

**ORDINANCE NO: 603**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS, AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF WATER AND SEWER TAP FEES ON FILE WITH THE CITY SECRETARY PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-146 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING THE LATE PENALTY ON DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS FROM TEN (10) PERCENT TO TWENTY (20) PERCENT IN ACCORDANCE TO SECTION 19-149 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING THE MONTHLY SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER ACCORDING TO THE RATES AND CHARGES ON FILE WITH THE CITY SECRETARY PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-152 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE VI ENTITLED MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SECTION 2-361 ENTITLED FINES SCHEDULE; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING ARTICLE XI ENTITLED CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS OR POLICIES OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA TO THE EXTENT THEY ARE INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS:**

**Section One**

The schedule of water and sewer tap fees on file with the City Secretary's office as provided under Section 19-146 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Columbia shall be and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

- [1] Water tap fees shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- [2] Sewer tap fees shall be six hundred dollars (\$600.00).

**Section Two**

Section 19-149 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Columbia, Texas shall be and in hereby amended to read as follows:

All city utility bills, whether for water, sewer, garbage or other services

provided by the city, or all of them, are due and payable no later than the tenth day of the calendar month next following the calendar month in which such services are provided or the meter is read, as the case may be. If the tenth day falls on a nonworking day for the city, such due date shall be extended to include the next working day of the city. A penalty of twenty (20) percent of the current bill will be added to each bill remaining unpaid at the close of business on the due date. If a patron's bill with the city remains unpaid by the twentieth calendar day of the month in which the bill is payable, the city shall discontinue water service to such patron by turning the valve on the water meter for such patron to the closed position and securing the valve in that position in such a manner as may be deemed sufficient by the city. If the twentieth day falls on a nonworking day for the city, such cut-off date shall be extended to include the next working day of the city. If the bill is not paid by the tenth day of the next calendar month, the city shall also discontinue sewer service by disconnecting and plugging all sewer lines serving the property in question. If the tenth day falls on a nonworking day of the city, such cut-off day shall be extended to include the next working day of the city.

**Section Three**

Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 19-152 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Columbia, Texas, the following rates and charges shall be fixed, charged and collected by the City for water, sewer, garbage and services incidental thereto:

1. **Water Rates:** The following monthly rates shall be and are hereby fixed and shall be charged and collected by the City for water services. Each separate business, living quarters and other patron shall pay not less than the minimum monthly charge as follows:

A. Inside the City limits shall be as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons           | \$12.75 |
| All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons | \$ 3.45 |

B. Outside the City limits, the rates shall be as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons           | \$24.75 |
| All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons | \$ 6.90 |

C. Furnished to apartment complexes, hotels and/or motels, the rates shall be as follows:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons per unit | \$12.75 |
|--|---------|

All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons \$ 3.45

2. Sewer Rates: The following monthly rates shall be and are hereby fixed and shall be charged and collected by the City for sanitary sewer services. Each separate business, living quarters and other patron shall pay not less than the minimum monthly charge as follows:

A. Residential and Regular Commercial Customers

1. Inside the City Limits

| <u>Gallons of Fluid Introduced into the Sanitary Sewer System per month</u> | <u>Charge Per Month</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons per unit                                    | \$12.75                 |
| All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons                                   | \$ 3.45                 |

2. Outside the City Limits

| <u>Gallons of Fluid Introduced into the Sanitary Sewer System per month</u> | <u>Charge Per Month</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons per unit                                    | \$24.75                 |
| All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons                                   | \$ 6.90                 |

3. Furnished to apartment complexes, hotels and/or motels

| <u>Gallons of Fluid Introduced into the Sanitary Sewer System per month</u> | <u>Charge Per Month</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons per unit                                    | \$24.75                 |
| All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons                                   | \$ 6.90                 |

B. Special Commercial and Industrial Customers

1. Monthly Service Charge- (Exclusive of the surcharge of any other applicable charges).

| <u>Gallons of Fluid Introduced into the Sanitary Sewer System per month</u> | <u>Charge Per Month</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Minimum and first 1,500 gallons per unit                                    | \$12.75                 |
| All over 1,500 gallons, per 1,000 gallons                                   | \$ 3.45                 |

#### **Section Four**

- A. Chapter 2 Article VI entitled Municipal Court of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Columbia, shall be and is hereby amended by the addition of Section 2-361 as follows:

##### **Sec. 2-361. Fines Schedule**

A schedule of suggested fines for all complaints filed in the Municipal Court may be adopted, from time to time, by the City Council, which schedule shall be filed with the City Secretary's office.

- B. There shall be and is hereby adopted a schedule of proposed fines for complaints filed with the Municipal Court of the City of West Columbia as more fully set forth on Exhibit "A" attached to this Ordinance and incorporated herein for all purposes.

#### **Section Five**

- A. Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Columbia shall be and is hereby amended by the addition of Article XI, entitled Credit Card Payments, as follows:

##### **ARTICLE XI. CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

##### **Sec. 2-450. Payment by credit card**

A. The City is authorized to accept payment by a credit card and/or debit card of any and all sums due the City, specifically including each and every department of the City. Any such payments by credit or debit card shall include an additional amount as a service charge of not less than any and all fees or costs which the City must pay in connection with its acceptance, processing, and/or receiving any such payment.

B. There shall be and is hereby adopted a schedule of proposed fines for complaints filed with the Municipal Court of the City of West Columbia as more fully set forth on Exhibit "B" attached to this Ordinance and incorporated herein for all purposes.

#### **Section Six**

All schedules of fines, fees, and costs which are adopted by the passage of this ordinance shall be filed with the City Secretary as provided for under the respective enabling provisions of the Code of Ordinances.

**Section Seven**

Any rules, ordinances, police regulations, resolutions, and/or policies of the City of West Columbia, whether written, or otherwise, which are in any manner in conflict with or inconsistent with this ordinance, shall be and are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict and/or inconsistency.

**Section Eight**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the several provisions of this ordinance are severable, and if any court of competent jurisdiction enters a final order which holds that any section, sub-section, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this ordinance is invalid, illegal, or otherwise unenforceable, then any such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and any such ruling shall not affect any other provision of this ordinance which are not specifically designated as being illegal, invalid or unenforceable.


**Section Nine**

This ordinance shall be effective and applicable immediately from and after the date of its passage and approval by the City Council of the City of West Columbia.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 12th day of September, 2011.

  
LAURIE B. KINGANNON, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Kelli Kuban  
City Secretary