**Public Hearing Minutes**

The Board of Alderman for the Village of Estherwood conducted a public hearing at 6:00pm on Thurs. November 9, 2023, at 6:00pm @ 124 N. LeBlanc St. Estherwood, La to receive comments on the following:

Ordinance #171

Increase in Water and Sewer Utility Rates

All questions were addressed.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS THE MAYOR ADJOURNED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

**VILLAGE OF ESTHERWOOD**

**BOARD OF ALDERMAN**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 AT 6:00 P. M.**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

The Board of Alderman for the Village of Estherwood met on the above date at 6:00p.m., in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 124 N LeBlanc Estherwood, La, in regular session with the Mayor Donna Bertrand presiding. Mayor Bertrand gave the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison. The roll was call and final attendance was recorded as follows:

Alderwoman/Mayor Pro-Tem Emily Mire - Absent

Alderwoman Layne Broussard

Alderman Michael Mouton

A motion was offered by Ald. Mouton, seconded by Ald. Broussard to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023, Regular Meeting as written.

A motion was offered by Ald. Mouton, seconded by Ald. Broussard to approve financial statements.

Mr. Jonas Harrington w/ Mader Engineering, Inc. gave updates on pending projects.

A motion was offered by Ald. Mouton, seconded by Ald. Broussard to accept the high bid of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($2500.00) from Southern Belt Autos for the purchase of the surplused 2009 Dodge white utility pickup.

The following ordinance was offered by \_Alderman Michael Mouton\_, seconded by Alderwoman Laney Broussard, duly resolved, and adopted.

**VILLAGE OF ESTHERWOOD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 171**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF ESTHERWOOD ESTABLISHING AND REGULATING THE UTILITY RATES, CHARGES, AND DEPOSITS ON WATER AND SEWER SERVICE ACCOUNTS SERVED BY THE VILLAGE OF ESTHERWOOD, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS the Village of Estherwood (“Village”) seeks to ensure that its utility enterprises are managed, operated, and maintained in a stable, sustainable, and financially healthy condition; and

WHEREAS the Village must collect sufficient service revenue to meet the major maintenance of the Utility System and offset the costs of operation and maintenance of that system to make those systems self-sufficient and to allow the continued support of other Village services; and

WHEREAS, the Village has conducted a comprehensive review of the utility system’s revenue requirements and desires to establish and periodically adjust the charges for utility services provided by the Village.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council for the Village of Estherwood, Louisiana, in regular session assembled, that Ordinance No. 171 shall read as follows

:

**SECTION 1. CLASS OF SERVICE**

Rates for utility services shall be based upon the following classes of service.

1. Residential Service
2. Commercial Service
3. Public
4. School
5. Housing Authority

**SECTION II. WATER & SEWER RATES**

The following monthly fees shall be charged for water & sewer service.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Residential Service** | WATER | SEWER |
| Base Rate including first 1,000 gallons | $ 26.50 | $ 15.00 |
| Each 1,000 gallons thereafter | $ 8.50 | $ 7.50 |
|  |  |  |
| **Commercial Service** |  |  |
| Base Rate including first 1,000 gallons | $ 31.50 | $ 18.00 |
| Each 1,000 gallons thereafter | $ 9.50 | $ 7.50 |
|  |  |  |
| **Public Service** |  |  |
| Base Rate including first 1,000 gallons | $ 31.50 | $ 18.00 |
| Each 1,000 gallons thereafter | $ 9.50 | $ 7.50 |
|  |  |  |
| **School Service** |  |  |
| Base Rate including first 1,000 gallons | $ 31.50 | $18.00 |
| Each 1,000 gallons thereafter | $ 9.50 | $7.50 |
| Flate-Rate Meter/Cafeteria | $ 190.00 | $ 170.00 |
| **Housing Authority Service** |  |  |
| Base Rate including first 20,000 gallons | $ 600.00 | $260.00 |
| Each 1,000 gallons thereafter | $ 11.25 | $7.00 |
|  |  |  |

Water and Sewer billing shall be based upon the volume of water that has passed through and been recorded by the account’s water meter.

The following monthly fees shall be charged based on household size.

|  |
| --- |
| Sewer with NO WATER |
| # 1 $ 13.50 |
| # 2 $ 15.50 |
| # 3 $ 18.25 |
| # 4 $ 23.00 |
| # 5 and over $28.00 |

Consumption rates for utility charges are subject to a 4% annual increase or current CPI (whichever is less) to maintain the sustainability of the water and sewer system. A supplemental attachment will be incorporated upon each annual rate increase.

