

ORDINANCE NO. 20240826-03

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF THE TOWN OF KEO, ARKANSAS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Town of Keo, Arkansas (the "Town") owns and operates water and sewer facilities, which water and sewer facilities are operated as one interrelated municipal undertaking (the "System"), and has determined that betterments and improvements to the water facilities of the System (the "improvements") should be made in order that the Town and its inhabitants may have adequate and proper water facilities; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the improvements, it is necessary for the Town to establish new rates to be charged for services of the water facilities of the System and for the Town to confirm existing rates charged for services of the sewer facilities of the System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Keo, Arkansas:

Section 1. (a) Water Rates. The following monthly rates and charges which the Town Council hereby finds and declares are fair, reasonable and minimum rates to be charged for water services be, and they are hereby, fixed and established as rates to be rendered by the System.

The water usage of each customer shall be determined each month by meter measurement and the amount to be paid by each customer shall be computed on the basis of the following schedule of rates:

For the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption \$24.00 (minimum)
per month, or portion thereof

For all monthly water consumption in excess of 12.80 per 1,000 gallons
1,000 gallons per month

(b) The rates established in Section 1(a) hereof shall increase annually by three percent (3%) on the first billing cycle of each year.

(c) The amount of \$0.40 per meter, per month shall be collected to cover the expenses of the Clean Water Act and this amount passed to the Arkansas Department of Health as required by Arkansas law.

Section 2. (a) Sewer Rates. The following monthly rates and charges which the Town Council hereby finds and declares are fair, reasonable and minimum rates to be charged for sewer services be, and they are hereby, fixed and established as rates to be charged for services rendered by the System.

The monthly charge for each customer shall be determined each month by water consumption. The water usage of each customer shall be determined each month by meter measurement and the amount to be paid by each customer shall be computed on the basis of the following schedule of rates:

For the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof	\$9.67 (minimum)
For all monthly water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month	9.67 per 1,000 gallons

(b) The rates established in Section 2(a) hereof shall increase annually by three percent (3%) on the first billing cycle of the year.

Section 3. Meter Deposit. Each customer who connects with the System shall make a deposit with the Town in the amount of \$150 for homeowners and \$250 for renters. Such deposit shall remain with the Town until the customer closes his account or requests his water to be disconnected, at which time he will have his deposit returned, if he is not in arrears in his account with the Town. If a customer's service is disconnected for non-payment, before the customer's service will be reconnected, a meter deposit fee equal to the present meter deposit rate must be on deposit with the Town.

Section 4. Tapping Fee. There shall be a tapping fee for every customer who connects with the water facilities of the System and for every customer who connects with the sewer facilities of the System. The "meter set and tap" fee covers the costs of: excavating and tapping the main, furnishing and installing service pipe from the main to the lot line; or any other work required for connection and setting the meter. Additional fees will be the customer's responsibility if a street cut or road bore and encasement are required. **The meter and tapping costs will be reviewed annually or adjusted as needed.** The System's facilities can only be tapped by Town personnel, or licensed contractor hired by the Town to perform such work.

Water Tap:	\$1,000 for standard 5/8" x 3/4" meter, 1" meter \$1,250, 2" meter \$3,000
Sewer Tap:	\$1,750

Any other additional charges will be provided before work is agreed upon and scheduled. All fees must be paid before work is scheduled.

Section 5. None of the water or sewer facilities or services afforded by the System shall be furnished without a charge being made therefor.

Section 6. The operation of the System shall be on a fully metered basis, with a meter installed at each water connection (except fire hydrants) when practical. There shall be only one user on a single connection. There shall be not dual connections: that is, there shall be no more than one user on a single meter.

Section 7. (a) A single statement will be submitted for monthly water and sewer charges. The due date for water and sewer service issued during any month is due and payable before the 1st day of the month following when the bills are issued. A ten (10) percent penalty

shall be added to any bill if payment is not received by 12:00 noon on the 25th day of the month said bill is issued.

(b) If said bill is not paid by the first day of the following month, services shall be disconnected, with the monthly bill serving as the shut-off notice. In order for services to be restored, the outstanding bill, ten (10) percent penalty, fifty dollars (\$50.00) fee and any additional charges will have to be paid in full prior to restoration of the services. If full payment, including the outstanding bill, ten (10) percent penalty, fifty dollars (\$50.00) fee and any additional charges are paid prior to physically shutting off services, then services may or may not be shut off. The fee to reconnect will be \$75 if after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends.

Section 8. When a customer notifies Keo Waterworks about a higher than usual water bill that may be related to a leak, the policy is to provide consideration for leak adjustments for water and wastewater or water only usage caused by a leak that occurred on the customer's side of the meter. In order to be eligible for the adjustment, customers must provide written explanation, proof of materials and repair. Customers are limited to one time per 12-month period adjustments due to a water leak. Each adjustment will be voted on by a majority vote by the Keo Town Council.

Section 9. There shall be a \$100 fee for each instance of a returned check or a rejected payment.

Section 10. If a written request for discontinuation of water service is not submitted to Keo Water & Sewer, all charges will continue to be billed to the active account holder for the service address. If the water service is not disconnected/shut-off, but the property is vacant, all charges will continue to be billed.

Section 11. The provisions of this Ordinance are separable and if a section, phrase or provision shall be declared invalid; such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 12. All ordinances and resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

PASSED: August 26, 2024.

APPROVED:

Stephanie White
Mayor

ATTEST:

Tara Hughes
Town Recorder

(SEAL)

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Town Recorder of the Town of Keo, Arkansas hereby certifies that the foregoing pages are a true and perfect copy of Ordinance No. 20240826-02, adopted at a regular session of the Town Council of the Town of Keo, Arkansas, held at the regular meeting place in said Town at 7:00 o'clock p.m., on the 26th day of August, 2024, and that the Ordinance is of record in the Ordinance Record Book now in my possession.

GIVEN under my hand and seal on this 26th day of August, 2024.


Town Recorder

