

MOTION TO AMEND:

MADE BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

MOTION: I move that Council Bill B 293-11 be amended as set forth on this amendment sheet.

=====

Section 2 is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 2. Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri, is hereby amended as follows:

Material to be deleted in ~~strikeout~~; material to be added underlined.

Sec. 22-263. Charges for sewage service.

...

(b) The monthly volume charges for residential classification shall be based on the average monthly billing of water usage during the immediate preceding calendar months of January, February and March October, November and December as long as the average volume for these months is greater than two (2) one (1) Ccf per month. Winter-quarter average shall transfer to any residential customer who moves to a new residential address. If no winter-quarter average has been established, the residential customer will be billed based on actual water usage until the winter-quarter average has been established. The monthly volume charges for all other customers shall be based on one hundred (100) percent of the monthly metered water used, except as otherwise provided in this Code.

...

(c) For City of Columbia residential sewer customers who receive water service from a public water district, the billing will be based according to the water district's winter quarter average.

Source: *gms*
1/28/11
Finance Department

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:

Agenda Item No. _____

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: November 28, 2011
RE: Amendment to Ordinance B 293-11



City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
\$0	City's current net FY cost.
\$0	Amount of Funds Already appropriated
\$0	Amount of budget amendment needed
\$0	Estimated 2 yr net costs:
\$0	One-time
\$0	Operating / On-going
Program Impact:	
N	New program/ agency (Y/N)
N	Duplicates/expands an existing program (Y/N)
N	Fiscal impact on any local political subdivision (Y/N)
Resources Required:	
N	Requires add'l FTE personnel? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional facilities? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional capital equipment? (Y/N)
Mandates:	
N	Federal or state mandated? (Y/N)
Vision Implementation Impact Enter Below All That Applies: Refer to Website:	
N	Vision Impact? (Y/N or if N, go no farther)
Item #	Primary Vision Statement, Goal, and/or Strategy Item#
Item #	Secondary Vision Statement, Goal, and/or Strategy Item#
Task #	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

An Ordinance Amendment is needed to amend the Sewer Billing Ordinance to provide for a method to bill those City of Columbia residential sewer customers who receive water service from a public water district.

DISCUSSION:

The Sewer Billing Ordinance requires the City of Columbia to bill residential sewer customers based on monthly water usage if a winter quarter average has not been established. The city does not have easy access to the monthly water usage information of public water district customers. In addition, the public water districts' billing cycles do not match up with the City of Columbia's billing cycles. The ordinance change provides for an alternative method to properly bill residential sewer customers who are on public water district service.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

VISION IMPACT:

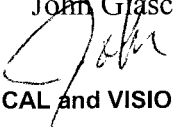
<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Approval of the ordinance amendment..

Source:

John Glascock




FISCAL and VISION NOTES:

Agenda Item No. _____

TO: City Council

FROM: City Manager and Staff

DATE: November 25, 2011 

RE: Sanitary Sewer Ordinance History (Supplemental Report for B293-11)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a report that outlines the history of revisions to the Sanitary Sewer ordinance and comments concerning information (attached) sent to Council members from Mr. Bill Weitkemper.

DISCUSSION:

During the November 7, 2011 Council meeting, Council discussed an e-mail they received from Mr. Bill Weitkemper prior to the meeting. City staff was not copied on the e-mail and wanted the opportunity to respond to Mr. Weitkemper's comments. Staff has compiled a chronological history, from 2009 to date, related to the revisions made to the Sanitary Sewer ordinances, as well as comments concerning Mr. Weitkemper's e-mails.

- **September 21, 2009:** Columbia Daily Tribune article "Sewer billing trouble costly: City employee puts up protest" published.
- **October 19, 2009:** City staff presented Council with a draft of changes to the Sanitary Sewer ordinance during pre-Council meeting.
- **February 15, 2010:** Council tabled the proposed Sanitary Sewer ordinance changes until May 17, 2010 so that staff could gather information on how other cities charge for sewer and address some of the definitions on which the rate structure was based.
- **May 17, 2010:** Council defeated the Sanitary Sewer ordinance changes based on City staff recommendation to do so. Staff recommended hiring the rate consultant Virchow Krause (formerly known as Baker, Tilley). This consultant was used three years prior to perform the Sanitary Sewer Cost of Service study. The consultant reviewed the rates along with the ordinance to determine if its general structure was similar to other communities, and identified the language needed to clarify the definition of a customer, and who would qualify for the winter quarter average. City staff also recommended Council appoint a small group of stakeholders to work with the consultant and provide input.
- **July 6, 2010:** City Manager prepared a report to Council requesting Council establish a Sanitary Sewer Task Force at their next Council meeting.

