

**CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA  
CITY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

MEETING DATE: 7/16/2025

**PREPARED BY:** Albert J Carbon III,  
P.E., Public Works  
Director

**DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL:** PUBLIC WORKS

**SUBJECT:** Amending Chapter 15 (Sewers, Sewage and Drainage Disposal) and Chapter 22 (Water) to allow for Water and Wastewater Rates and Fees to be Set by Resolution.

**1. BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

**Issue Statement:**

The City and its Water and Wastewater Consultant, Craven Thompson and Associates (CTA), have completed the 2025 Water and Wastewater System Assessment, and Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (Raftelis), has completed a review of the City's water and wastewater service rates and miscellaneous utility fees. The consultant team recommended capital improvements and revised water and wastewater rates to:

- Upgrade the current water and wastewater systems to address demand and aging infrastructure
- Increase revenues to fund capital improvements and rising operation and maintenance costs
- Adjust the City's rate structure to promote water conservation
- Modify water and wastewater miscellaneous fees
- **Allow the City Commission to set water and wastewater rates by Resolution as part of the annual budget review and approval process**

**Recommended Action:**

City Commission pass Ordinances on First Reading with proposed changes to City Code Chapters 15 (Water) and 22 (Sewer, Sewage and Drainage Disposal).

**History:**

The last water and wastewater system assessment and rate review were completed and implemented in 2019.

The City owns and maintains its water distribution system, which includes over 100 miles of water pipes, 2,500 valves, 950 fire hydrants, and 9,000 water connections (meters). The City also owns and maintains its wastewater collection system, which includes 8,500 service connections, 35 sewer lift stations, and over 100 miles of gravity and forcemain pipelines.

The City does not treat its own water or wastewater. Treated water is purchased from the City of Fort Lauderdale and distributed to customers. Wastewater is treated by either Fort Lauderdale or Broward County, depending on the location.

**2. CURRENT ACTIVITY**

On June 18, 2025, the City received a presentation on the 2025 Water and Wastewater Assessment and Rate Review. That presentation recommended:

**Capital Improvements Over the Next 10 Years:**

- **Water System Improvements:** Estimated at \$22,000,000 (January 2025 dollars)
  - Increased Pipe Diameters
  - Upgraded or Looped Fire Flow
  - Added Emergency Interconnects
  - Added Fire Hydrants
- **Wastewater System Improvements:** Estimated at \$30,000,000 (January 2025 dollars)
  - Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) remediation
  - Gravity Main Remediation
  - Lateral Remediation
  - LS rehabilitation
  - Forcemain re-routing

- o SCADA Improvements

#### **Water and Wastewater Rate Adjustments and Increases:**

- **Continue the water and wastewater purchase and treatment pass through costs**
- Strengthen water conservation pricing
  - o Adjust the ranges of blocks 2 through 4 (FY 2026, then uniform rate future rate increases)
    - Block 1 – 0 to 3,000 gallons (kgalz) (no change; lifeline rate)
    - Block 2 – 3 to 8 kgal → 3 to 6 kgal
    - Block 3 – 8 to 14 kgal → 6 to 12 kgal
    - Block 4 – 14+ kgal → 12+ kgal
- Strategic adjustments to volumetric rates (FY 2026 increase in water, then uniform increases annually)
  - o Block 1 increase of **1.8%**
  - o Block 2 increase of **1.9%**
  - o Block 3 increase of **12%**
  - o Block 4 increase of **13%**
- **Annual uniform increases in base and volumetric charges (FY 2027-2030):**
  - 4% annually for water
  - 7.5% annually for wastewater

#### **Water Usage Rates**

78% of the City's water customers use less than 6,000 gallons (kgal) of water monthly. The percent of water customers being billed for each 1kgal is summarized below:

1kgal Billed	Percentage of Bills
0	6%
1	11%
2	16%
3	16%
4	13%
5	10%
6	7%
7	5%
8	3%
9	2%
10	2%
11	1%
12	1%

#### **Update the City Code Chapters 15 and 22:**

The Rate Review recommends the City Commission update the City Code to allow water and wastewater rates to be approved and adopted by Resolution. Currently, rates are set by Ordinance. The City Commission has taken similar action for other City service fees. Updated Ordinances are included as an attachment to this report.

#### **Rate Adjustments:**

If the City Commission adopts this Ordinance on Second Reading, future rate structure adjustments will be adopted by Resolution, with the exception of automatic adjustments. The rates to be adopted by Resolution will be incorporated into the Fee Schedule Book that is part of the annual budget adoption process in September.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is **no immediate financial action** required by approving these Ordinances. The Ordinances will authorize the City Commission to adopt water and sewer rates by resolution which will be incorporated into the Fee Schedule Book that is part of the annual budget adoption process in September.

For reference, the proposed baseline FY 2026 rates anticipated to be presented to the City Commission in September 2025 are attached to this report, should the Ordinances be adopted.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the City Commission pass the proposed Ordinances on First Reading, amending the City Code by specifically amending Chapter 15 (Sewers, Sewage and Drainage Disposal) and Chapter 22 (Water) to allow for water and wastewater rates and fees to be set by Resolution.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Ordinance A - Water Rates](#)

[Ordinance B - Sewer Rates](#)

[Water and Wastewater Rates: FY 25 and Proposed FY 26](#)

[Water and Wastewater System Rate Study 2025](#)