

**VILLAGE OF COVINGTON, OHIO**

**ORDINANCE NO. 01-23**

**AN ORDINANCE UPDATING REGULATIONS RELATED TO  
AND VARIOUS FEES APPLICABLE TO THE PROVISION OF  
CERTAIN WATER/SEWER SERVICES BEING PROVIDED BY  
THE VILLAGE OF COVINGTON, OHIO**

**WHEREAS**, The Village of Covington provides, water and sewer services in the Village, and limited water and sewer services outside the Village (herein "Utility Services"); and

**WHEREAS**, regulations related to these services continually are reviewed and are in need of updating; and

**WHEREAS**, under Ordinance 08-19 regulations and rates were last modified; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village now has a substantial number of utility service clients pay fees with credit cards and/or debit cards resulting in the Village incurring transactional fees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village desires to update regulations related to the water and sewer services provided and to update fees applicable to the provisions of Utility Services being provided by the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance updates the regulations related to Utility Services and the fees for those services; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Village of Covington, State of Ohio, as follows:

**SECTION 1: Definitions.**

"Customer" means any person, partnership, corporation or association to whom or upon whose request water or sewer is supplied, including the premises so supplied with water or sewer.

"Normal Sewage" means sewage which when analyzed shows by weight a daily average of not more than 280 milligrams per liter of suspended solids and not more than 220 milligrams per liter of biochemical oxygen demand.

"Suspended Solids" means solids that either float on the surface of or are in suspension in

water, sewage or other liquids which are removable by laboratory filtering.

"BOD" (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) means the quantity of Oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter, under standard laboratory procedure, in five days at 2 degrees centigrade, expressed in parts per million (mg/l) by weight.

"Unit" For the purpose of this ordinance, each separate space containing plumbing for water and sewer and capable of being occupied by a separate tenant; equipped with an outside entrance and separated from other parts of a structure will be considered a separate unit. Each unit will be charged a separate monthly capital charge, meter maintenance and Water Tower Monthly fee as specified in this Ordinance.

"Meter Maintenance Fee" means a monthly fee charged to each unit utilized by the village to perform maintenance on, replace and upgrade water meters and the associated meter reading system.

"Water Tower Monthly Fee" means a monthly fee charged to each unit utilized by the village to perform maintenance on, pay maintenance service contracts, replace, and upgrade elevated storage and water tower facilities.

"Manual Meter Reading Charge" means a monthly charge to a customer that have a manual read meter that requires personnel to drive to the customers location and manually record the meter reading to be used for monthly billing.

**SECTION 2: Rules and Regulations.** Attached *Exhibit A* shall provide all required rules and regulations related to water and sewer utility services within the Village of Covington. All previous rules and regulations related to Water and Sewer Service in the Village of Covington shall be rescinded. Such rules and regulations may be changed from time to time by the Mayor or the Village Administrator to assure that the Village is able to provide services as efficiently and safely as possible.

**SECTION 3: Application Forms.** All active accounts and all future accounts shall be required to complete a "Utility Service Application – Owner" application, and those accounts that are being utilized as rentals or who have persons who are not the owners living within them, must also complete a "Utility Service Application – Tenant" application as described within the attached Exhibit A. All accounts will be required to complete said applications, and a copy of required applications will be mailed with the monthly billings until the applications are completed and filed with the Village. Those accounts not completing the required applications by January 1, 2024 may face shut off or account termination.

**SECTION 4: Utility Services Fee Deposit.** A utility deposit of \$150 shall be required for all persons occupying or renting residences using Village water, sewerage, and sanitation services. This includes tenants, private individuals and ownership groups (LLC., Inc., etc.). The owner may elect to require the tenant pay the required deposit or

may pay for the deposit themselves. Such deposit will be held until such time as ownership or occupancy of the property is changed and a new utility deposit is made by a new owner or tenant. Existing accounts who do not have a deposit on file will not be required to place a deposit, unless the name on the account changes, and then a new deposit will be required.

