On June 25, 2012, Mount Pleasant Waterworks Commissioners approved a 5% increase in water and wastewater Basic Facility Charges (BFC) and volumetric rates effective with bills rendered on or after July 1, 2012. The change is necessary to provide funding to maintain existing water and wastewater systems, fund improvements to the Center Street Wastewater Treatment Plant, ($25.4 million project), meet all bond, regulation and policy requirements, as well as normal increases in operating expenses.

Mount Pleasant Waterworks provides water and wastewater service to a population of approximately 70,000 residents that make up nearly 35,000 customer accounts. In order to meet the mission of Mount Pleasant Waterworks, “To provide our customers with water and wastewater service of exceptional quality and value, while protecting public health and the environment”, MPW manages assets that total nearly $350 million. These assets include four water treatment plants; 520 miles of water lines; over 3,000 fire hydrants; two wastewater treatment plants; 460 miles of wastewater lines and 158 wastewater pump stations. These are assets that are owned by the public, but are truly a liability to MPW in that they have to repair, renew and replace them utilizing MPW’s budget.

What impact will this rate change have on you? The typical residential customer who utilizes 5,000 gallons of water per month will see a $2.55 increase in their bill. With this increase, Mount Pleasant Waterworks still has the lowest rates in Charleston County. At less than a penny a gallon, tap water remains one of the lowest cost utility bills for homeowners- a bargain considering the resources and expertise it takes.

For the average household in Mount Pleasant you can cook, clean, bathe, flush toilets and fund projects for under $2.00 a day. Compared to other utilities and monthly bills, our service stacks up as one of the best deals around.

Mount Pleasant Waterworks current bill and considered rate increase represent less than 1 percent of the median household income in Mount Pleasant.

The MPW bi-monthly Commission Newsletter, Water Lines, is produced in-house and mailed to customers with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website.

www.mountpleasantwaterworks.com
Changes that will effect you..be sure to review!

On June 25th the Commissioners also approved changes to the charges customers will be assessed if bills are not paid on time. Some of these changes will not take effect immediately. MPW staff is currently working to redesign the billing layout in order to effectively communicate with all customers. Customers will soon see a new bill and with that the approved charges that will take effect. These changes will not only affect the charges customers are assessed but the timing of charges for unpaid bills will change as well.

The newly designed bill will inform customers of all amounts due and due dates. As always, customers should review their monthly bill in detail.

**CHANGES**

**Penalty Charge**

Old Penalty Charge: $2.00 +1% of the total bill  
Current Penalty Charge: $5.00  
Charge will be assessed 21 days after the bill is generated. This change is in effect immediately.

The old Delinquent Fee will remain the same at $20.00 but is now called the *Late Payment Charge*. This charge will be applied 26 days after the bill is generated.

The old Service/Reconnect Fee will remain at $55.00 but is now called the *Non-Payment Charge* and will be assessed 42 days after the bill is generated.

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**What the rate change will help fund...**

The Center Street Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed over 40 years ago. Due to the age and condition of the plant its abilities are limited. The improvements are necessary in order for the plant to treat the 3.7 millions gallons that it is permitted to treat, to support future economic development including Coleman Boulevard Redevelopment and Patriot’s Point areas and to comply with more stringent permit requirements.

The renewal and replacement project will begin in Fiscal Year 2013 and is scheduled to be complete in Fiscal Year 2015. The total cost of the project is $25.4 million.

The collections system is the vehicle which delivers the waste to be treated. Due to the chemistry and science of collections systems these pipes corrode, crack and could cause some major damage.

Above you will see the state of a pipe that really deteriorated due to corrosive gases.

The objective of the collection system asset management program is to remove infiltration, replace non-repairable infrastructure, eliminate spills and install new infrastructure to support growth and economic development.

The Collection system asset value is $135 million or about 40% of MPW’s total asset-value. MPW needs to spend about $12 million to meet the overall objective.

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**MPW Reinstall Annual Fire Line Fee**

As part of the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget, Mount Pleasant Waterworks (MPW) Commissioners reinstated the Private Fire Line Fee. Dedicated fire service lines are water service lines that provide water for fire sprinkler systems in homes and businesses. These lines are connected directly to the fire sprinkler system and are not metered. MPW must provide the volume of water on demand 24 hours per day seven days a week.

Previously, all MPW customers were subsidizing the cost for those who utilized private fire line sprinkler systems. The utilization of private sprinkler systems requires MPW to install larger pumps and pipes which increase the cost of installing and maintaining MPW’s infrastructure.

In an effort to support the goal of our Cost Recovery Policy which states, “To fully and equitable recover all costs of operating, maintaining, and expanding the water and wastewater utilities from the customer of the service area while maintaining financial stability”, it is necessary to reinstate this fee and collect from those who are directly benefiting from this service.

The average customer utilizes a 2” line which cost $83 per year for a monthly charge of $6.92. Please visit www.mountpleasantwaterworks.com to learn about other MPW rates.