

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water and Wastewater Rate Increases Take Effect November 1, 2019**

(New Braunfels, TX – October 29, 2019) – Yesterday evening, October 28, the New Braunfels City Council approved water and wastewater rate increases. New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) has a five-year, \$587 million capital improvement plan to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure and supply. With this necessary capital improvement plan, comes a needed revenue requirement to fund current infrastructure improvements and new water supply acquisitions.

Rates are the last place NBU looks for revenue. Prior to adjusting rates, NBU cut \$8.5 million from the budget and identified \$21.4million in new revenue, which includes grants and updated impact fees. Even with these actions, water and sewer rates need adjustment for NBU to maintain its high bond rating, which will ensure NBU customer bills can remain as low as possible. Because of revenue requirements needed to pay for necessary infrastructure, NBU carefully evaluated each customer class. It is very important to NBU that we minimally affect those domestic water users, using 6,000 gallons and less per month. “New Braunfels Utilities designed the water rates to allocate costs to the drivers for new supply and infrastructure which is primarily lawn watering. Customers with high irrigation will experience this biggest impact,” noted Ian Taylor, NBU, CEO. New Braunfels Utilities has a team that will provide free water assessments to customers who are interested in using less water in their home or on the lawn. Even with these approved rate adjustments, NBU’s rates remain among the lowest in the region.

With the rate changes, effective, November 1, NBU has introduced off and on peak season rates. Off peak season is October – May and peak season is June-September. Rates are based on each 1,000 gallons used.

Average domestic user of 6,000 gallons of water will only see an increase of \$2.40 during peak season (June – October), or 10.89%, including water supply fees. The 2020 rates will increase by 26.45% across all water rate classes, primarily attributed to higher increases for commercial and residential irrigation.

Dawn Schriewer, NBU CFO, said, “In town residential water rates, as a category, will contribute an average of 12.66% more revenue than the current rate. The customer charge will remain at \$12.80 per month for those with meters 5/8-inch and smaller, which constitutes more than 98% of the residential class.”

Monthly residential wastewater customer charges will increase from \$15.31 to \$18.50, and volume charges will increase from \$4.10 to \$4.35.

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Council previously heard a presentation by NBU's CEO, Ian Taylor and CFO, Dawn Schriewer at its October 7, 2019 meeting. New Braunfels has consistently ranked in the top 10 percent of the fastest growing cities in the nation, for the past seven years. New Braunfels Utilities is prepared to meet the needs of our growing community and is committed to ensuring essential services are available to its customers, now and for generations to come. This takes long term planning, and budgeting, which includes rate adjustments, to secure the additional funding to make necessary water purchases, replace critical aging infrastructure, and support improvements and expansion.

Initially approved by the New Braunfels Utilities Board of Trustees on September 26, 2019, a revision to the City of New Braunfels Code of Ordinance, Chapter 130, was presented to City Council on October 14, with a second reading on October 28, 2019. The tiered water rates revision to the City Code of Ordinance allows for water and wastewater rate increases to become effective November 1, 2019.

"Enhancing the quality of our community by providing innovative essential services is a commitment that New Braunfels Utilities has taken seriously for more than 75 years," added Taylor. "Through responsible stewardship of vital resources and careful planning, NBU will continue to ensure future generations enjoy the benefits of living this thriving community."

Those interested in scheduling their free assessment, are asked call 830.608.8925. To preview the NBU City Council Workshop presentation, visit: www.nbutexas.com/planning. Questions regarding the approved water and wastewater rates can be emailed to <mailto:news@nbutexas.com>.

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About New Braunfels Utilities:

Dedicated to excellence in service, New Braunfels Utilities is one of 2,000 community-owned, nonprofit public power electric utilities in the nation. The mission of New Braunfels Utilities is to enhance the quality of our community by providing innovative, essential services. Governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of local residents appointed by the New Braunfels City Council, New Braunfels Utilities is committed to being a recognized and trusted community partner, providing electric, water, and waste water services. Utility revenues are continually invested back into the systems of the customers, which benefits the community. New Braunfels Utilities makes an annual transfer to the City of New Braunfels, which in turn helps to pay for services such as fire, police, and parks. Follow NBU on Facebook at [newbraunfelsutilities](https://www.facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities), on Twitter at [nbutility](https://twitter.com/nbutility), and to learn more visit nbutexas.com.

