

**ORDINANCE 2022-13
WATER RATES**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PRESIDIO, TEXAS ESTABLISHING THE WATER RATES FOR INSIDE THE CITY AND PROVISION FOR OUT OF CITY LIMITS SERVICE RATES; AND PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT; CONFLICTS AND REPEAL; EFFECTIVE DATE; NO VESTED INTEREST; PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT; PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING. SHOULD ANY PREVIOUS ORDINANCE CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE, THIS ORDINANCE WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Presidio seeks to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City, and the best interests of the city; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to ensure that water utility service is adequate and efficient for the citizens of the City, and all water rates imposed are necessary and attributable to the increasing costs incurred to produce and deliver safe drinking water;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code section 51.001, the City Council is authorized to adopt an ordinance that is for the good government, peace or order of the City and is necessary or proper for carrying out a power granted by law to the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code section 51.012, the City Council is authorized to adopt an ordinance, not inconsistent with state law, that the Council considers proper for the government, interest, welfare or good order of the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 402 of the Texas Local Government Code and other laws, the city is authorized to operate its water facilities inside or outside its municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City owns and operates the water and sewer utility facilities, and sanitation and landfill for the benefit of our citizens;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Texas Water Code and the City's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, the City has the authority and responsibility to provide water and sewer services to our customers;

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to ensure that water utility service is adequate and efficient for the citizens of the City, and all water rates imposed under this ordinance will be automatically be adjusted on 1st of October of each calendar year by a 2% increase to cover the cost of inflation:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRESIDIO, COUNTY OF PRESIDIO, AND STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1: FINDINGS OF FACT

All of the above premises are hereby found to be true and correct legislative and factual findings of the City of Presidio ("City") and are hereby approved and incorporated into the "body of this Ordinance as if copied in their entirety.

SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF RATES

A. **WATER RATES:** The charge for water services with 2000 gallons a month included furnished by the City of Presidio, Texas, to a customer shall be as follows:

Meter and Water Rate Charge of City Customers inside the City Limits

Base Residential & Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a ¾” meter is \$12.22 + \$3.50 per thousand gallons.

Base Residential & Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 1” meter is \$14.89 + \$3.50 per thousand gallons.

Base Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 1.1/2” to 2” meter is \$21.24 + \$3.50 per thousand gallons.

Base Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 3” meter is \$53.10 + \$3.50 per thousand.

Base Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 4” to 6” meter Rate is \$80.70 + \$3.50 per thousand gallons.

Out of City Limit Rates:

Any Residential Customer or Commercial venture or political government subdivision outside the City limits of the City of Presidio but is provided City Services will be subject to a 50% additional surcharge on water meters, water, sewer rates and garbage service. Any customer who wishes, that borders on the city limits may petition the City Council to enter the city and once into the city no longer have to pay outside the city rates.

WATER RATES: The charge for water services with 2000 gallons a month included furnished by the City of Presidio, Texas, to a customer shall be as follows:

Base Residential & Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a ¾” meter is \$18.31 + \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

Base Residential & Commercial Business Rates - Standard Rate on a 1” meter is \$22.30 + \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

Base Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 1.1/2’ to 2” meter is \$31.86 + \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

Base Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 2” meter is \$49.38 + \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

Base Commercial Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 3” meter is \$79.69 + \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

Base Commercial/Construction Business Rates – Standard Rate on a 4” to 6” meter is \$117.42 + \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

Temporary Constructional/Commercial Rates;

Temporary Construction/Industrial Water Rates inside the city limits:

Temporary Constructional/Industrial rates inside the City Limits; The City shall provide a 3” inch Automatic Read Meter with 2” certified back flow prevention valve and cut off valves from water fire hydrants. The customer shall provide and air gap installation and provide a water line from the city water source to water rack or storage source. Increased sizing will be subject to negotiation for increased service. Standard Rate on a 3’ temporary meter inch meter \$640.00 per month + \$10.00 per thousand gallons with security deposit of \$1000.00 to open the account. This deposit is refundable or can be applied to the amount owed.

