

January 13, 2020

Regular Monthly Meeting

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Minutes
CITY OF FOLKSTON
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 13, 2020

Before the meeting Council Members, Marion Davis, Stanley Golaszewski and Rob Roberson, were sworn into office by City Attorney and Notary Public, Patrick Brooks.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in regular session on January 13, 2020 at City Hall.

Mayor Gowen called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. He gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present: Lee Gowen, Mayor
Ruby Baker
Marion Davis Jr.
Stanley Golaszewski
Rob Roberson
Bruce Young

Members Absent:

Also Present: Leonard H. Lloyd, City Manager
Darlene Williamson, Clerk
Wesley Green, Chief of Police
Patrick Brooks, City Attorney
Marla Ogletree, Charlton County Herald

Visitors: Randy Lane

AGENDA

Mrs. Baker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

The council was presented the minutes from the December 9, 2019 work session and December 16, 2019 regular meeting.

Mr. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENTS

Mr. Golaszewski made a motion to approve the December 2019 income and expense statements as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Green stated the police department filed 28 incident reports, investigated 7 accidents and answered 1010 calls during the month of December 2019. The police department collected \$9,580.00; the city's portion is \$6,582.97 of the fines and forfeitures collected.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lloyd stated the pump in the well house at city hall has been repaired and is back in operation. Now a pump at the lift station located on HWY 252 at the prison stopped working and has to be repaired. The city received a LMIG check in the amount of 58,008.39 for resurfacing a portion of Third Street beginning at Bay Street and ending at Eunice Street. The construction plans are expected to be ready in March and the bid process will be in April.

APPROVE WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCE

Mayor Gowen stated the first reading for the updated water and sewer ordinance to include the rate structure and all amendments was held on December 16, 2019. This ordinance is a USDA requirement for the wastewater project.

**Mrs. Baker made a motion to adopt the water and sewer ordinance as presented.
Mr. Young seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.**

APPROVE THAI SMILE LIQUOR LICENSE

Mayor Gowen stated the Thai Smile restaurant has applied for a liquor license and they have met all the requirements of the ordinance.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve a liquor license for the Thai Smile restaurant upon meeting the requirements of the ordinance. Mr. Roberson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mayor Gowen reminded the council of the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration to be held on January 20, 2020. The service will be held at the House of Faith Church on Paxton Road.

ADJOURN:

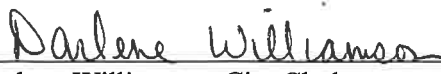
Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Roberson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.



Lee Gowen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Darlene Williamson, City Clerk

CITY OF FOLKSTON
WATER AND WASTEWATER ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-2020

An ordinance establishing water and wastewater rate schedules and service rules and regulations for the City of Folkston, Georgia; providing for penalties and cut--offs upon failure to pay bills, or other violations of the provisions of this ordinance; providing for cut--on and cut--off fees; providing restrictions and a fee structure for disposal of waste water originating outside the normal wastewater distribution system of the City; and, for other purposes.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Folkston, Georgia and it is hereby ordained, by authority of same as follows:

SECTION I-RATE SCHEDULE

SEE ATTACHED FOR WATER & WASTEWATER RATES

Wastewater rates are based on metered water use.

OTHER WASTEWATER DISPOSAL FEES

The under the supervision of the City Manager, may accept contents septic tanks from resi and portable toilet facilities transmitted and disposed 1censed commercial septic tank service entities. The fee for disposing of such sew shall be Forty (\$40.00) dollars per load, provided that the tanker truck shall not exceed 5,000 gallons capacity. Tankers with volumes in excess of 5,000 gallons shall pay a premium of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons, or fraction thereof, on any load in excess above the 5,000 gallon tanker volume.

In the case of the above activity, the commercial enterprise shall furnish to the City of Folkston a certification as to the contents of such load and also certify that the contents do not contain any contaminants prohibited from the wastewater treatment plant. Such restrictions shall be those prescribed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and/or the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. Any infraction of the restriction of prohibited items will result in immediate termination of the right to dispose of wastewater in the City's system; together with any penalties provided in this ordinance or those that may be imposed by local, State, or Federal law.

SECTION 2 - SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

There shall be a discount of Ten Percent (10%) from the published water rate schedule and wastewater rate schedule for senior citizens who are the listed account holder for billing purposes. A senior citizen is defined as any person who has attained the age of 65 years.

In order to apply for the discount, a senior citizen must provide suitable proof of age to the City Manager of the City of Folkston, or his/her designee. The discount shall not be available to a senior citizen unless applied for by the senior citizen and granted by the City Manager of the City of Folkston, or his/her designee.

