

The Council of the City of Struthers voted to increase the City's sanitary sewer rate charge, effective September 1, 2020. This is the first rate increase in 25 years since 1995. The rate increase is necessary to maintain operations at the City's Water Pollution Control Facility in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

The increase will only be used for personnel payroll and benefits, materials and supplies, equipment replacement, fuel, chemicals, utilities, general and vehicle maintenance and repairs, sludge hauling, and capital improvement projects required by the OEPA for proper operation of the City's sanitary sewer system and the Water Pollution Control Facility.

The rate charge increased from \$1.66 per 100 cubic feet of water used to \$3.32 per 100 cubic feet of water used. This new rate is still one of the lowest sanitary user charge systems in the State of Ohio. In addition, the City Council voted to increase the Storm Water Utility Fund rate charge from \$3.50 per month to \$4.50 per month. This is the first rate increase for this fund since its inception in 2007.

The stormwater rate increase is necessary to also maintain operations of the fund and meet the requirements of the OEPA. City Council did not raise the existing sanitary sewer debt service fund and will remain at \$3.00 per month. For a sanitary sewer user in the City of Struthers using an average of 668 cubic feet of water per month, the monthly sewer bill will increase from \$17.59 per month to \$29.68 per month.