City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
\$0	City's current net FY cost.
\$0	Amount of Funds Already appropriated
\$0	Amount of budget amendment needed
Estimated 2 yr net costs:	
\$0	One-time
\$0	Operating / On-going
Program Impact:	
N	New program/ agency (Y/N)
N	Duplicates/expands an existing program (Y/N)
N	Fiscal impact on any local political subdivision (Y/N)
Resources Required:	
N	Requires add'l FTE personnel? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional facilities? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional capital equipment? (Y/N)
Mandates:	
N	Federal or state mandated? (Y/N)
Vision Implementation Impact Enter Below All That Applies: Refer to Website:	
N	Vision Impact? (Y/N or if N, go no further)
Item #	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Item #	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Task #	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

- **July 19, 2010:** Council established the (7) seven member Sanitary Sewer Task Force.
- **August 20, 2010:** The first Sanitary Sewer Task Force meeting was held. The City Manager explained to the Task Force their duties of updating the City's sanitary sewer rate ordinance and their goal of the ordinance to be certain, fair and equitable, easy to administer and cost neutral.
- **September 24, 2010:** Virchow Krause, rate consultant for the City, gave a presentation to the Sanitary Sewer Task Force.
- **October 22, 2010:** Mr. Weitkemper gave a presentation to the Sanitary Sewer Task Force.
- **October 29, 2010:** University of Missouri gave a presentation to the Sanitary Sewer Task Force.
- **November 5, 2010:** Boone County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) gave a presentation to the Sanitary Sewer Task Force.
- **December 15, 2010:** Last meeting held by the Sanitary Sewer Task Force in which they reviewed and approved (5 to1) their Sanitary Sewer ordinance revisions.
- **February 7, 2011:** Sanitary Sewer Task Force and Virchow Krause, rate consultant for the City, gave a presentation on their ordinance recommendations to Council during Pre-Council meeting.
- **March 21, 2011:** Council reviewed and approved the Sanitary Sewer Task Force ordinance revisions.
- **April 18, 2011:** Council approved a Sanitary Sewer ordinance change relating to industrial and commercial manufacturing rates, which would be phased in over a three year period.
- **June 11, 2011:** Sanitary Sewer ordinance changes were implemented in the City's utility billing system.
- **July 22, 2011:** The City received the first Sanitary Sewer ordinance rate complaint.
- **August 1, 2011:** Councilwoman Anthony requested a report from staff concerning complaints received on the Sanitary Sewer ordinance (Tracker #3415).
- **August 22, 2011:** City staff indicated that Tracker #3415 would be evaluated over the next couple of months to track the number of complaints received and anticipated a report going to Council in October.
- **October 3, 2011:** City Staff presented a report to Council with possible revisions to the Sanitary Sewer ordinance. Council directed staff to bring forward the following ordinance amendments:
 - * Changing the winter-quarter average (WQA) from January through March to October through December.
 - * Reducing the WQA from 2 ccf's to 1 ccf.
 - * Include additional information that would allow the WQA for a customer, if established, be transferred with that customer when they moved to a new location within the City.
- **November 7, 2011:** Sanitary Sewer ordinance amendments tabled by Council until December 5, 2011.

In addition to the Sanitary Sewer Ordinance history, staff has compiled responses to Mr. Weitkemper's e-mail sent to the Mayor and Council members on November 4, 2011.

**RESPONSES TO MR. WEITKEMPER'S E-MAIL TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:
(dated November 4, 2011)**

Mr. Weitkemper: Will Council Bill 293-22 fix the "problem"? Does anyone know what the "problem" is?

Staff Response: Staff has never said that CB 293-22 will fix 100% of the Sanitary Sewer billing concerns. The goal by the Sanitary Sewer Task Force, when reviewing and revising the Sanitary Sewer ordinance, was to be certain, fair and equitable, easy to administer and cost neutral. The Sewer Task Force knew that this would be difficult to do as Mr. Toohey, the Sewer Task Force chairman, stated in the Columbia Missourian article on March 21, 2011, “Based on information given from our consultant, this was our best option,” noting that while, “there is no 100 percent fair way to do this, this is the fairest we could make it.”