In the event that a senior citizen applies for and is granted the 10% discount then fails to pay his or her bill before the prescribed 15th of the month, the senior citizen will be required to pay the full amount of the monthly bill, without the benefit of any discount. Additionally, Section 8, Subsections B and C of this ordinance shall apply to all water users, including senior citizens.

SECTION 3 - APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICE

The consumer shall make application for water service in person at the City Hall of the City of Folkston, Georgia and at the same time shall make a cash security deposit of One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) for water service.

In making application for water service, the applicant shall provide such identifying information as deemed appropriate by the City of Folkston, to insure the identity of the applicant and an accurate description of the physical location of the service to be placed.

SECTION 4 - MINIMUM CHARGES

The minimum charge, as provided in the rate schedule, shall be made for each connection. Water furnished for a given lot shall be used on that lot only, except for fire protection. The City of Folkston shall not under any condition furnish water free of charge to anyone.

SECTION 5 - CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

The City of Folkston shall run a service line from its distribution line to the property line where the distribution line to the property line where the distribution line exists or is to be constructed and run immediately adjacent and parallel to the property to be served. A Five Hundred Fifty Dollar (\$550.00) minimum connection fee, will be made for a 3/4" x 5/8" meter. If the City does not have a distribution line adjoining the property where water service is requested, the property owner must pay the complete cost of material and labor to install a distribution line from the existing water line to his/her property. The city shall be the sole judge of what size and type distribution line shall be run. A proportionately greater charge than the connection fee cost will be made for a meter of larger dimensions.

a. The City may make connections to service other properties not adjacent to its lines upon payment of the cost for the extension of its distribution lines as may be required to render such services.

b. The City may install its meter at or near the property line or, at the City's option, on the consumer's property within three feet of the property line.

c. The City reserves the right to refuse service unless the consumer's lines or piping are installed in such a manner as to prevent cross-connection or back-flow. In addition, consistent with water quality standards and/or regulations, the City shall impose requirements such as back-flow preventers, with the cost of such additions to be the burden of the consumer.

In order to protect the functioning of its wastewater distribution and treatment system, the City may require grease traps and pre-treatment devices standard for the industry, with the cost of such devices to be the burden of the consumer. The City shall have sole discretion in the determination of where such devices are required and the approval of devices proposed for installation by the consumer.

d. A meter is required to be installed in the water connection to each building, whether public or private, except for approved fire protection lines. Water furnished by the City of Folkston shall be used for consumption by the consumer, members of his/her household, guests and employees only. The consumer shall not sell water to any other person or permit any other person to use said water, including, but not limited to, the practice of making residence-to-residence connections with water hoses, pipes etc. Water shall not be used for irrigation, fire protection, nor other purposes, except when water is available in sufficient quantity without interfering with the regular domestic consumption in the area served. Disregard for these rules shall be sufficient cause for refusal and/or discontinuance of service.

a. Where the meter or meter box is placed on the premises of a consumer, a suitable place shall be provided by the consumer, unobstructed and accessible at all times to the meter reader.

b. The consumer shall furnish and maintain a private cut-off valve on the consumer's side of the meter.

c. The consumer's piping and apparatus shall be installed and maintained by the consumer at the consumer's expense, in a safe and efficient manner, and in accordance with the sanitary regulations of the State Health Department, or other competent authority.

d. In order to be received as a consumer and entitled to receive water from the City's water system, all applicants must offer proof that any private wells located on their property are not physically connected to the lines of the City's water system, and all applicants by becoming consumers of the City covenant and agree that so long as they continue to be consumers of the City they will not permit the connection of any private wells on their property to the City's water system.

SECTION 6 - ACCESS TO PREMISES AND EXTENSIONS OF SYSTEM

a. Duly authorized agents of the City of Folkston shall have access at all hours to the premises of the consumer for the purpose of installing or removing City property, inspecting piping, reading and testing meters, making cut-on and cut-offs, or for any other purpose in connection with the water service and its facilities, and the wastewater service and its facilities.

b. Extensions to the system shall be made only when the consumer shall grant or convey, or shall cause to be granted or conveyed, to the City of Folkston, a permanent easement of right-of-way across any property traversed by the water and/or wastewater lines.

SECTION 7 - CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY

Not less than three (3) days notice must be given, in person or in writing, at the City Hall of the City of Folkston to discontinue water and/or sewer service or to change occupancy. The outgoing party shall be responsible for all water consumed up to the time of departure, or the time specified for departure, whichever period is longer. The new occupant shall apply for water service within 48 hours after occupying the premises and failure to do so will make him/her liable for payment of the water consumed since the last meter reading.

