



# CITY OF VICKSBURG

## Water and Gas Administration

2111 Drummond Street  
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[www.vicksburg.org](http://www.vicksburg.org)

June 1, 2015

Dear Customer:

Due to the ever increasing costs of providing safe drinking water and treating sewage, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen asked for a study of the City's utility rate structure to determine whether or not the existing utility rates were sufficient to cover the costs of the water and sewer systems. The engineering firm of Allen and Hoshall was hired to perform the study. Earlier this year Allen and Hoshall presented the Board with their findings and a committee was appointed to study the report.

The committee considered several factors to determine whether or not a rate increase was needed: the recommendations of the engineering report, the time frame since the last water rate increase (May 2010), and a projected annual expenditure of \$3 Million dollars per year over the next ten years to meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements. In an effort to meet the rising operating costs, an aging infrastructure and EPA requirements, the committee determined that an increase was necessary and recommended the following.

1. A \$1.00 reduction in garbage collection fees for residential customers and the same 5.7% decrease for commercial customers
2. No change in the minimum water rates for residential customers for the first 2,000 gallons and commercial customers for the first 4,000 gallons
3. A 5% increase in the water rates for residential customers for the next 8,000 gallons
4. A 30% increase in the water rates for residential customers using more than 10,000 gallons and commercial customers using over 4,000 gallons
5. No change in the minimum sewer bill for residential and commercial customers
6. A 10% increase in sewer rates for usage over 2,000 gallons
7. A \$5.00 flat EPA fee for all sewer accounts

The proposed changes were approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and went into effect June 1, 2015.

About 80% of our residential water customers use less than 10,000 gallons per month, so the current rate increases will have a minimal impact on that group.

We hope to continue to provide the citizens of Vicksburg the best possible drinking water and safely treat and dispose of the wastewater in accordance with EPA requirements. We look forward to serving you in the future.

Sincerely,

Tammye Christmas  
Water and Gas Office Manager