



City of Bloomington Utilities Department

Memorandum

To: CBU Customers
From: Vic Kelson, Director, City of Bloomington Utilities
Date: 10/25/22

We at the City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU) work hard to identify ways to control costs while continuing to provide high-quality water, wastewater, and stormwater services. Even so, the costs of maintaining and enhancing these utilities increases every year and our city continues to grow.

We are in the process of reviewing our charges for the Sewer Works and Stormwater Utility. We partnered with an external consulting firm, Crowe LLP, in order to consider the revenue needs required to meet the goals and needs of our community. Crowe's report is available at www.bloomington.in.gov/utilities/rate-case.

With the approval of the Utilities Service Board (USB), CBU will be bringing a request for increased rates and fees for the Sewer Works and Stormwater Utility to the Common Council on November 2, 2022, with a public hearing on November 16, 2022. For the Sewer Works, the USB approved recommended increases of a 12% sewer rate increase on 1/1/23, followed by an additional 6% increase on 1/1/2025. For the Stormwater Utility, the USB approved a recommended 26% Stormwater Fee increase on 1/1/23. These recommendations will be considered by the Common Council, with a public hearing and final action on November 16.

The sewer rate increase will allow CBU to complete \$30 million in sewer improvements and capacity-enhancing projects at our wastewater treatment plants. Specifically, there is a real need to improve our aging sewer infrastructure, continue to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, and update our two wastewater plants which opened in 1968 and 1983. We are confident we can meet these challenges in the months and years to come.

As you are likely aware, CBU recently completed the Hidden River Pathway project, which replaced a significant portion of the culvert that carries Clear Creek, starting from 6th and Indiana. We still have a \$2 million project remaining, to replace the inlet facilities near Franklin Hall and Dunn Meadow. We also plan to develop an improved program for street sweeping, in order to reduce the amount of debris that flows into our storm inlets.

Public Meetings will be held as follows. Public comment will be welcome.

- City Common Council 11/2/22 6:30pm 501 N Morton St 1st Reading
- City Common Council 11/9/22 6:30pm 501 N Morton St 2nd Reading
- City Common Council 11/16/22 6:30pm 501 N Morton St Public Hearing and Final Action

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Email: CBUdirector@bloomington.in.gov
Phone: 812-349-3650