Temporary Construction/Industrial Water Rates outside the city:

Temporary Constructional/Industrial Rates on projects outside the City Limits; The City shall provide a 3” inch Automatic Read Meter with 2” certified back flow prevention valve and cut off valves from water fire hydrants. The customer shall provide an approved air gap installation and provide a water line from the city water source to water rack or storage source. Increased sizing will be subject to negotiation for increased service. Standard Rate on a 3’ temporary meter in meter Rate \$640.00 per month + \$15.00 per thousand gallons with security deposit of \$1500.00 to open the account. This deposit is refundable or can be applied to the amount owed.

Raw Water Rates; When Available

When the City has access to provide raw water rates under the supervision of a city employee. An invoice will be presented and signed by the driver prior to the estimated number of fill ups per day. This water is non potable. A minimum charge of access to non-potable water is \$50.00 and \$5.00 per thousand on a per load basis. This is per load with certification of the tanker capacity per load from the city non potable water rack. Potable Water used inside the city or the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) by a political subdivision for the benefit of the city may have free access to non-potable water. Non potable water used outside the ETJ for Federal, State, or Country projects are subject to negotiation to cover pumping expenses by the City Administrator.

Fire Protection:

Potable or raw Water is available for fire protection by all emergency services from any available source. However, the estimated use water, damage to emergency equipment, manpower and other resources used can be charged to a negligent party or their insurance company due to careless activity of the responsible party for damages.

Meter Installation

Meter Installation by the City will be billed at the following rates:

Inside City Limits - \$1,500
Outside City Limits - \$2,500

Any service line required, in excess of 50 feet, will be billed to the customer at the current cost of materials.

The customer has the option of paying this fee over a period of 18 months.

Backflow Preventer Annual Inspection

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires that any connection to the municipal water system that has the potential to cause cross contamination – including, but not limited to, lawn irrigation or sprinkler systems and private water wells, must be fitted with a Backflow Prevention Device. This device may be required for the whole building or for specific locations, such as on a hose bib. Any customer of the City of Presidio Water System is required to have a properly installed Backflow Prevention Device in any situation where the possibility of cross contamination exists.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires an annual inspection of the customer's Backflow Preventer to be filed with the City. Customers may choose to hire a private certified inspector or the City has a licensed Backflow Inspector upon request by the owner of the PRV – Backflow devices to be inspected and filed with the City Water Department for proper operation. The fee for the inspection is \$150.00 and does not include repair or replacement of any devices. If the device fails inspection, the customer will be given written notice requiring repair and re-inspection within thirty days. If the customer fails to repair or replace the device, or the device fails the thirty-day re-inspection, utilities will be disconnected without further notice. The \$150 inspection fee covers one re-inspection if required. If additional inspections are required, the customer will be charged and additional \$150 fee.

Tampering with meter.

If it is deemed that the customer has tampered with the water meter or tried to reconnect services [disconnected] due to the nonpayment of utilities, the city utility department will be authorized to pull the meter and file charges against the customer. To restore water service, the new customer fees and deposits will apply and fees will be calculated the customer to reinstall the meter and restore the account.

Meter reading policy, late payment, and penalty, reconnect fee and reread fee.

- (a) Meters shall be read monthly and consumers shall be notified in writing by a statement showing the amount due for water, sewer, and sanitation. The amount due shall be payable at city hall by the fifteenth day of each month following the meter reading. If amount due is not paid on or before the due date, a ten-percent penalty shall be added to the balance due on said account. If the account

remains unpaid by the fifteenth day of the second month following the meter reading, utilities will be disconnected without further notice. In order to reconnect utilities, the customer will be required to pay a \$40.00 reconnect fee, pay the current balance of the utilities and adopted deposit rates will apply.

- (b) Late fee forgiveness, a customer may have a late fee forgiven if they enroll in a bank direct draft program for their City account. As a direct draft customer late fees can be avoided unless their account has insufficient funds.

- (c) Reread of water meter services is available at no charge if needed to confirm or deny water usage on an account in conjunction with the InCode Software providing a water meter usage history. If the reading is found to be correct, additional rereads will be charged at \$20 each. If, however, the additional reread finds the original reading to be incorrect, the \$20 fee will be waived.

