

Fayette County WCID – Monument Hill NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

District Office

100 Country Club Drive
La Grange, TX 78945
Telephone: (979) 968-5514
Website:
www.monumenthillwater.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 8 am—12

Board of Directors

Dixon McNair	President
Seth Gunn	Vice-Pres.
Bobby Gilmore	Secretary
James Benes	Treasurer
Chester Johnson	Director

Lori Steffek,
Office Manager

Wayne Kocian, Inframark Operator

The Board invites all members of the District to attend its monthly Board of Directors meetings held on the second Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. at the District office, located at 100 Country Club Drive. Please note that due to scheduling conflicts, however, sometimes the meetings need to be moved to another day or time. Please contact the District office (968-5514) to verify that the meeting will be held on its regular date and time. If someone would like to address the Board during a meeting, the District requests that they notify the office no later than 72 hours prior to a scheduled meeting so they can be added to the meeting agenda.

Board Approves Water & Sewer Rate Increases

The Fayette County WCID – Monument Hill Board of Directors held a public meeting on February 13, 2020 and voted to increase the monthly water base rate for all customers, as well as, to increase the monthly sewer base rate currently being charged. The decision was not an easy one and represents the first water and sewer rate increase the Board has approved since April 2016. Remaining unchanged is the District's staggered water rate structure, which is the amount charged for every 1,000 gallons of water used (see backside of newsletter for staggered rate structure table).

The Board remains sensitive to the ongoing financial impact the \$1.39 million bond sale has had on its customers and has worked diligently to keep costs down the last four years; however, with the need to replace one ground storage tank (\$200,000), repair and repaint the other (\$70,000), two pressure tanks that need recoating and repainting (\$10,000 each), several sewer projects that the remaining bond proceeds won't adequately fund, and aging water and sewer infrastructure, the only option was to raise rates. The new rates will become **effective April 1, 2020** and will be reflected on the bills received at the end of April/beginning of May.

Following is a comparison of the new vs. current water base rates:

New Water Base Rate (0 Gallons)	
5/8" x 3/4" Meter	\$38.50
1" Meter	\$96.25
2" Meter	\$308.00

Current Water Base Rate (0 Gallons)	
5/8" x 3/4" Meter	\$36.00
1" Meter	\$90.00
2" Meter	\$288.00

New Water Bill Payment Options!

In response to frequent, ongoing requests, the District is pleased to announce that all major credit and debit cards, as well as e-checks, are now accepted for the payment of water bills! Customers using credit or debit cards will be assessed a 3% convenience fee for the use of their card. Customers paying by e-check will be charged a \$1.00 use fee. To help ensure personal financial information is kept secure and to lessen cyber attack susceptibility, the District has contracted with Heartland Payment Services for the handling of all credit/debit cards and e-checks. This allows our customers to access Heartland's secure payment portal for any payments made online or via the toll free number. In an extra effort to keep our customer's personal data safe, **no credit/debit cards or e-checks payments will be accepted at the office.** Credit/debit cards and e-checks will only be accepted via the District's website online payment portal (www.monumenthillwater.com, click the green "bill payment options" button located to the right of the screen), by typing in the direct URL payment address (<https://heartlandpaymentservices.net/WebPayments/MonumentHillWater/bills>) or by calling our toll free pay-by-phone number (877-556-7967). **Customers will need their account number and the amount of their bill in order to make online and/or phone payments.**

Water & Sewer Rates

(Cont'd from page 1)

Sewer rates for every fiscal year (April 1st—March 31st) are calculated based on each individual customer's **winter water use average**, as determined by their water use during the months of December, January and February. Each residential and commercial customer is allotted 3,000 gallons per month in accordance with the Wastewater Treatment Contract the District holds with the City of La Grange, who is responsible for the treatment of the District's wastewater.

Following is a breakdown on the new base sewer rates by residential, commercial and "special" classes of customers:

New Sewer Rates			
	Type of Account		
	Residential	Commercial	Special
Base Sewer Rate	\$41.12 ⁽¹⁾	\$46.91 ⁽²⁾	\$1,115.46
City of LG Gallon Allotment	3,000	3,000	250,000
Charge per 1,000 gallons in excess of allotment	\$6.04	\$6.59	\$6.59

⁽¹⁾ All residential customers whose winter water use average is 3,000 gallons or less will be charged a sewer base rate of \$41.12. Any residential customer whose winter water use average exceeds 3,000 gallons (the allotted amount per City of La Grange) will be charged the \$41.12 base rate plus \$6.04 for every 1,000 gallons in excess of 3,000 gallons. For example: a residential customer who has a winter water use average of 5,000 gallons would be assessed a monthly sewer rate of \$53.20

(\$41.12 base rate + \$12.08 for 2,000 gallons (at \$6.04 per 1,000) more than the 3,000 gallon City of La Grange allotment).

⁽²⁾ All commercial customers whose winter water use average is 3,000 gallons or less will be charged a sewer base rate of \$46.91. Any commercial customer whose winter water use average exceeds 3,000 gallons will be charged the \$46.91 base rate plus \$6.59 for every 1,000 gallons in excess of 3,000 gallons. For example: a commercial customer who has a winter water use average of 10,000 gallons would be assessed a sewer rate of \$93.04 (\$46.91 base rate + \$46.13 for 7,000 gallons (at \$6.59 per 1,000) more than the City of La Grange 3,000 gallon allotment).

These newly assessed sewer rates will be effective for the one year period beginning with the April 2020 billing and extending through the March 2021 billing cycle. Anyone who experienced a water leak, sprinkler system malfunction or other unintended water use anomaly during the winter water use averaging period (December – February) is urged to contact the Water District to see if their water use average can be adjusted.

Staggered Water Rate Structure

From	To	Rate per 1,000 gallons
0 Gallons	10,000	\$2.50
10,001	20,000	\$2.90
20,001	30,000	\$3.20
30,001	40,000	\$3.60
40,001	50,000	\$3.90
50,001	And up	\$4.60

The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 4 p.m., at its office located at 100 Country Club Drive, La Grange, Texas.

The District offices will be closed in observance of Good Friday on April 10, 2020; on Monday, May 25, 2020, for Memorial Day; on Friday, July 3, 2020, for Independence Day Observed.



Sign up for Emergency Alerts

In order to sign up for alerts and/or emails, please visit the District's website at www.monumenthillwater.com, and from our homepage, click on the orange "Sign Up for Alerts" button on the right side panel of the screen. Your mailbox will NOT be flooded with junk mail. Need help subscribing? Not sure if you've already subscribed? Please contact Lori Steffek at (979) 968-5514 and she will gladly assist you.



If you're sewer clean out drain cover looks like this one, it's time to replace it! If you need a cover that has a flat top, instead of the usual protruding square nut head cover, please drop by the office, and we'll be happy to provide you with one....free of charge!

WORKING FOR YOU

Dixon McNair ~ President: (713) 805-0261
 Seth Gunn ~ Vice President: (979) 968-3473
 Bobby Gilmore ~ Secretary: (979) 968-5686
 James Benes ~ Treasurer: (979) 968-3058
 Chester Johnson ~ Director: (979) 966-9669
 Wayne Kocian ~ Operator: (512) 848-0041
 Lori Steffek ~ Office Manager: (979) 968-5514 (office)
 (979) 208-9173 (Emergencies)