

Town of White Springs

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, INCREASING USAGE RATES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER PROVIDED BY THE TOWN'S UTILITIES AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of White Springs operates potable water and wastewater/sewer utilities serving residential and commercial properties within the utility service area and charges connection and usage fees in connection with such services;

WHEREAS, the Town commissioned a Rate Study (the "study") from the Florida Rural Water Association ("FRWA") to assess the Town's current rates and fees and the viability of the utility going forward;

WHEREAS, according to the study, FRWA determined that at current rates the Town's utilities will operate at revenue deficits, meaning the utilities will cost more to run than they return to the Town;

WHEREAS, revenue deficits will increase each year if no adjustments are made to existing rates;

WHEREAS, the study notes that "EPA recommends that water and wastewater systems set rates to ensure that there are enough revenues in place to support the costs of doing business" and that cost includes consideration of unanticipated expenses like future repairs, replacements, and maintenance to the systems;

WHEREAS, FRWA "recommends an adjusted rate structure that is both fair and equitable and increases classifications to better fit [the Town's] system's needs" and "that the rates classification be expanded into two categories: 1) Residential, 2) Commercial";

WHEREAS, FRWA also recommended that "the new rate schedule be evaluated annually to ensure it supports the current year budget";

WHEREAS, the Town’s utility rates have not been adjusted in some time, such that rates have not kept pace with the increasing cost to operate and maintain the utility;

WHEREAS, the avoid an exorbitant increase in any given year, FRWA has recommended a gradual increase approach to be implemented over five fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, it is in the Town’s best interest and the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the customers of the Town that the usage rates for utility services be increased according to the recommendations of FRWA.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Town Council for the Town of White Springs, Florida.

Section 1. RECITALS INCORPORATED. The above recitals are incorporated herein.

Section 2. NOTICE GIVEN. Notice of the consideration and adoption of this Ordinance has been given via the Town’s utility billing system as required by Florida Statutes section 180.136.

Section 3. RATES ADOPTED. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Florida Rural Water Association and the study, the following rates shall be charged for use of the Town’s water and wastewater systems.

DRINKING WATER

Residential	2023	2024	2025	2026
Base Charges Inside City				
5/8 inch	20.77	22.85	23.99	25.19
Base Charges Outside City				
5/8 inch	25.96	28.55	29.98	31.48
Usage Charges Inside City				
2,001 gallons or more	2.45	2.69	2.83	2.97
Usage Charges Outside City				
2,001 gallons or more	3.06	3.37	3.53	3.71

Laundromats	2023	2024	2025	2026
Base Charges Inside City				
5/8-inch	66.14	72.76	76.40	80.22
Usage Charges Inside City				

	2,001 gallons or more	3.00	3.30	3.47	3.64
Commercial		2023	2024	2025	2026
Base Charges Inside City					
	5/8-inch	37.32	41.05	43.10	45.26
Usage Charges Inside City					
	2,001 gallons or more	3.00	3.30	3.47	3.64

WASTEWATER

Residential/Commercial		2023	2024	2025	2026
Base Charges Inside City					
	5/8-inch	20.77	23.89	26.28	28.90
Usage Charges Inside City					
	1,001 gallons or more	10.27	11.81	12.99	14.29

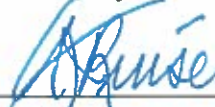
Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Town of White Springs, Florida in accordance with the provisions of Florida Statutes. The rates adopted herein shall take effect on the first day of the utility billing cycle following the adoption date.

PASSED upon first reading this 14th day of February 2023.

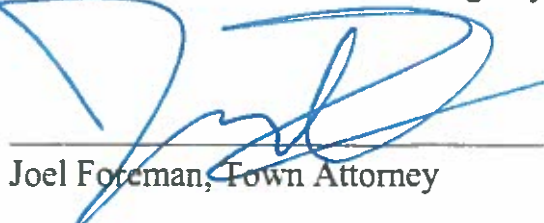
PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED upon second and final reading this 14th day of March 2023.

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS, FLORIDA


ANITA RIVERS, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Audre' J. Ruise, Town Clerk

APPROVED as to Form and Legality


Joel Foreman, Town Attorney