SECTION 8- METER READING'BILLING'COLLECTIONS

Bills to customers for water and wastewater service shall be mailed on such day or days of each month as may be determined as desirable by the City. Bills shall be paid at the City Hall of Folkston. Failure to receive bills or notices shall not prevent such bills from becoming delinquent nor relieve the consumer from payment of the amount due. The failure of water and/or wastewater users to pay charges duly imposed shall result in the automatic imposition of the following penalties:

a. Non-payment by the due date will be subject to a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the delinquent account.

b. Non-payment within thirty (30) days from the date due will result in the water being shut off from the water user's property.

c. Non-payment for sixty (60) days after the original due date will allow the City, in addition to all other rights and remedies, to terminate agreement, and in such event, the water user shall not be entitled to receive, nor the City obligated to supply, any water or wastewater service under the agreement.

Service discontinued for non-payment of bills will be restored only after bills are paid in full, such security deposit as may be required by the Mayor and Council is made, and a service charge of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) paid for each meter reconnected in the City during normal working hours. A service charge of Seventy-Five dollars (\$75.00) will be assessed for meter re-connections after normal working hours of the Water Department. There will be no Saturday, Sunday, or holiday re-connections made.

SECTION 9 - SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

When water and wastewater service is discontinued and all bills paid, the security deposit shall be refunded to the consumer by the City.

a. Upon discontinuance of service for non-payment of bills, the security deposit will be applied toward settlement of the account. Any balance will be refunded to the consumer; however, if the security deposit is insufficient to cover the amount due to the City, the City may proceed to collect the balance in the usual manner provided by law for collection of debts.

b. The City reserves the right to discontinue its service without notice for the following additional reasons:

- (1) To prevent fraud or abuse;
- (2) Consumer's willful disregard of the city's rules regarding water and wastewater matters;
- (3) Emergency repairs;
- (4) Insufficient water supply due to circumstances beyond the City's control;
- (5) Legal processes;
- (6) Direction by competent public authorities;
- (7) Strike, riot, fire, flood, unavoidable accident; and,
- (8) Where there is sufficient evidence of potential danger to public health and safety involving the water supply.

SECTION 10 - COMPLAINTS-ADJUSTMENTS

If the consumer believes his/her bill to be in error, he/she shall present a claim, in person, at the City Hall of the City of Folkston before the bill becomes delinquent. Such claim, if made after the bill has become delinquent, shall not be effective in preventing discontinuance of service as previously described. The consumer may pay such bill under protest and said payment shall not prejudice the claim.

The City will make a special water meter reading at the request of a consumer for a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00). However, should the special reading reveal that the meter was over-read, no charge will be made.

a. Water meters will be tested at the request of the consumer upon payment to the City of the actual costs of making the test. However, if the meter is found to over-register beyond 3% of the correct volume, no charge will be made.

b. If the seal of a meter is broken by other than the City's representative, or if the meter fails to register correctly, or is stopped for any cause, the consumer shall pay an amount estimated from the record of his previous bills and/or from other proper data.

SECTION 11 - MANDATORY WATER CONNECTION

From and after the passage of this ordinance, it shall be required that all residences, business establishments and other structures within the City Limits of the City of Folkston connect onto the City's municipal water system where said structure is within 200 feet of said water line. Said connection to be made within 60 days of availability of water service.

All new construction within the City Limits of the City of Folkston within 200 feet of the City's water line shall also be required to connect onto said system.

SECTION 12 - LARGE METER INSTALLATIONS

The applicant for metered service requiring two (02) inch and larger meters shall pay an installation charge equal to the City's estimated installation cost (including meter, materials, and labor costs), which charge shall be based upon current costs. Such installation shall be permitted only after determination by the City of its ability to meet the required water demand. The City, before approving such services, shall specially establish: (a) the minimum charge per month; (b) gallons allowed for such minimum charge; and, (c) minimum deposit, which amounts shall be appropriately higher than those set forth for smaller metered service.

SECTION 13 - WATER SERVICE FOR FIRE PROTECTION

The following rate schedule applies to standby water service for sprinkling or other fire protection systems in buildings only. The expense of all such connections to an extension from the water mains shall be assumed by the user. No taps will be allowed which may be used for other than fire protection purposes, and there shall be no connection with any other source of water except in case a tank or fire pump is installed as a secondary supply for such fire protection.

