

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
PUBLIC HEARING TIME IS 7:00 PM AT BRIDGER TOWN HALL, 108 S D STREET**

Tuesday October 3, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RATE INCREASES FOR WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE:

- The council will hear all persons presenting recommendations or objections relative to the proposed rate increases/changes.

ADJOURN:

Conduct at Public Meetings

The public is invited to speak on any item under discussion by the Council, after recognition by the presiding officer.

The speaker should stand, and for the record, give his/her name and address, and, if applicable, the person, firm or organization he/she represents. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes unless approval by the presiding officer, and citizens requesting to speak shall limit him or herself to matters of fact regarding the issue of concern.

Prepared statements are welcomed and should be given to the Clerk of the Council. Prepared statements that are also read, however, shall be deemed unduly repetitious. All prepared statements shall become part of the hearing record.

While the City Council is in session, those in attendance must preserve order and decorum. A member shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer.

Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous or disruptive during the Council meeting shall be forthwith barred from further presentation to the Council by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue be granted by the presiding officer or a majority vote of the Council.

The Bridger Town Council reserves the right to amend these rules of procedure as deemed necessary.

TOWN OF BRIDGER
 TIME LINE
 WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE RATE INCREASE
 NEWSPAPER LEGAL PUBLICATION

CITY COUNCIL SETS HEARING SCHEDULE	September 5, 2023
PASS RESOLUTION OF INTENTION	September 5, 2023
PUBLICATION DATE – FIRST NOTICE*	September 14, 2023
PUBLICATION DATE – SECOND NOTICE*	September 21, 2023
PUBLICATION DATE – THIRD NOTICE*	September 28, 2023
MAIL NOTICES TO CUSTOMERS**	September 14, 2023
PUBLIC HEARING DATE	October 3, 2023
RESOLUTION TO INCREASE RATES	October 10, 2023
EFFECTIVE DATE	October 10, 2023
RATES TO BE IMPLEMENTED	November Utility bills

***LEGAL NOTICE**

THE NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED THREE (3) TIMES WITH AT LEAST SIX (6) DAYS SEPARATING EACH PUBLICATION. THE FIRST PUBLICATION SHALL BE NO MORE THAN 28 DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING AND THE LAST PUBLICATION MAY BE NO LESS THAN THREE (3) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING.

****CUSTOMER NOTICE:**

The notice must also be mailed at least 7 days and not more than 30 days prior to the hearing to persons served by the utility. The notice must be mailed within the prescribed time period. This notice must contain an estimate of the amount of the customer’s average bill will increase. The published notice must contain: date time and place of hearing, brief statement of proposed action and address and telephone of person who may be contacted for further information regarding the hearing.

Notices of all hearings shall be mailed first class, postage prepaid to the Montana Consumer Counsel.



TOWN OF BRIDGER

108 South D Street
Bridger, MT 59014
(406) 662-3677

NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 5, 2023, the Town Council of the Town of Bridger, Montana adopted three (3) Resolutions of Intention to Increase Rates for the Users of the Town's Services, including Water, Sewer and Garbage.

The Town finds it necessary to collect sufficient revenues to pay the costs associated with upgrading and the operation and maintenance of the Town's systems.

The Town proposes to amend the existing Resolution #232 with three (3) separate Resolutions to increase the monthly rates for Water, Sewer and Garbage as follows:

RESOLUTION #265: RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGER TO INCREASE RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE TOWN'S WATER SERVICES AND IMPLEMENT A FOUR (4) YEAR PLAN OF INCREASES.

Section 1. Intent to Increase Water User Charges. It is the intent of the Town to implement rate increases for users of the system, as set forth herein.

1.01 Current Rates.

Residential and Business Collection Charges are as follows:

- Water Hook-up Fee: \$500.00
- Flat rate of \$34.53 per month with the following exceptions:
 - Separate Apartment Buildings: \$34.53 per building per month
 - Multi-Level Apartment Buildings: \$34.53 per floor per month
 - Out of Town Resident Water: (\$34.53 plus 12%) \$38.67 per month
 - No-Premises Water: \$34.53 per month.
 - Infrastructure Fee: \$10.40 per month

1.02 Proposed Rate Increase.

For the November 2023 increase, Water rates will NOT be increased.

Residential and Business Collection Charges are as follows:

- Water Hook-up Fee: \$500.00
- Flat rate of \$34.53 per month with the following exceptions:
 - Separate Apartment Buildings: \$34.53 per building per month
 - Multi-Level Apartment Buildings: \$34.53 per floor per month
 - Out of Town Resident Water: (\$34.53 plus 12%) \$38.67 per month
 - No-Premises Water: \$34.53 per month.
 - Infrastructure Fee: \$10.40 per month

Section 2. Four (4) Year Plan for Yearly Rate Increases for fiscal years 2025-2028 Taking effect for July services each year, the rate increases will be as follows:

- 2.01 2024-2025 Water Rate Increase of 1%
- 2.02 2025-2026 Water Rate Increase of 1%
- 2.03 2026-2027 Water Rate Increase of 1%
- 2.04 2027-2028 Water Rate Increase of 1%

RESOLUTION #266: RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGER TO INCREASE RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE TOWN'S SEWER SERVICES AND IMPLEMENT A FOUR (4) YEAR PLAN OF INCREASES.

Section 1. Intent to Increase Sewer User Charges. It is the intent of the Town to implement rate increases for users of the system, as set forth herein.

1.01 Current Rates.

Residential and Business collections are as follows:

- Sewer Hook-up Fee: \$400.00
- Flat Rates:
 - \$17.48
 - \$25.75
 - \$25.97
 - \$28.37
 - \$32.30
 - \$32.66
 - \$34.42
 - \$37.03
 - \$37.08
 - \$37.90
 - \$45.09
 - \$45.12
 - \$45.85
 - \$50.43
 - \$50.57
 - \$63.71
 - \$78.84
 - \$114.86
 - Infrastructure Fee: \$10.40

1.02 Proposed Rate Changes.

Residential and Business Collection Charges are as follows:

- Sewer Hook-up Fee: \$500.00
- Residential Rate: \$27.82 per month
 - Separate Apartment Buildings: \$27.82 per building per month
 - Multi-Level Apartment Buildings: \$27.82 per floor per month
- Residential Lift Station: \$48.70 per month
- Out of Town Residential Rate: \$37.18 per month
- Commercial Rate: \$48.60 per month
- Out of Town Commercial Rate: \$54.43 per month
- Infrastructure Fee: \$11.25 per month

Section 2. Four (4) Year Plan for Yearly Rate Increases for fiscal years 2025-2028 Taking effect for July services each year, the rate increases will be as follows:

- 2.01 2024-2025 Sewer Rate Increase of 4%
- 2.02 2025-2026 Sewer Rate Increase of 5%
- 2.03 2026-2027 Sewer Rate Increase of 5%
- 2.04 2027-2028 Sewer Rate Increase of 5%

RESOLUTION #267: RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGER TO INCREASE RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE TOWN'S GARBAGE SERVICES AND IMPLEMENT A FOUR (4) YEAR PLAN OF INCREASES.

Section 1. Intent to Increase Garbage User Charges. It is the intent of the Town to implement rate increases for users of the system, as set forth herein.

1.01 Current Rates.

Residential and Business Collection Charges are as follows:

- 96-gallon cart: \$18.04
- 2-yard dumpster: \$51.30
- 3-yard dumpster: \$77.02
- 4-yard dumpster: \$102.68
- 6-yard dumpster: \$154.03
- 8-yard dumpster: \$205.35

1.02 Proposed Rate Increase.

For the November 2023 increase, Garbage rates will NOT be increased.

Residential and Business Collection Charges are as follows:

- 96-gallon cart: \$18.04
- 2-yard dumpster: \$51.30
- 3-yard dumpster: \$77.02
- 4-yard dumpster: \$102.68
- 6-yard dumpster: \$154.03
- 8-yard dumpster: \$205.35

Section 2. Four (4) Year Plan for Yearly Rate Increases for fiscal years 2025-2028 Taking effect for July services each year, the rate increases will be as follows:

- 2.01 2024-2025 Garbage Rate Increase of 5%
- 2.02 2025-2026 Garbage Rate Increase of 2% for carts and 5% for dumpsters
- 2.03 2026-2027 Garbage Rate Increase of 2% for carts and 5% for dumpsters
- 2.04 2027-2028 Garbage Rate Increase of 2% for carts and 5% for dumpsters

The above amendments will not come into effect until the rate increase process is implemented in accordance with applicable law and the initial rate increase will be effective with the billing of services for November 2023.

The average residential rate increase in November 2023 will be \$2.07 per month. The average commercial rate increase in November 2023 will be approximately \$17 per month.

Under the four-year plan for each of the services, Water, Sewer and Garbage, those increases are percentage based. One can multiply the percentage increase for each service by the amount of their current rate.

A public hearing on the proposed rate increases will be held on October 3, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 108 S D Street, in Bridger, Montana.

Further information about the proposed rate increases may be obtained by contacting Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk / Treasurer, Town of Bridger, Montana 59014, phone (406) 662-3677.



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk / Treasurer

Published: September 14, 2023
September 21, 2023
September 28, 2023