Deposits for water; temporary disconnect policy and transfer and other fees.

(a) *Generally.* A meter deposit shall be collected by the City of Presidio before any service is turned on. This deposit is in addition to the non-refundable \$40 connection fee.

Deposits shall be based on the size of meter according to the following:

Water Meter Size (inches)	Amount of Deposit
¾" to 1"	\$150.00
1 ½ to 2"	\$270.00
2" to 3"	\$390.00
3 ½ " to 4"	\$510.00

Commercial amount equal to two (2) months estimated average bill include water, sewer, and sanitation. If the old deposit is applied toward a delinquent account for nonpayment and is disconnected, the remainder of the balance must be paid and the above deposit will apply to reconnection. The city will apply the deposit to the final bill and consumer will be refunded the remaining balance or billed for remaining portion of the bill.

(b) *Temporary disconnects and reconnects policy.* Reconnection of service after a voluntary temporary disconnection of water shall have \$40.00 reconnect charge. There shall not be any charge for suspending billing the voluntary disconnection period or leave of the meter. The meter shall continue to be read on a monthly basis and if any consumption readings appears on the meter during the disconnect period will be charge to the consumer when the meter during the disconnect period will be charged to the consumer when the meter is put back into service. The meter shall be locked and under complete control of the city for the temporary disconnect or leave period.

Non Compliance Disconnect: The City of Presidio reserves the right for the City Administrator to issue an order to disconnect the city water as a last resort for code compliance issues with any city customer or business that is in deliberate violation or noncompliance with any of the City Codes or Ordinances of the City of Presidio, state or federal regulations. A code reinstatement inspection must be performed and with a reconnect fee of \$200.00 plus any previous fines, payments, or municipal court judgements must be settled before service will be restored.

(c) *[Transfer fee]* A transfer fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be charge to change the name or person or business to an existing account when transferring utilities and or deposit to a new residential location or change of street address, for the incapacity to pay their bills with a power of attorney or death in the family. The account may be transferred to another the name of a family member free of charge. Multiple names are not allowed on a city account other than the person or couple paying the bill. The City is not able or accountable for an accurate proof of residence of our customers. When requested for a copy of customer account it should include a disclaimer that the City cannot verify where the customer actually lives.

(d) Returned Checks and ACH Payments.

Customers shall be assessed a \$35.00 fee for each returned check or declined ACH Payment. If the city is unable to collect on the returned check or declined ACH Payment, it will be forwarded to the City / County attorney for collection.

(e) Copy of Bill

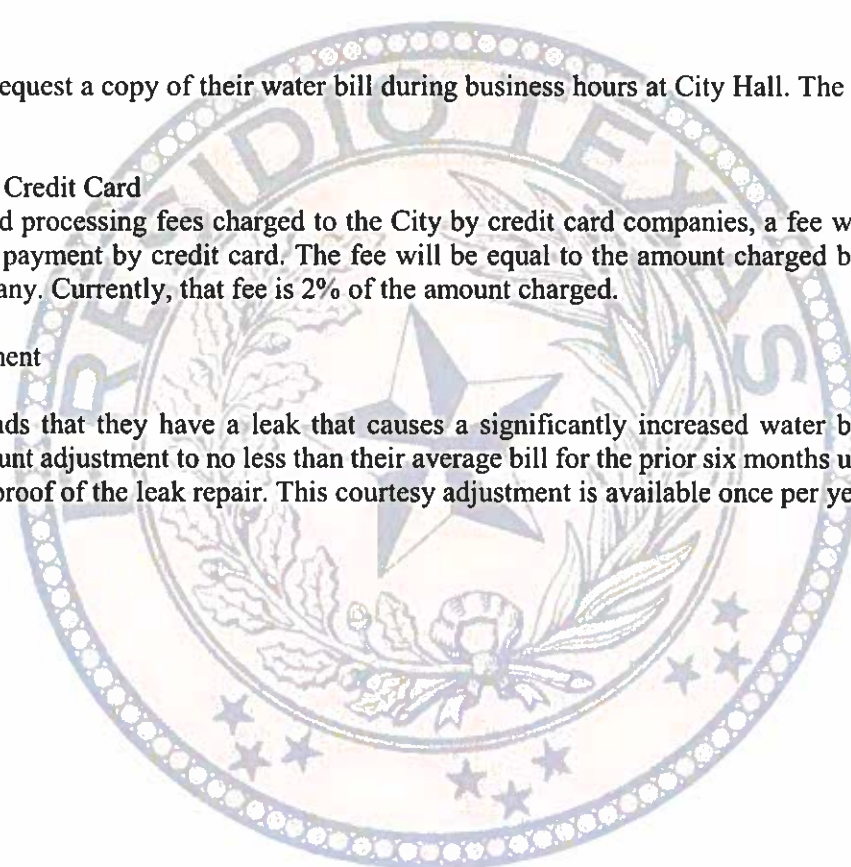
Customers may request a copy of their water bill during business hours at City Hall. The fee for a copy of the bill is \$1.