Mr. Weitkemper: Is the solution to establish a minimum winter-quarter average (WQA) and change the months used to determine the WQA? Not hardly.

Staff Response: The Sewer Task Force established the minimum WQA (2 ccf’s) and left the months of January through March. City staff recommended changing the months because customers who had a WQA of 2 ccf’s or less were to be billed on actual water usage. With the hot, dry, summer those customers were watering their lawns and being billed for that usage; therefore, staff felt that possibly changing the months that were used for WQA would possibly get those customers usage levels up so they would qualify for greater than 2 ccf’s and be billed on WQA

Mr. Weitkemper: The solution to the problem of having a WQA that does not reflect the amount of water a residential customer discharges to the wastewater system is to read and record water meter readings used for sewer billing to the tenth of a CCF (75 gallons).

Staff Response: Per Water & Light, they do not bill utility customers for the tenth of a ccf. If the water meter reading is 4.2 ccf’s, they bill for 4 ccf’s. If the water meter reading is 4.6 ccf’s they bill for 4 ccf’s. They round all of the readings down to the nearest ccf and indicated that there were no plans to change this system.

Mr. Weitkemper: Any month with a water usage of less than .4 ccf (150 gallons) should not be used to establish the WQA.

Staff Response: Per Utility Customer Service (UCS), WQA has to be calculated on subsequent months. The billing system does not allow for random months to be calculated for a WQA.

Mr. Weitkemper: Only residential customers that live in dwelling units that are constructed to allow the resident to use water outside the dwelling unit should be eligible for sewer volume billing based on their average water usage.The monthly sewer volume charge for residential customers residing in dwelling units that are not constructed to allow the resident to use water outside the dwelling should be based on the customer’s actual water usage.

Staff Response: The Sewer Task force set up two classifications of users:

*residential: user of a dwelling unit that is connected to the cities sanitary sewer system and served by (1) water meter. These users receive WQA.

*non-residential: all users of the cities sanitary sewer system that are not residential users. These users are billed on actual water usage.

Mr. Weitkemper: Regardless of the months used to establish the average water usage, the average water usage cannot be reflective of the wastewater a resident discharges to the wastewater system if the resident is not living in the residence when the average water usage is established.

Staff Response: If a customer has established a WQA at a previous residence within the city, and they move to a new residence in the city, they should be allowed to take their WQA to the new residence. Staff proposed this to Council in an October 3, 2011 Council report, and Council directed staff to include that information in the proposed ordinance changes presented to them on November 7, 2011.

Mr. Weitkemper: A resident that is eligible for average sewer volume billing should not be charged a monthly sewer volume charge based on their average water usage when charging them a monthly sewer volume charge based on their actual water usage would be less.

Staff Response: The Sewer Task force established the WQA criteria. They did not feel that it was fair for a customer that has a WQA of 0 ccf's for January through March, to not be billed for any sewer usage throughout the remainder of the year. Based on that, the Task Force requested specific WQA criteria be included in the Sanitary Sewer ordinance.

Mr. Weitkemper: A residential customer should always be charged a monthly sewer volume charge based on whichever is lowest: the customer's average water usage or the customer's actual water usage.

Staff Response: The current utility billing system does not have the flexibility to handle billing usage at this level.

Mr. Weitkemper: Any residential customer that is eligible for sewer volume billing based on the customer's average water usage that has not established an average water usage should be charged a monthly sewer volume charge based on whichever is lowest: a water usage of 6 ccf or the customer's actual water usage.

Staff Response: The average city water usage is 7 ccf's. As previously indicated, the current utility billing system does not have the flexibility to handle billing usage at this level.

Mr. Weitkemper: All water meter readings made for the purpose of sewer billing should be recorded to the tenth of a ccf. All water usage averages should be extended to the tenth of a ccf and not rounded up or down.

Staff Response: Per Water & Light, they round the water readings down, not up, and the water readings average themselves out over the following months.

Mr. Weitkemper's amended Council Bill B293-22

Staff: The current utility billing system does not allow the flexibility to bill water usage the way that Mr. Weitkemper is recommending.

Mr. Weitkemper: I suggest the city acquire a computer billing program that will allow the changes I have proposed to be implemented.

Staff Response: The City is looking at purchasing a new financial system which will include utility billing. This was included in the FY 2012 City budget.

