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NEWS RELEASE

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City of Norfolk Considering Stormwater Utility Fee

The City of Norfolk is considering implementing a stormwater fee that will be charged to people who are connected to the municipal water and/or sanitary sewer systems. In an effort to comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the City of Norfolk is considering a stormwater fee.

The owner, occupant, or any person who is responsible for the payment of water and/or sewer service to the property will be responsible for paying the stormwater fee. The proposed fee is a flat rate of \$1 per month for residential meters and \$3 per month for commercial and industrial meters and will be shown as an additional line item on all water and sewer utility bills.

State and federal regulations require the City to take proactive measures in an effort to clean our stormwater runoff before it enters local rivers and streams. These measures must be completed, documented and reported annually to ensure compliance with the federal permit. These efforts require staff time, materials, equipment, and maintenance. Previously grant funds were available to help fund a portion of these efforts, but those funds were eliminated last year.

There are roughly 2,000 communities or districts across the country that have adopted some type of stormwater fee to help fund the costs of their stormwater plans. In Nebraska, similar communities like Scottsbluff, Kearney, Grand Island, and Columbus have all implemented a stormwater financing mechanism similar to what the City of Norfolk is proposing.

The proposed stormwater fee will need to be approved by the City Council. Implementation is expected October 1, 2019.

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