

## ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2017-3 PERTAINING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES AND ESTABLISHING NEW RATES AND FEES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF KEISER, ARKANSAS

WHEREAS, in accordance with ACT 545 of 2023, the City of Keiser, Arkansas COMMUNITIES Unlimited has conducted a comprehensive Rate Study that analyzes the financial sustainability and operational needs of the water and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, based on the findings of the Rate Study as mandated by ACT 545 of 2023, it has been determined that an adjustment in water and sewer rates and fees is necessary to maintain the financial health, integrity, and functionality of the City's water and sewer systems;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Keiser, Arkansas, in compliance with ACT 545 of 2023, hereby approves and authorizes the adjustment and raising of water and sewer rates and fees as detailed in the aforementioned Rate Study, effective as of September 1, 2023, to ensure the continued financial stability and proper operation of the water and sewer systems within the City of Keiser, Arkansas.

#### SECTION 1: WATER RATES AND FEES

A. **Residential Water Base Rate:** A monthly charge of \$13.13 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage, and an additional \$1.70 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

B. **Commercial Water Base Rate With Sewer:** A monthly charge of \$22.50 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage, and an additional \$1.81 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

C. **Commercial Water Base Rate Without Sewer:** A monthly charge of \$32.50 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage, and an additional \$1.81 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

D. **Rural Water Base Rate With Sewer:** A monthly charge of \$22.50 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage, and an additional \$1.81 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

E. **Rural Water Base Rate Without Sewer:** A monthly charge of \$32.50 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage, and an additional \$1.81 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

F. **Keiser Apartments LTD (Bunn) Base Water Rate:** A monthly charge of \$210.00 for the first 1,000 gallons of water usage, and an additional \$1.81 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

G. **Elimination of Surcharge:** The previously established \$10.00 surcharge per month for residential, commercial, and rural properties is hereby eliminated.

H. **Tapping Fee:** A fee equal to the actual cost to the city plus 10% shall be charged for all customers connecting to the water system.

I. **Meter Deposits:** A deposit of \$125.00 shall be required for all new customers. If at any time current customers with a deposit amount less than \$125.00 have their meter deposit used to

pay past due bill, they will be required to upgrade their meter deposit to the current rate of \$125.00.

J. **Reconnect Charge:** A fee of \$25.00 shall be charged for reconnections before 4:00 PM, and a fee of \$50.00 shall be charged for reconnections after 4:00 PM.

K. **Billing and Payment:** Water bills are due on the 15th of each month. A 10% late fee will be added if not paid by the due date. After 10 additional days, water services will be disconnected on the 11th day at 8:00 AM. The city cannot guarantee postal delivery of bills. Customers are responsible for contacting Keiser City Hall for bill amounts if not received by the 5th of each month.

L. None of the facilities or services afforded by the water system shall be furnished without a charge being made thereof.

## **SECTION 2: SEWER RATES AND FEES**

A. **Residential Sewer Base Rate:** A monthly charge of \$16.57 for the first 1,000 gallons of sewer water usage, and an additional \$0.90 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

B. **Commercial Sewer Base Rate With Sewer:** A monthly charge of \$21.25 for the first 1,000 gallons of sewer water usage, and an additional \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

C. **Rural Sewer Base Rate With Sewer:** A monthly charge of \$21.25 for the first 1,000 gallons of sewer water usage, and an additional \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

D. **Keiser Apartments LTD (Bunn) Base Sewer Rate:** A monthly charge of \$275.00 for the first 1,000 gallons of sewer water usage, and an additional \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

E. **Tapping Fee:** A fee equal to the actual cost to the city plus 10% shall be charged for all customers connecting to the sewer system.

F. None of the facilities or services afforded by the sewer system shall be furnished without a charge being made thereof.

## **SECTION 3: WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS**

All residential and commercial customers are required to have both water and sewer systems within the Keiser City Limits. Vacant unoccupied property not actually using the water or sewer facilities shall not be subject to a charge, but the burden of vacancy and non-use shall rest on the owner of the property. All bills for services shall be monthly in the amount due.

## **SECTION 4:**

That the provisions of this Ordinance are separable and if a section, phrase or provision shall be declared invalid such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5: SINGLE STATEMENT**

A single statement will be submitted for monthly water and sewer charges. Collections shall be applied first to the discharge of sewer charges.

**SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

**SECTION 7: ANNUAL INCREASE IN BASE WATER RATES**

Starting January 1, 2025, and every year thereafter on January 1st, all existing base water, sewer, and meter rates shall increase by 3%.

<b>Water Rates</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>
<b>Residential</b>	\$13.52	\$13.93	\$14.35	\$14.78	\$15.22	\$15.68	\$16.15	\$16.63
<b>Commercial With Sewer</b>	\$23.18	\$23.87	\$24.59	\$25.32	\$26.08	\$26.87	\$27.67	\$28.50
<b>Commercial Without Sewer</b>	\$33.48	\$34.48	\$35.51	\$36.58	\$37.68	\$38.81	\$39.97	\$41.17
<b>Rural With Sewer</b>	\$23.18	\$23.87	\$24.59	\$25.32	\$26.08	\$26.87	\$27.67	\$28.50
<b>Rural Without Sewer</b>	\$33.48	\$34.48	\$35.51	\$36.58	\$37.68	\$38.81	\$39.97	\$41.17
<b>Bunn Apartment</b>	\$216.30	\$222.79	\$229.47	\$236.36	\$243.45	\$250.75	\$258.27	\$266.02

<b>Water Volumetric Rates</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>
<b>Residential</b>	\$0.175	\$0.180	\$0.186	\$0.191	\$0.197	\$0.203	\$0.209	\$0.215
<b>Commercial With Sewer</b>	\$0.186	\$0.192	\$0.198	\$0.204	\$0.210	\$0.216	\$0.223	\$0.229
<b>Commercial Without Sewer</b>	\$0.186	\$0.192	\$0.198	\$0.204	\$0.210	\$0.216	\$0.223	\$0.229
<b>Rural With Sewer</b>	\$0.186	\$0.192	\$0.198	\$0.204	\$0.210	\$0.216	\$0.223	\$0.229
<b>Rural Without Sewer</b>	\$0.186	\$0.192	\$0.198	\$0.204	\$0.210	\$0.216	\$0.223	\$0.229
<b>Bunn Apartment</b>	\$0.186	\$0.192	\$0.198	\$0.204	\$0.210	\$0.216	\$0.223	\$0.229

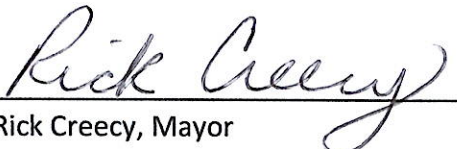
<b>Sewer Rates</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>
<b>Residential</b>	\$17.07	\$17.58	\$18.11	\$18.65	\$19.21	\$19.79	\$20.38	\$20.99
<b>Commercial With Sewer</b>	\$21.89	\$22.54	\$23.22	\$23.92	\$24.63	\$25.37	\$26.13	\$26.92
<b>Commercial Without Sewer</b>								
<b>Rural With Sewer</b>	\$21.89	\$22.54	\$23.22	\$23.92	\$24.63	\$25.37	\$26.13	\$26.92
<b>Rural Without Sewer</b>								
<b>Bunn Apartment</b>	\$283.25	\$291.75	\$300.50	\$309.51	\$318.80	\$328.36	\$338.22	\$348.36


<b>Sewer Volumetric Rates</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>
<b>Residential</b>	\$0.093	\$0.095	\$0.098	\$0.101	\$0.104	\$0.107	\$0.111	\$0.114
<b>Commercial With Sewer</b>	\$0.113	\$0.117	\$0.120	\$0.124	\$0.128	\$0.131	\$0.135	\$0.139
<b>Commercial Without Sewer</b>								
<b>Rural With Sewer</b>	\$0.113	\$0.117	\$0.120	\$0.124	\$0.128	\$0.131	\$0.135	\$0.139
<b>Rural Without Sewer</b>								
<b>Bunn Apartment</b>	\$0.113	\$0.117	\$0.120	\$0.124	\$0.128	\$0.131	\$0.135	\$0.139

**SECTION 8: EMERGENCY CLAUSE**

In accordance with Section 14 of the Arkansas Constitution, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. Therefore, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2023.

  
 Rick Creecy, Mayor

  
 Peggy Sellars, Recorder/Treasurer