Dumpster Service

Size	1×/Week	2×/Week	3×/Week	4×/Week	5×/Week
2-yard	\$88.11	\$197.88	\$307.69	\$417.46	\$477.52
3-yard	\$116.39	\$241.13	\$370.88	\$494.00	\$615.44
4-yard	\$171.27	\$291.03	\$437.44	\$583.81	\$685.29
6-yard	\$194.58	\$335.95	\$498.98	\$663.66	\$828.33
8-yard	\$211.19	\$392.52	\$577.16	\$763.77	\$944.79

F. Extra Dumpster Pickups

Dumpster Size	Rate
2-yard	\$33.00
3-yard	\$44.00
4-yard	\$60.50
6-yard	\$66.00
8-yard	\$71.50

G. TDCJ and Rusk State Hospital — Water

Monthly Usage	Rate
First 1,000 gallons	\$56.07 minimum
1,001–10,000	\$4.59 per 1,000
10,001–25,000	\$4.87 per 1,000
25,001–100,000	\$5.10 per 1,000
100,001–250,000	\$5.45 per 1,000
250,001–500,000	\$5.63 per 1,000
500,001–1,000,000	\$5.79 per 1,000
1,000,001–2,500,000	\$5.96 per 1,000
2,500,001–5,000,000	\$6.08 per 1,000
5,000,001–25,000,000	\$6.19 per 1,000

H. TDCJ and Rusk State Hospital — Sewer

Monthly Usage	Rate
First 1,000 gallons	\$60.25 minimum
1,001–10,000	\$4.10 per 1,000
10,001–25,000	\$4.15 per 1,000
25,001–100,000	\$4.20 per 1,000
100,001–250,000	\$4.26 per 1,000
250,001–500,000	\$4.32 per 1,000
500,001–1,000,000	\$4.37 per 1,000
1,000,001–2,500,000	\$4.42 per 1,000
2,500,001–5,000,000	\$4.53 per 1,000
5,000,001–25,000,000	\$4.59 per 1,000

I. Bulk Water

Service	Rate
Bulk water	\$30.00 per 1,000 gallons

J. Utility Service Fees and Charges

Fee	Rate
Residential water/wastewater deposit	\$75.00
Commercial water/wastewater deposit	\$75.00
Water tap	\$1,500.00
Sewer tap	\$1,500.00
Administration fee	\$30.00
Reconnection/disconnect fee	\$75.00
Transfer fee	\$50.00
Extension fee	\$10.00
Blocking meter	\$100.00
Water meter tampering	\$250.00
Unauthorized use of water	\$250.00
Returned check charge	\$30.00
Paper bill fee	\$1.25
New account fee, residential/commercial	\$25.00
Optional ambulance membership fee	\$5.00 per month
Water conservation fee	\$0.03 per 1,000 gallons

Residential sewer averaging shall remain as currently provided by the City. Residential sewer billing remains capped at 12,000 gallons.

Residential utility service outside the corporate limits shall be charged at one and one-half (1.5) times the corresponding residential rate established for service inside the corporate limits.