Mr. Weitkemper: The problems I previously brought to your attention concerning connection fees, master metered dwelling units, master metered non-residential properties and residential customers being charged a disproportional portion of the base fee also should be addressed.

Staff Response: The connection fees were not a portion of the ordinances that the Sewer Task Force reviewed, and City staff does not have any concerns with that portion of the ordinance. The other items, master metered dwelling units, etc., were reviewed by the Sewer Task Force and their proposed changes were approved by the Council on March 21, 2011.

Mr. Weitkemper: You cannot continue to accept staff recommendations that avoid any discussion of, or response to, the problems and concerns I have brought to your attention. It is time that the staff policy of, ignore them and they will go away, goes away and someone is held accountable.

Staff Response: The ordinance changes that have occurred were recommendations from the appointed Sewer Task Force. Staff brought the recommendations forward to City Council. In addition, the recommendations that staff is making concerning Council Bill B293-22 is based on the sixteen (16) complaints that were received involving the current WQA section of the ordinance, affecting those customers that had a WQA of 2 ccf's or less. Based on the ordinance, they are to be billed on their actual water usage, and once they started watering their lawns and received their first utility bill with that water usage, complaints were received. Staff feels that their proposed changes will reduce the number of customers impacted. See the chart below for the number of customers impacted.

Usage	January-March Average	October-December Average	November-January Average
<=1 CCF	2,488 Customers	1,628 Customers *Recommended to Council 11/7/11	2,526 Customers
<=2 CCF	6,626 Customers	5,574 Customers	6,559 Customers

RESPONSES TO MR. WEITKEMPER'S E-MAIL TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:

(dated November 8, 2011)

Mr. Weitkemper: It would cost \$2500+- for a residential customer to install an additional irrigation water meter. About half of the cost is related to backflow prevention.

Staff Response: Per information received from Water & Light, the estimated cost to install an additional irrigation water meter with backflow prevention is approximately \$1,900 and that is not waiving the water connection fee of \$600.

Mr. Weitkemper: There is no commercial sewer rate.

Staff Response: Correct. The Sewer Task Force recommended a residential user classification and a non-residential user classification. The commercial classification no longer exists.

Mr. Weitkemper: The "commercial" (non-residential) rate and the residential rate for a 5/8" water meter are the same.

Staff Response: Correct. They are the same because they have the same meter capacity and the Sewer Task Force agreed with this.

Mr. Weitkemper: The proposed ordinance did not provide for a six month average it changed the months from Jan-March to Oct-Dec.

Staff Response: Correct.

Mr. Weitkemper also included a chart, for a customer, to the November 8, 2011 e-mail. The Oct/Nov/Dec average that Mr. Weitkemper shows is not accurate. Based on the information provided, the WQA would not be 9 ccf's it would be 5 ccf's, which brings the monthly amount to \$10.50, not \$18.89.

Also, during the November 7, 2011 Council meeting, Council members requested the cost of installing a separate irrigation meter for the standard residential customer with a 5/8" water meter. Per information received from Water & Light, the cost would be \$1,348. This amount does not take into account if backflow protection is needed. In addition, Council requested the cost of an apartment complex with a master meter converting to single meters. The cost of a 10 unit apartment complex converting from a single meter to (10) 5/8" meters is approximately \$9,432. Of this amount, \$6,130 would be city fees and the remainder would be estimated plumber fees.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If Council approves Council Bill 293-11, the fiscal impact would reduce sanitary sewer revenues a minimal amount. The amount of reduction is unknown at this time; however, staff believes that this change provides a more valuable customer service impact than the minimal amount of revenues that will be reduced.

VISION IMPACT:

None

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Approve Council Bill 293-11, which amends Chapter 13 and 22 to implement revisions proposed by City Council at the October 3, 2011 Council meeting, and to correct waste hauler fees that were miscalculated during the FY12 budget process.

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bill Weitkemper

Date: November 4, 2011

RE: Council Bill B 293-22

Council Bill B 293-22:

The monthly volume charges for residential classification shall be based on the average monthly billing of water usage during the immediate preceding calendar months of October, November and December as long as the average volume for these months is greater than one (1) Ccf per month. Winter-quarter average shall transfer to any residential customer who moves to a new residential address. If no winter-quarter average has been established, the residential customer will be billed based on actual water usage until the winter-quarter average has been established.

Will Council Bill B 293-22 fix the “problem”? Does anyone know what the “problem” is?

