

**“The City knows this is a hard ask, but without a water and sewer system, the future of the community is at risk. With needs amounting to approximately \$80 million, I am calling on our community to commit to dealing with this crisis. We can no longer turn a blind eye to a difficult situation and hope it will get fixed or hope that nothing worse happens. We need to begin to build the Rawlins we want for ourselves and future generations to enjoy,”** said City Manager Tom Sarvey.

The Rawlins City Council will consider the **General Fund and Landfill Rates on April 16<sup>th</sup>**. The **Water and Sewer Rates consideration has been moved to the council’s regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** to comply with notice requirements. During the Council’s regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30 pm, there will also be a public hearing dedicated to public comments on the water and sewer rates.

As advertised, the General Fund and the Landfill Fund will be heard on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. This will include a public hearing dedicated to public comments on the general fund and landfill rates. The rates being considered on April 16<sup>th</sup> include Animal Licenses and Animal Control Fees, Building Permits, Community Bus Rate, Cemetery Fees, Contractors’ Licenses, Impound and Towing Fees, Liquor, Non-resident, Solid Waste Hauler, and other Business Licenses, Recreation Rates, Rental Fees, Rochelle Ranch Golf Course Rates, Shooting Ranges Rates, Special Event Applications, Special Use Liquor Permits, and Landfill Construction and Demolition and other separated materials rates (not Municipal Solid Waste, which is commonly known as household trash).

Throughout the City, all services and systems must consider three aspects: infrastructure/equipment, operations, and financial health. A large City system can be compared to a smaller system, like a home. In both situations, if all three components are not healthy, the system will have issues.

- 1) Is the **infrastructure and equipment** in good shape? Are there savings for repair and replacement? For example, the infrastructure of the city includes the sewer system, like a home has a roof. The City’s equipment includes dump trucks, like a home has a refrigerator.
- 2) How much does it **cost to run the systems**? For example, the City has the operating cost to run a water treatment plant, like a home has utility bills.
- 3) Do we have the **money available** to fund both large expenses (infrastructure and equipment) and everyday costs (operating)?

**After reviewing these three aspects for the City of Rawlins, staff determined City systems are at a crisis point.** After decades of deferred maintenance and lack of savings, we need to come together and commit to addressing the essential needs of the City.

**We have created a “Water and Sewer Rate Highlights” summary, which answers the following questions about both the water and sewer funds:** 1) Why did we do a rate study? 2) What does the rate study mean for my home? My business? 3) How much money does the water and sewer

fund have in savings? 4) How much money does the water and sewer fund generate? What about prior increases? 5) What is the status of our water and sewer infrastructure? 6) What other costs does the water and sewer fund cover and 7) What work has been done for our water and sewer infrastructure in the past?

[This summary can be found here\(PDF\).](#)

**For the full studies and presentations, please follow the links below:**

- [Full Water Rate Study presented April 2 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Full Sewer Rate Study presented April 2 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Recording of Work Session on April 2 about Water and Sewer Rates \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Initial Study of All City Rates presented January 30 \(PDF\)](#)

You can also call Community Relations at 307-328-4500 ext. 1022 to request a printed copy of these documents.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

There are two meetings scheduled regarding rates and fees, both on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

- April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm – 2nd Work Session on Recreation and Other Rates
- April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm – Regular Council Meeting with Rate Public Hearing and Council Vote on Rates
  - The Rate Public Hearing during this meeting is dedicated to public comments and questions.

City Council contact information can be found at [www.rawlinswy.gov/council](http://www.rawlinswy.gov/council)

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Information about studies, discussions, and proposals on City of Rawlins Fees and Rates will be shared on this webpage as a central location to find the pertinent information. If you have questions, please contact Community Relations at 307-328-4500 ext. 1022.

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Summary posted on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, updated April 5<sup>th</sup> on Facebook

🗨️ There is a lot of information at [www.rawlinswy.gov/feestudy](http://www.rawlinswy.gov/feestudy) about the proposed water and sewer rate increases. Please take the time to review the seriousness of the situation.

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situation and hope it will get fixed or hope that nothing worse happens. We need to begin to build the Rawlins we want for ourselves and future generations to enjoy," said City Manager Tom Sarvey.

💧 Our water and sewer services are enterprise funds. This means they must be self-funded through fees and are separate from the General Fund. They operate more like businesses instead of using taxes.

Images are the "Water and Sewer Rate Study Highlights," which can be found as a .pdf at [www.rawlinswy.gov/feestudy](http://www.rawlinswy.gov/feestudy)