



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

**TO:** City Council Regular Session **MEETING DATE:** December 5, 2023  
**FROM:** Scott Schultz, Assistant Water Utilities Director  
**SUBJECT:** City Council approval on Second and Final Reading of Ordinance O-32-2023 authorizing water rate changes for Fiscal Year 2024.

### BACKGROUND

Sec. 90-253. Water usage and monthly minimum charges.

- (a) *Rates schedule.* The rates, fees and charges for water service furnished by the water system of the city, referred to as a water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the water system, a water charge according to the following schedule:

Base Charges for all water meters are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
¾"	<del>\$13.43</del> <u>\$13.83</u>
1"	<del>\$19.94</del> <u>\$20.54</u>
1-½"	<del>\$28.39</del> <u>\$29.24</u>
2"	<del>\$39.28</del> <u>\$40.46</u>
3"	<del>\$53.71</del> <u>\$55.32</u>
4"	<del>\$214.82</del> <u>\$221.26</u>
6"	<del>\$396.12</del> <u>\$408.00</u>
8"	<del>\$563.97</del> <u>\$580.89</u>
10"	<del>\$738.53</del> <u>\$760.69</u>

\* Base charge does not include any usage.

Residential Potable	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use					
	Block Size	<3,000 Gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons

Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$0.70</del> <u>\$0.72</u>	<del>\$2.28</del> <u>\$2.35</u>	<del>\$2.34</del> <u>\$2.41</u>	<del>\$2.42</del> <u>\$2.49</u>	<del>\$2.49</del> <u>\$2.56</u>
<b>Residential Irrigation</b>	<b>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use</b>				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$2.34</del> <u>\$2.41</u>	<del>\$2.41</del> <u>\$2.49</u>	<del>\$3.08</del> <u>\$3.17</u>	<del>\$4.03</del> <u>\$4.15</u>	
<b>Commercial Potable</b>	<b>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use</b>				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$2.28</del> <u>\$2.35</u>	<del>\$2.34</del> <u>\$2.41</u>	<del>\$2.42</del> <u>\$2.49</u>	<del>\$2.49</del> <u>\$2.56</u>	
<b>Commercial Irrigation</b>	<b>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use</b>				
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- (b) *Water utility users outside the city limits.* All water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) *Application of charges.* The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill.* There shall be no maximum charge per month.
- (e) *Minimum monthly bill.* The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) *Bulk water rates.* Bulk or wholesale water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
- (g) *Commercial* as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (h) *Annual rate increase.* The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary water rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

3% increase in the Water Fund Operating Budget

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance O-32-2023 authorizing water rate changes for Fiscal Year 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-32-2023**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING WATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 UTILITIES, ARTICLE III - WATER SERVICE, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-253 ENTITLED "WATER USAGE AND MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the City Council approved the full budget which included the proposed water rate increases, and on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, authorized the notice of a proposed Water Rate Increase; and

**WHEREAS**, public notices have been sent to all utility customers in accordance with FSS Chapter 180.136.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** City Code Section 90-253, entitled "Water usage and monthly minimum charges," which establishes water rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on December 5, 2023:

Sec. 90-253. Water usage and monthly minimum charges.

- (a) *Rates schedule.* The rates, fees and charges for water service furnished by the water system of the city, referred to as a water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the water system, a water charge according to the following schedule:

Base Charges for all water meters are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
3/4"	<del>\$13.43</del> <u>\$13.83</u>
1"	<del>\$19.94</del> <u>\$20.54</u>
1-1/2"	<del>\$28.39</del> <u>\$29.24</u>
2"	<del>\$39.28</del> <u>\$40.46</u>
3"	<del>\$53.71</del> <u>\$55.32</u>

4"	<del>\$214.82</del> <u>\$221.26</u>
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* Base charge does not include any usage.	

<b>Residential Potable</b>	<b>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use</b>				
Block Size	<3,000 Gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$0.70</del> <u>\$0.72</u>	<del>\$2.28</del> <u>\$2.35</u>	<del>\$2.34</del> <u>\$2.41</u>	<del>\$2.42</del> <u>\$2.49</u>	<del>\$2.49</del> <u>\$2.56</u>
<b>Residential Irrigation</b>	<b>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use</b>				
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Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$2.34</del> <u>\$2.41</u>	<del>\$2.41</del> <u>\$2.49</u>	<del>\$3.08</del> <u>\$3.17</u>	<del>\$4.03</del> <u>\$4.15</u>	
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- (b) *Water utility users outside the city limits.* All water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) *Application of charges.* The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill.* There shall be no maximum charge per month.

- (e) *Minimum monthly bill.* The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
  - (f) *Bulk water rates.* Bulk or wholesale water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
  - (g) *Commercial* as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
  - (h) *Annual rate increase.* The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary water rate adjustments.
  - (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.
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  - (g) *Commercial* as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
  - (h) *Annual rate increase.* The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary water rate adjustments.
  - (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.

**Section 2. CODIFICATION.** It is the intention of the City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of the City of Green Cove Springs as amended; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section” or other appropriate word.

**Section 3. REPEALER.** Any Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 4. SEVERABILITY.** The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance

shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**INTRODUCED AND APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY ON THE FIRST READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THIS 7th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.**

**CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constance W. Butler, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erin West, City Clerk

**PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.**

**CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constance W. Butler, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney

# LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS - 321 WALNUT STREET - GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA 32043  
TEL. (904) 297-7500 - FAX (904) 284-8118

For Immediate Release/Run Once In Legal Section of Newspaper  
**Furnish Proof of Publication to the City Clerk**

**Bill to:** City of Green Cove Springs  
321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
Attn: Erin West

**Date:** October 26, 2023  
**Contact:** Erin West, CMC, City Clerk  
**Phone:** (904) 297-7500, ext. 3307      **Fax:** (904) 284-8118

Run Twice:      **Legal Ad Section on November 2, 2023 – Furnish Affidavit**  
                         **Legal Ad Section on November 30, 2023 – Furnish Affidavit**

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Green Cove Springs proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

### ORDINANCE NO. O-32-2023

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING WATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 UTILITIES, ARTICLE IV - WATER SERVICE, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-253 ENTITLED “WATER USAGE AND MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES”; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The following public hearing has been scheduled and will be held in the City Council Chambers, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, to hear comments, if any, regarding said Ordinance:

City Council:      First Reading on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter  
City Council:      Second & Final Reading on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter

Please be advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this scheduled public hearing, he will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (904) 297-7500 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Hearing impaired persons may access through (904) 284-4849 (TDD).

Said Ordinance is available at City Hall for review during the hours of 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

City of Green Cove Springs

Erin West, City Clerk  
321 Walnut Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Steve Kennedy, City Manager