The “problem”, according to city staff, is that 2,115 residential sewer customers had a low WQA in 2010. (See attached Low WQA)

Council Bill B 293-22 will only create more problems.

There is no problem with having a low WQA. The problem is having a WQA that does not reflect the amount of water a residential customer discharges to the wastewater system. The WQA of some of these 2,115 residential customers may not reflect the amount of water the customer discharged to the wastewater system. However, the WQA of many of the 2,115 residential customers very likely did reflect the amount of water the customer discharged to the wastewater system. Is the solution to establish a minimum WQA and change the months used to determine the WQA? Not hardly.

Most water meters measure water by the cubic foot and the water meter readings are recorded in whole one hundred cubic foot (CCF) increments (748 gallons), even though the water meter actually measures the water to the hundredth of a CCF (7.5 gallons). A residential customer could use as much as 747 gallons of water in a 30 day billing period and the customer’s water meter reading would reflect the customer used 0 CCF of water.

The solution to the problem of having a WQA that does not reflect the amount of water a residential customer discharges to the wastewater system is to read and record water meter

reading used for sewer billing to the tenth of a CCF (75 gallons). Then any month with a water usage of less than 0.4 CCF (150 gallons) should not be used to establish the WQA.

There are a few other problems the city did not identify that need to be fixed.

Why in the world would you want to charge any more customers than absolutely necessary a sewer volume charge based on their average water usage?

Only residential customers that live in dwelling units that are constructed to allow the resident to use water outside the dwelling unit should be eligible for sewer volume billing based on their average water usage. The only dwelling units that are typically constructed to allow for outside water usage are single family homes and duplexes. Therefore, residential customers residing in single family homes and duplexes or any other dwelling unit confirmed to be constructed to allow the resident to use water outside the dwelling unit should be eligible for sewer volume billing based on their average water usage. The monthly sewer volume charge for residential customers residing in dwelling units (apartments, condos, etc.,) that are not constructed to allow the resident to use water outside the dwelling should be based on the customer's actual water usage.

The sewer volume charge for residential customers that use water outside their dwelling units should definitely not be based on their average water usage during October, November, and December. In case you didn't notice many residential customers were still watering their yards the first week of November. A review of residential utility accounts will confirm that outside water usage typically begins near the middle of May and extends through mid-November.

Regardless of the months used to establish the average water usage the average water usage cannot be reflective of the wastewater a resident discharges to the wastewater system if the resident is not living in the residence when the average water usage is established.

A resident that is eligible for average sewer volume billing should not be charged a monthly sewer volume charge based on their average water usage when charging them a monthly sewer volume charge based on their actual water usage would be less.

A residential customer should always be charged a monthly sewer volume charge based on whichever is lowest: the customer's average water usage or the customer's actual water usage.

Any residential customer that is eligible for sewer volume billing based on the customer's average water usage that has not established an average water usage should be charged a monthly sewer volume charge based on whichever is lowest: a water usage of 6 CCF or the

customer's actual water usage. (6 CCF is the average residential water usage in January, February and March)

All water meter readings made for the purpose of sewer billing should be recorded to the tenth of a CCF. All water usage averages should be extended to the tenth of a CCF and not rounded up or down.

I have attached two files that reflect why the changes proposed by B 293-22 will treat some customer's very unfairly but the recommendations I have made will treat them fairly. I suggest the city acquire a computer billing program that will allow the changes I have proposed to be implemented.

Council Bill B 293-22 (as amended by Bill Weitkemper):

The monthly volume charges for residential customers that live in dwelling units that are constructed to allow water usage outside the dwelling unit shall be based on: 1) the customers average monthly water usage based on the three months with the lowest water usage, excluding any month with less than 0.4 CCF water usage, during the immediate preceding calendar months of November, December, January, February, March, and April, except, if the customers actual monthly water usage is less than the customer's average monthly water usage the customer shall be charged a monthly volume charged based on the customers actual monthly water usage, or: 2) if the customer has not established an average monthly water usage the customer shall be charged a monthly volume charge based on whichever is less, an average water usage of six (6) CCF or the customer's actual monthly water usage.

If you have read this far and looked at the two WQA examples I prepared maybe this hasn't been a total waste of my time. If you pass Council Bill B 293-22 as proposed you are going to greatly (unfairly) impact any residential customer that waters their yard or uses a significant amount of water outside their residence for any other purpose in October, November and December. Many of them would be better off being charged a sewer volume charge based on their actual water usage.

