

Effective July 1, 2019, the City of Staunton will implement rate and fee increases for the 2020 fiscal year for the following services: refuse (trash) and recycling, water, parking, water deposits for rental properties, and sewer connections for new construction. Information about the increases is provided in detail below.

Refuse & Recycling Rates

Q. How much will refuse and recycling rates increase, and why?

- A. Trash and recycling fees will increase 15% to cover the costs of operating and capital expenses for waste removal, recycling, landfill operations and landfill costs. Bi-monthly customers will be billed at the new rates beginning with utility bills issued on Sept. 10. The increase will amount to an additional charge of \$2.48 per month – or \$4.96 bimonthly – on residents’ utility bills.

Refuse & Recycling Rates	FY19 Rate	FY20 Rate
Residential	\$16.50	\$18.98
Recycling Fee	\$16.50	\$18.98
Light Commercial Fee	\$37.47	\$43.09
Heavy Commercial, Outside CBD	\$79.27	\$91.16
Heavy Commercial, Inside CBD	\$100.72	\$115.83
Special Unscheduled Pickup	\$82.50	\$95.00

Q. Why are fees for trash and recycling increasing while plastic recycling is suspended?

- A. A few reasons:
- 1) While the City is not currently collecting plastic for recycling, the City is continuing to collect plastic as garbage. In other words, the container in which residents put plastic has changed, but the volume of waste the City collects has not changed.
 - 2) The City has not discontinued recycling service. Metal and aluminum cans, cardboard, mixed paper and glass will continue to be collected from curbside

recycling bins. The City's recycling truck needs to be replaced to effectively continue curbside recycling collection and will cost about \$160,000.

- 3) The City pays its share, along with Waynesboro and Augusta County, for the use of the Augusta Regional Landfill. The City is expecting to raise the refuse rate incrementally over the next several years to prepare for a capital expenditure of \$623,000 in FY 2023 to develop a new cell at the landfill. Each time the landfill opens a new cell for garbage disposal, it comes at a higher cost to each participating locality. City rates must keep up to ensure a well-maintained landfill for residents' use for years to come.

Water Rates & Fees

Q. How much will the water rate increase, and why?

- A. The water rate will increase by 5% to cover rising operating and capital costs to replace and repair major water system infrastructure. The funds will also go toward a \$6.4 million improvement project at Gardner Spring, which supplies the majority of the City's water, including clean drinking water.

Bi-monthly customers will be billed at the new rates beginning with utility bills issued on Sept. 10. For an average family of four, the increase will add an estimated \$2.52 per bi-monthly billing cycle, or \$15.12 a year.*

**Based on an average bi-monthly consumption of 14/100 cubic feet.*

Q. How much will the water deposit increase for rental customers, and why?

- A. The water deposit, required by law for rental customers in the City, will increase from \$100 to \$150 to cover the balance on the final bill for customers. On average, a final monthly bill for an average family of four is \$161.80.

Parking Fees

Q. How much will parking fees increase, and why?

- A. Parking fees will increase by 25% to fund parking operations and debt service, and cover the cost of new equipment for the New Street Parking Garage and pay stations for the RMA, Hardy and Augusta Street parking lots. The new equipment will accept credit cards. This is the first phase of the installation of modernized parking equipment in Staunton's

public parking facilities, as recommended in a parking study commissioned by the City last year.

Parking Type	Hourly Rate Increase	Daily Rate Increase	Monthly Rate Increase
Garages	\$1.00 > \$1.25	\$6.00 > \$7.50	\$30.00 > \$37.50
Wharf Lot	\$1.00 > \$1.25	\$6.00 > \$7.50	\$24.00 > \$30.00
RMA & Hardy Metered Lots	\$.50 > \$.75	N/A	N/A
Augusta Street Lot	\$1.00 > \$1.25	\$6.00 > \$7.50	\$60.00 > \$75.00
10-Hour Meter Pass	N/A	N/A	\$20.00 > 25.00
10-Hour Meter	\$.50 > \$.75	\$6.00 > \$6.25	N/A

Sewer Connection Fee

Q. How much will the sewer connection fee increase, and why?

A. The City has a flat fee for all sewer connections. This fee applies to first-time connections to the City’s sewer system, such as during the construction of a new home or commercial building. Sewer customers already connected to the City system do not pay a connection fee.

The City’s current sewer connection fee is \$2,100, as established in the City Code. The City is increasing connection fees to \$3,100 incrementally over the next two years. There will be a \$500 increase to \$2,600 in FY 2020 and another \$500 increase in FY 2021 to ultimately reach \$3,100.

At the current rate, sewer connections cost the City significantly more than it collects. The average sewer connection cost in 2018 was \$3,855. The running average for the last three years has been \$3,115. The sewer connection fee was last adjusted 11 years ago, in 2008.