Monthly Rate

Size of Connection

2 inches	\$ 6.00
3 inches	\$ 8.00
4 inches	\$10.00
6 inches	\$12.00
8 inches	\$14.00

SECTION 14 - WATER FOR LAWN

A special condition applies in the case of water furnished by the municipal system used regularly and solely on any lot of land for sprinkling lawns or gardens, or for any use in a manner so that the water does not enter the municipal wastewater system: Although such customer's wastewater service charge is related to water usage, such customer may secure a reduction in the amount of wastewater service charges to be paid by installing a second meter. For such water used for lawn purposes, a wastewater charge will not be levied to that meter placed for the lawn watering only, but will be billed the minimum, plus actual water usage. Only one meter will affect the wastewater fee levied in connection with metered water usage. Any customer electing to install such a meter will be obligated to pay the specified connection fee, minimum charge for the irrigation meter in addition to the minimum charge for his primary water service.

SECTION 15 - CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

All ordinances and party of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 16 - REVIEW BY CITY COUNCIL

The water and sewer rate schedules will be reviewed at least annually by the Mayor and Council and revised as needed to provide for the receipt of adequate revenue to meet the requirements of debt service, operation and maintenance, and the establishment of required reserves. No free service or use of the facilities will be permitted and all new service connections will be metered.

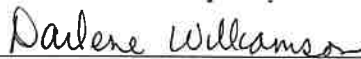
SECTION 17 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect for water and wastewater services supplied on and after January 21, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of January, 2020.



LEE GOWEN
MAYOR



DARLENE WILLIAMSON
CITY CLERK

December 16, 2019
FIRST READING

January 20, 2019
SECOND READING

CITY OF FOLKSTON UTILITY RATE STRUCTURE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2018

WATER RATES

WATER RATE - RESIDENTIAL - INSIDE CITY			
		REG	SR.CITIZEN
0-3,000 GALLONS (MINIMUM)	BASE RATE	\$16.65	\$15.95
3,000 GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$2.95	\$2.70

WATER RATE - RESIDENTIAL - OUTSIDE CITY			
		REG	SR.CITIZEN
0-3,000 GALLONS (MINIMUM)	BASE RATE	\$20.50	\$20.50
3,000 GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$3.85	\$3.85

WATER RATE -COMMERCIAL USING LESS THAN 1.8 MILLION GALLONS PER MONTH		
0-3,000 GALLONS (MINIMUM)	BASE RATE	\$18.65
3,000 GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$2.95

WATER RATE -COMMERCIAL USING 1.8 MILLION GALLONS OR MORE PER MONTH		
0-1.8 MILLION GALLONS	PER 1,000 GAL	\$2.30
1.8 MILLION GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$3.80

EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2019

WATER / SEWER FEES	
DEPOSIT	\$125.00
RECONNECT FEE	\$50.00
RECONNECT FEE AFTER HOURS	\$75.00
WATER SERVICE 3/4 INCH METER	\$550.00
WATER SERVICE 1 INCH METER	\$600.00
WATER SERVICE 2 INCH METER	\$1,850.00
SEWER SERVICE	\$650.00
These are minimum charges for basic tap fees.	
Additional charges may apply.	

SEWER RATES

SEWER RATE - INSIDE CITY ALL USERS USING LESS THAN 1.8 MILLION GALLONS PER MONTH			
		REG	SR.CITIZEN
0-1,000 GALLONS (MINIMUM)	BASE RATE	\$17.50	\$16.00
1,000 GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$2.98	\$2.75

SEWER RATE -OUTSIDE CITY ALL USERS USING LESS THAN 1.8 MILLION GALLONS PER MONTH			
		REG	SR.CITIZEN
0-1,000 GALLONS (MINIMUM)	BASE RATE	\$20.75	\$20.75
1,000 GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$3.90	\$3.90

SEWER RATE -COMMERCIAL USING LESS THAN 1.8 MILLION GALLONS PER MONTH		
0-1,000 GALLONS (MINIMUM)	BASE RATE	\$18.85
1,000 GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$3.05

SEWER RATE -COMMERCIAL USING 1.8 MILLION GALLONS OR MORE PER MONTH		
0-1.8 MILLION GALLONS	PER 1,000 GAL	\$3.65
1.8 MILLION GALLONS AND ABOVE	PER 1,000 GAL	\$4.08

EFFECTIVE June 18, 2019

BULK WATER RATES	
0 - 1,000 GALLONS	\$20.50
1,001 GALLONS AND ABOVE: \$3.85 PER 1,000 GALLONS	

GARBAGE AND TRASH CHARGE	
GARBAGE -PER CAN-PER MONTH	\$10.00
YARD & MISC TRASH -PER MONTH	\$5.00