The problems I previously brought to your attention concerning connection fees, master metered dwelling units, master metered non-residential properties and residential customers being charged a disproportional portion of the base fee also should be addressed.

You cannot continue to accept staff recommendations that avoid any discussion of, or response to, the problems and concerns I have brought to your attention.

It is time that the staff policy of, ignore them and they will go away, goes away and someone is held accountable.

Now, it is time for a history lesson. You can learn a lot from history.

What Henry Lane was able to accomplish fifteen years ago was truly remarkable, especially when you consider that the city was even more customer unfriendly then.

In 1996 after Mr. Lane had moved from one residence to another, he somehow determined that he had been charged two sewer base fees for the same month. Since sewer charges are still not itemized on the monthly utility statement this in itself was somewhat remarkable. What Mr. Lane was able to determine over the next several months was more remarkable.

It seems the city was not correctly charging for sewer service because the city's computer billing program could not prorate a non-metered monthly charge. Apparently, instead of changing the sewer ordinance, or getting a computer program that could do what needed to be done, someone decided it really didn't matter what the sewer ordinance said. Sound familiar?

Mr. Lane's request for a refund was refused. He was then ignored. Sound familiar?

Anyone who knows Mr. Lane knows he does not give up easily, especially when he knows he is right. The story is that someone in Finance finally opened a cash drawer and gave Mr. Lane his refund, which was less than three dollars, and said, "There, does that make you happy?"

Now, for what was truly remarkable.

Mr. Lane thanked them for the refund and then very politely said they should give every sewer customer that had been overcharged a refund and they should also start correctly charging for sewer service. The city purchased a new computer billing program that could prorate a non-metered monthly charge.

Thank you Mr. Lane.

Sewer Account with Low WQA

Accounts with 0 ccf WQA – 435

Accounts with 1 ccf WQA – 1,680

Note: Discussions with the Utility Billing staff indicated a number of reasons for low WQA. Accounts with 0 ccf WQA could be “snow birds” or vacant houses and apartments due to the economy. Staff indicated accounts with 1 ccf WQA could be student housing where the residence was vacant for part of the time, or small apartments with older occupants that tend to be very frugal with their water usage.

WQA Example #1

The present Sewer Volume charge of \$2.099/ Ccf was used to calculate all monthly charges (1 Ccf is 748 gallons)

Month	Water usage	Actual usage @ \$2.099 Ccf	Jan, Feb, & Mar WQA of 0 CCF	Oct, Nov, & Dec WQA of 14 Ccf	Jan, Feb, & Apr WQA of 6.6 or actual water usage
Jan	0 CCF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.39	\$0.00
Feb	0 CCF	0.00	0.00	29.39	0.00
March	0 CCF	0.00	0.00	29.39	0.00
April	5 CCF	10.49	0.00	29.39	10.49
May	10 CCF	20.99	0.00	29.39	13.85
June	17 CCF	35.68	0.00	29.39	13.85
July	21 CCF	44.07	0.00	29.39	13.85
Aug	30 CCF	62.97	0.00	29.39	13.85
Sept	32 CCF	67.16	0.00	29.38	13.85
Oct	27 CCF	56.67	0.00	29.38	13.85
Nov	10 CCF	20.00	0.00	29.38	13.85
Dec	5 CCF	10.49	0.00	29.38	10.49
Totals	172 CCF	\$329.51	\$0.00	\$352.56	\$117.93

WQA Example #2

The present Sewer Volume charge of \$2.099/ Ccf was used to calculate all monthly charges (1 CCF is 748 gallons)

Month	Water usage	Actual usage @ \$2.099 CCF	Jan, Feb, & Mar WQA of 2 CCF	Oct., Nov, & Dec WQA of 10 CCF	Jan, Apr, Dec WQA of 6 CCF or actual water usage
Jan	6 CCF	\$12.59	\$4.19	\$20.99	\$12.59
Feb	0 CCF	0.00	4.19	20.99	0.00
March	0 CCF	0.00	4.19	20.99	0.00
April	6 CCF	12.59	4.19	20.99	12.59
May	6 CCF	12.59	4.19	20.99	12.59
June	6 CCF	12.59	4.19	20.99	12.59
July	16 CCF	33.58	4.19	20.99	12.59
Aug	21 CCF	44.07	4.19	20.99	12.59
Sept	19 CCF	39.88	4.19	20.99	12.59
Oct	15 CCF	31.48	4.19	20.99	12.59
Nov	10 CCF	20.99	4.19	20.99	12.59
Dec	6 CCF	12.59	4.19	20.99	12.59
Totals	111 CCF	\$211.96	\$50.28	\$251.88	\$125.90

Introduced by _____

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

Ordinance No. _____

Council Bill No. B 293-11

AN ORDINANCE

amending Chapters 13 and 22 of the City Code relating to sewage service utility rates; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri, is hereby amended as follows:

Material to be deleted in ~~strikeout~~; material to be added underlined.

