



CITY OF GARRISON

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Notice of Water, Sewer, Gas, and Garbage Rate Increase

Following much discussion and careful consideration, the City of Garrison City Council Members voted to approve an increase to the City's Water, Sewer, Gas, and Garbage Rates at the March 13, 2023, City Council Meeting.

The City Council is deeply committed to managing costs and maintaining operations while upholding its commitment to a sustainable future.

As you are probably aware, prices for most utilities, supplies, products, and materials have continued to rise across the country. The same reigns true for the Water, Wastewater, and Gas Department's operating expenses including the parts and materials needed to keep our water system, gas system, and wastewater system running properly and efficiently.

The Council's decision to approve this increase was not easily decided. Numerous things were considered during the discussion, including information about the City's eligibility to apply for various grants. For example, grant assistance is based on the number of people served by the water supply, the number of wells a groundwater supply operates, and/or the source water susceptibility determination, among other things. Applicants are ranked and qualification is determined by a points system where points are awarded for things such as total population, unemployment, average household income, percentage of population served, and water rates. The ability to secure grants such as this would help to ensure continued improvements such as replacing aging infrastructure and facilities, in turn, causing fewer service interruptions.

Efforts to improve the water system, wastewater system, and gas system have been an ongoing priority for the City. A couple of the most recent improvements included upgrading manual water meters to more modern electronic water meters. This upgrade has helped not only to ensure more accurate readings but also to reduce the manpower needed to record monthly reads. The City of Garrison has applied for a Block Grant to replace sewer lines, and ARPA money that was received will be used to replace sewer lines on Greenwood Street.

Water rate increases have been relatively modest over the past years. Ensuring that those rate increases remain modest and justifiably necessary is an ongoing objective for City Council Members.

The rate increase that was approved on March 13, 2023, and will become effective on April 1, 2023, is as follows:

The base or minimum monthly usage rate for water, sewer, and gas will increase \$3 for each utility, and garbage will increase from \$17 to \$19. There will also be a "Volunteer Fire Donation" of \$4 added to the bill. This donation is voluntary. If you do not want to donate, please draw a line through the charge and it will be removed.

If you have questions about the rate increase, your water bill, or other utility questions, please contact the City of Garrison Utility Department at 936-347-2201.