

CITY OF HARDIN
NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 4, 2026, the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Hardin, Montana (the "City"), adopted a Resolution of Intention of the City to Increase Rates and Charges for the users of the Water System; and Calling a Public Hearing Thereon.

The City currently imposes a monthly rate charge (the "Monthly Rate Charge") on all connections to the Water and Sewer Systems. The costs of the Water and Sewer Systems covered by the Monthly Rate Charge are the amount necessary to pay the costs of operating and maintaining the Water and Sewer Systems, to pay the principal of and interest on any outstanding or authorized debt of the Water and Sewer Systems and to establish and maintain appropriate reserves. Rates and charges for the Water and Sewer Systems are determined in part by meter sizes and monthly water usage.

The City charges users of the Water System a base rate per month per connection based on meter size, which base rate includes the use of 3,000 gallons of water per month. The current water base rate for a connection with a $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter is \$22.00. In addition, the City charges users of the Water System a monthly usage fee of \$2.75 per 1,000 gallons of water or portion thereof used per connection per month over the 3,000 gallons included in the base rate. The monthly residential charge for the Water System is equal to the residential base rate plus the residential usage fee.

Effective as of the October 2026 billing, the City proposes to (i) increase the residential water base rate by 4.5% for the $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter, 5.8% for a 1" meter, and 25.45% for each meter size over 1", (ii) increase the water usage rate to \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof used per connection per month over the 3,000 gallons included in the water base rate but under 8,000; increase the water usage rate to \$3.50 for each 1,000 gallons between 8,000 and 25,000; and increase the water usage rate to \$3.75 for every 1,000 gallons over 25,000. Assuming a meter size of $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the use of 7,300 gallons of water per month, the proposed water charge represents an increase of approximately 6.13% over the current water charge. A chart showing the current and proposed water base rates by meter size is attached to the notice mailed to customers and is available from the Finance Officer/City Clerk.

Effective as of the October 2026 billing, the City proposes to keep all charges for service in the sewer system the same at \$83.00 for all users and \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons over 7,200 gallons for commercial sewer users. The proposed residential sewer rate represents an increase of approximately 0.00% over the current residential sewer rate, and assuming the use of 10,200 gallons of water per month, the proposed commercial sewer charge represents an increase of approximately 0.00% over the current commercial sewer charge.

On September 1, 2026 at 5:45 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 401 North Cheyenne Avenue, Hardin, Montana 59034, the Council will conduct a public hearing and pass upon all protests against the proposed rate increases regarding the Water and Sewer Systems. Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing before 3:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing.

Further information about the proposed rate increases may be obtained by contacting Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk, 406 North Cheyenne Avenue, Hardin, Montana 59034, phone: (406) 665-9260 Ext 102.

Done by Order of the Council of the City of Hardin, Montana, this 4th day of August, 2026.



Andrew Lehr

Finance Officer/City Clerk

Publish: April 12, 19, 26

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