**Section III. TAP IN FEE’S**

In order to establish new service to a location without an existing meter, or to modify an existing service connection, the Village shall charge the following “Tap in Fees’, as applicable.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tap In Fees - Water |  |
| ¾ inch meter | $300.00 |
| 1 inch meter | $450.00 |
| 2-inch meter | $600.00 |
|  |  |
| Tap In Fees - Sewer |  |
| Per tap | $550.00 |

1. If boring is required, the customer is responsible for the cost of the boring.
2. A charge for water meter and valve change will be billed at the current material cost.
3. Any tap connection or soil bore beyond the scope of the Village of Estherwood Utility Department shall be contracted out and the cost of these fees will be paid by the customer requesting service.

**SECTION IV. CONNECTION FEES**

a. The Village shall charge $25.00 “Connection/Transfer Fees” for new services.

b. The Village shall not establish service to any account holder who has an account in “DELINQUENT” `or “IN COLLECTION” status.

**SECTION V. DEPOSITS**

1. In order to establish a new service after the date of this Ordinance, the Village shall require the following meter deposits.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Water | $ 150.00 |
| Sewer | $ 150.00 |

1. Deposits shall be held by the Village until the Account is paid in full and closed. The Village shall not owe any interest on accounts.

**SECTION V1. MISCELLANEOUS FEES**

1. A Service Fee will be assessed if the Village is called out for a AFTER HOUR service call and it is determined it is not a result of the town’s utility infrastructure.
2. Mandated Fees-The Village shall charge for any fees, taxes or other charges imposed upon water and sewer service by any Federal or State Government or regulatory body. Current mandated fees are Safe Water Drinking Fee.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Miscellaneous Fees |  |
| Re-connection Fee | $100.00 |
| Returned Check Fee | $ 29.50 |
| Service Call Fee (after hours) | $ 50.00 |

**SECTION VII. ACCOUNT BILLING AND PAYMENTS**

1. The Village shall bill monthly services for the previous month by the end of the following month. Payments on accounts shall be due on the “Due Date” as noted on the bill.
2. If an account is not paid in full by the Due Date, a penalty fee of 10% shall be added to the original amount due the day after the Due Date and the account shall be identified as “DELINQUENT”. The account shall remain delinquent until the total past due account balance is paid.
3. In the event a check/bank draft is returned for unpaid funds, the Village shall charge a Returned Funds Fee (as set forth above), which shall be added to the overall account balance.

**SECTION VIII. TERMS OF SERVICE**

1. Water and sewer consumption is the account holder’s responsibility. The account shall be billed based upon all water having been measured via the meter. The account holder is responsible for monitoring the usage and for the security of the system and is responsible for payment for all services measured by the meter.
2. Water meters shall be the property of the Village. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any unauthorized person to tamper with, manipulate, or damage the water meter and its components in any way. Account holders or anyone violating this Ordinance shall be subject to fees which offset the costs to repair or replace the meter and a fine shall be paid by the account holder to the Village of Estherwood before water or sewer service is continued.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT if any provision, part, word, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance and do hereby declare the revision’s hereof to be separable, then in that event, only that particular provision, part, word, section, sentence, clause, or phrase shall be deemed unconstitutional of invalid and the remaining provisions, parts, words, sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases will be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

All ordinances or part of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

THIS ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED on the 12th day of October 2023, the title having been read and the Ordinance advertised within the legal delays as provided for by law, and after been duly considered at a public hearing, a record vote was taken on November 9, 2023. New rate schedules will start with the January 2024 billing.

THUS DONE, SIGNED, AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on this the 9th day of November 2023 at Estherwood, Acadia Parish, Louisiana after a roll call vote as follows:

YEAS: Michael Mouton, Layne Broussard

Nays: 0

ABSENT: Emily Mire

WHEREUPON the Mayor declared the above Ordinance be duly adopted on the 9th day of November 2023.

ATTEST:

/S/ BEVERLY NOLAN\_\_\_ /S/ DONNA BERTRAND\_\_

Beverly Nolan Donna Bertrand

Phylip Landry gave the monthly Police Report

Public Comments

Mayor Announcements

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING, THE**

**MOTION WAS OFFERED BY ALDERWOMAN LAYNE BROUSSARD, SECONDED BY**

**ALDERMAN MICHAEL MOUTON THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN UNTIL THE**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023, AT THE HOUR**

**OF 6:00 P.M**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Beverly Nolan Donna Bertrand

Village Clerk Mayor

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**CERTIFICATE**

I, BEVERLY NOLAN, Clerk of the Village of Estherwood, do hereby certify that the above minutes are a true and correct copy adopted by the Village of Estherwood in regular session on November 9, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Beverly Nolan Village Clerk

Village of Estherwood

124 N. LeBlanc St.

Estherwood, La 70534

(337) 783-0464