

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “First Time in Three Years for Sewer Rate Increase”

It has been three years since the City of Norfolk raised its sewer rates. With decreased usage by some of the city's residential, commercial and industrial customers and the increased costs associated with operating the City's sewer collection system and Water Pollution Control Plant (WPC), City officials say more revenue from users is necessary.

“The costs to operate and manage the sewer system have continued to increase due to inflation, declines in billed wastewater flow and load, the need to continually upgrade facilities and the need to meet increasing regulatory requirements,” said Dennis J. Smith, City of Norfolk Public Works Director.



The sewer rates are estimated to increase by \$1 per month for the average residential customers and by \$2.94 for the average commercial customers.

The City's Water and Sanitary Sewer Divisions operate without tax dollars and are instead completely dependent on fees for operation.

The WPC Plant processes 3.5 million gallons of wastewater per day at its location at 610 East Monroe Avenue. The plant

was built in 1959 processing one million gallons of wastewater per day. Upgrades through the years have substantially improved the capacity and treatment of wastewater with 99% of pollutants currently removed. The water is then discharged into the Elkhorn River. The plant is monitored by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality under regulations delegated to it by the Environmental Protection Agency.

There are currently eight fulltime and one part-time employees at the WPC Plant who maintain the plant processes and equipment, manage a solids application program and conduct an industrial wastewater monitoring program. Laboratory staff at the plant conduct daily monitoring tests and discharge compliance monitoring tests along with providing analyses for surrounding communities at their request. Todd Boling is the WPC Plant Superintendent.

There are three fulltime and one part-time employees in the Sewer Maintenance Division. These employees service the sanitary sewer collection system which is composed of approximately 127 miles of sanitary sewer main pipe and 12 lift stations. These sewer mains are cleaned on an annual basis. The City's meter reader is also in this division. Dennis Watts is the City's Water and Sewer Director.

The new pricing will go into effect September 1, 2015.