#### **SECTION 5: Monthly Water and Sewer Charges.**

The following chart shall be utilized for the standard services provided as described above.

##### **Water Rates:**

	Capital Charge – 5/8" or 3/4" Meter	Capital Charge – 1" Meter	Capital Charge – 2" Meter	Capital Charge – 3" Meter	Water Tower Monthly Fee	Usage Fee per 1,000 gal for first 6,000 gal.	Usage Fee per 1,000 gal over 6,000 gal.
2023	\$28.58	\$64.15	\$147.13	\$194.55	\$8.74	\$4.10	\$3.73
2024	\$28.58	\$64.15	\$147.13	\$194.55	\$8.74	\$4.10	\$3.73
2025	\$29.44	\$66.07	\$151.54	\$200.39	\$9.00	\$4.22	\$3.84
2026	\$30.32	\$68.06	\$156.09	\$206.40	\$9.27	\$4.35	\$3.96
2027	\$31.23	\$70.10	\$160.77	\$212.59	\$9.55	\$4.48	\$4.08
2028	\$32.17	\$72.20	\$165.60	\$218.97	\$9.84	\$4.61	\$4.20
2029	\$33.13	\$74.37	\$170.56	\$225.54	\$10.13	\$4.75	\$4.32
2030	\$34.13	\$76.60	\$175.68	\$232.30	\$10.44	\$4.90	\$4.45
2031	\$35.15	\$78.90	\$180.95	\$239.27	\$10.75	\$5.04	\$4.59
2032	\$36.20	\$81.26	\$186.38	\$246.45	\$11.07	\$5.19	\$4.73

##### **Sewer Rates:**

	Capital Charge – 5/8" or 3/4" Meter	Capital Charge – 1" Meter	Capital Charge – 2" Meter	Capital Charge – 3" Meter	Usage Fee based on Water Meter Reading per 1,000 gallons of Water Used
2023	\$12.78	\$51.14	\$104.82	\$104.82	\$ 4.15
2024	\$14.06	\$56.25	\$115.30	\$115.30	\$ 4.56
2025	\$14.48	\$57.94	\$118.76	\$118.76	\$ 4.70
2026	\$14.92	\$59.68	\$122.32	\$122.32	\$ 4.84
2027	\$15.36	\$61.47	\$125.99	\$125.99	\$ 4.98
2028	\$15.82	\$63.31	\$129.77	\$129.77	\$ 5.13
2029	\$16.30	\$65.21	\$133.67	\$133.67	\$ 5.29

2030	\$16.79	\$67.17	\$137.68	\$137.68	\$ 5.45
2031	\$17.29	\$69.18	\$141.81	\$141.81	\$ 5.61
2032	\$17.81	\$71.26	\$146.06	\$146.06	\$ 5.78

**SECTION 6: Sewer Surcharge for Excessive Loading of the System.**

For the purposes of this section “normal sewage” shall not exceed a daily average of any of the following strengths:

- Suspended Solids – 280 mg/l
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) – 220 mg/l
- Phosphate – 20 mg/l
- Ammonia as Nitrogen – 15 mg/l

For the purpose of calculating surcharges the table above indicates the maximum acceptable limits for the listed categories. Any wastewater that exceeds the limits of any category listed in this table is subject to the surcharges listed in this section. The strength of loading will be determined through testing by Village of Covington personnel.

Customers discharging wastewater that exceeds the above limits will be charged daily using the following formulas for each of the four categories listed.

**Excessive Loading Fees (per pound)**

	Suspended Solids	BOD
2023	\$ 0.117	\$ 0.144
2024	\$ 0.129	\$ 0.158
2025	\$ 0.142	\$ 0.174
2026	\$ 0.149	\$ 0.183
2027	\$ 0.156	\$ 0.192
2028	\$ 0.164	\$ 0.202
2029	\$ 0.172	\$ 0.212
2030	\$ 0.181	\$ 0.222
2031	\$ 0.190	\$ 0.233
2032	\$ 0.199	\$ 0.245

All surcharges will be billed on a monthly basis for the previous month and are subject to the terms stated in the policies and procedures for the provision of water and sewer service for the Village of Covington.