(f) Payment with Credit Card

Due to credit card processing fees charged to the City by credit card companies, a fee will be charged to the customer for payment by credit card. The fee will be equal to the amount charged by the credit card processing company. Currently, that fee is 2% of the amount charged.

(g) Leak Adjustment

If a customer finds that they have a leak that causes a significantly increased water bill, they may be provided an account adjustment to no less than their average bill for the prior six months upon providing to City of Presidio proof of the leak repair. This courtesy adjustment is available once per year per account.



SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

Ordinance 2022-13 shall become effective immediately upon passage with annual increases of 2% for 5 years taking with the annual increase taking effect on the 1st day of October each year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ___ DAY OF _____ 2023 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRESIDIO, TEXAS.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

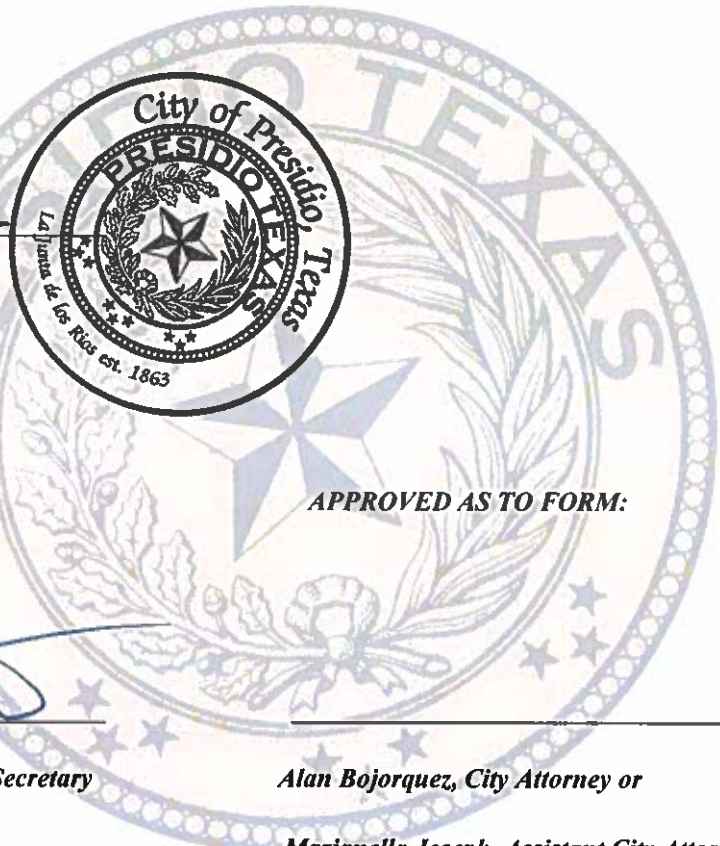
SECOND AND FINAL READING

December 5th 2022

_____ 2023

John Ferguson
John Ferguson, Mayor

City of Presidio



ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brenda Ornelas-Acuña

Brenda Ornelas-Acuña, City Secretary

City of Presidio

Alan Bojorquez, City Attorney or

Marianella Joseph, Assistant City Attorney

City of Presidio