Sec. 13-192. Charges for disposal services.

...

(b) The following charges shall be imposed for acceptable liquid waste generated within the city limits of Columbia which is discharged into the designated disposal facility:

- (1) Waste activated sludge from package wastewater treatment plants and stabilization pond sludge..... ~~\$0.184~~ 0.018 per gallon

...

SECTION 2. Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri, is hereby amended as follows:

Material to be deleted in ~~strikeout~~; material to be added underlined.

Sec. 22-263. Charges for sewage service.

...

(b) The monthly volume charges for residential classification shall be based on the average monthly billing of water usage during the immediate preceding calendar months of ~~January, February and March~~ October, November and December as long as the

average volume for these months is greater than ~~two (2)~~ one (1) Ccf per month. Winter-quarter average shall transfer to any residential customer who moves to a new residential address. If no winter-quarter average has been established, the residential customer will be billed based on actual water usage until the winter-quarter average has been established. The monthly volume charges for all other customers shall be based on one hundred (100) percent of the monthly metered water used, except as otherwise provided in this Code.

...

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after November 8, 2011.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor

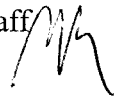
Source:
John Glascock

Agenda Item No. _____

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:

City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
\$0	City's current net FY cost.
\$0	Amount of Funds Already appropriated
\$0	Amount of budget amendment needed
Estimated 2 yr net costs:	
\$0	One-time
\$0	Operating / On-going
Program Impact:	
N	New program/ agency (Y/N)
N	Duplicates/expands an existing program (Y/N)
N	Fiscal impact on any local political subdivision (Y/N)
Resources Required:	
N	Requires add'l FTE personnel? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional facilities? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional capital equipment? (Y/N)
Mandates:	
N	Federal or state mandated? (Y/N)
Vision Implementation Impact Enter Below All That Applies: Refer to Website:	
N	Vision Impact? (Y/N or if N, go no further)
Item #	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Item #	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Task #	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

TO: City Council

FROM: City Manager and Staff 

DATE: October 6, 2011

RE: Proposed Sanitary Sewer Ordinance Revisions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance amending Chapters 13 and 22 of the City Code to implement revisions proposed by City Council at the October 3, 2011 Council meeting, and to correct waste hauler fees that were calculated incorrectly during the FY12 budget process.

DISCUSSION:

During the October 3, 2011 Council meeting, staff prepared a report to Council concerning complaints received from utility customers about sanitary sewer charge increases, specifically the winter-quarter averages, on customer utility bills. Staff provided Council with various options and Council directed staff to bring forward an ordinance revising the average monthly billing of water usage during the immediate preceding calendar months of January, February and March to October, November and December. In addition, Council requested that the average volume for these months be reduced from two (2) Ccf to one (1) Ccf per month.

In correlation to the changes in the average monthly billing, it was recommended that Council direct staff to amend the ordinance to allow the winter-quarter average for a residential customer that moves, to be transferred to their new residential address. If no winter-quarter average has been established, the residential customer will be billed based on actual water usage until the winter-quarter average has been established.

In addition, staff noticed a calculation error in the waste hauler fees in Chapter 13. The fees should have increased 15%, along with the other sanitary sewer fees, but a decimal point was misplaced in the fee per gallon for waste activated sludge. This fee has not affected any customers since the Wastewater Treatment Plant is not receiving waste at this time due to the current construction on the plant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Based on the winter-quarter average option that Council selected, the fiscal impact would reduce sanitary sewer revenues a minimal amount. The amount of reduction is unknown at this time; however, staff believes that this change provides a more valuable customer service impact than the minimal amount of revenues that will be reduced.

VISION IMPACT:

None

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Approve the ordinance amending Chapter 13 and 22 to implement revisions proposed by City Council at the October 3, 2011 Council meeting, and to correct waste hauler fees that were miscalculated during the FY12 budget process