In addition to the surcharges listed for Suspended Solids and Biochemical Oxygen Demand, the Village of Covington shall have a monthly Waste Surveillance Charge of \$300.

**SECTION 7: Water / Sewer Rates for Services Outside of the Corporation Limits.**

Water and sewer rates and fees will be charged 150% the rates listed in this Ordinance for water and / or sewer services outside the corporation limits of the Village of Covington.

**SECTION 8: Tap Fees.**

Water Tap Fees	Fee
¾" and 1" Water Services	\$1,000
1"+ to 2" Water Services – Minimum fee plus cost of parts and labor	\$1,750 + Parts and Labor
2"+ to 3" Water Services – Minimum fee plus cost of parts and labor	\$3,500 + Parts and Labor
3" to 6" Water Services – Minimum fee plus cost of parts and labor	\$4,000 + Parts and Labor
8" to 10" Water Services – Minimum fee plus cost of parts and labor	\$12,000 + Parts and Labor
Sewer Tap Fees	Fee
4" and 6" Sewer Taps – Minimum fee plus cost of parts and labor	\$3,000 + Parts and Labor
6"+ Taps – Minimum fee plus cost of parts and labor	\$6,000 + Parts and Labor

**SECTION 9: Late Fees.**

A late fee of 10% will be charged on the unpaid monthly balance when the office opens on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of each month a bill is not paid in full. Accounts paid by credit card or through online payment where payment has not been verified and completed on the 21<sup>st</sup> will be charged a late fee accordingly.

**SECTION 10: Other Service Fees.**

The table below lists additional fees related to the Water and Sewer Services being provided within the Village of Covington.

**Other Service Fee Table**

	Fee
Service Calls outside of normal duty hours	Labor - \$75 / hr. (\$75 minimum) Materials – Cost of Materials
Unmetered Building Sprinkler Service Fees	\$5.50 / mo. (2"-6" Service) \$6.50 / mo. (8" Service) \$7.50 / mo. (10" Service) \$8.50 / mo. (12" Service)
Manual Meter Reading Charge	\$5.50 / mo.
Reconnection Fee for Water Service	\$100
User Requested Meter Test Fee (Will be waived if meter is found to be less than 95% accurate)	\$50

Bad Check Charge Fee	\$50
Returned Electronic Transaction Fee (ACH)	\$50
Final Notice Delivery Fee	\$20
<b>Credit Card / Debit Card Convenience Fee</b> Online payments are subject to additional convenience fees charged and collected by third-party vendors.	3% per transaction charged maximum

**SECTION 11: Violation of this Ordinance**

Anyone who violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for each separate offense. Each day of failing to comply with any of the provisions herein shall constitute a separate offense.

**SECTION 12:** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council, and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

**SECTION 13:** If any section, subsection, paragraph, clause or provision, or any part thereof of this Ordinance shall be finally adjudicated by a Court of competent jurisdiction to being valid the remainder of this Ordinance shall be unaffected by such adjudication, and all the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect as though such section, subsection, paragraph, clause, or provision, or any part thereof so adjudicated to be invalid, had not, to the extent of such invalidity, been included herein.

**SECTION 14:** This Ordinance shall, as of March 21, 2023, repeal Ordinance 08-19 previously approved on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and supersede and or replace any previously existing water and sewer rates, water and sewer service fees, and water and sewer rate ordinances previously approved or passed by the Village of Covington Council or it's representatives.

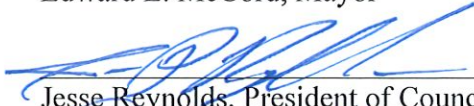
**SECTION 15: Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall take effect March 21, 2023 and rates shall be first reflected on the April 2023 billing with May 2023 collection.

Approved this: March 13, 2023.



Edward L. McCord, Mayor



Jesse Reynolds, President of Council



Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer