

**ORDINANCE NO. 134.5 - 2017**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT ORDINANCE 134.4-2015  
PRESCRIBING THE RATES, CHARGES, AND DEPOSITS ON WATER,  
SEWAGE, SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLE SERVICE ACCOUNTS SERVED BY  
THE CITY OF YOUNGSVILLE, LOUISIANA**

WHEREAS it is necessary to establish and periodically adjust the charges for water, sewage, and solid waste/recycle services provided by the City of Youngsville, and

WHEREAS it is necessary to protect the City of Youngsville from the economic impact of delinquent accounts that go unpaid;

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Youngsville that in order to provide for safe drinking water and the healthy removal of sewage and solid waste for residences and businesses in a manner that is conducive to a higher standard of living for the benefit of the people of Youngsville:

A. Fees for water, sewage, and solid waste/recycle removal shall be established and periodically updated by the City of Youngsville. Water, sewage, and solid waste/recycle removal fees shall not be changed from those prescribed herein without the prior approval of the City Council of the City of Youngsville.

B. I. The following fees for water, sewage, and solid waste/recycle service shall be effective beginning with the January, 2018 billing cycle and continue until authorized changes by the City Council.

**1. WATER**

Base Rate \$10.50 plus **\$3.67** per thousand gallons metered

**2. SEWAGE**

Base Rate \$9.00 plus \$1.70 per thousand gallons of water metered

**3. SOLID WASTE** removal & recycle service

Base Rate \$18.00

Additional cart(s) \$10.00 per month per additional cart

For the purpose of this ordinance, “metered” shall mean the volume of water that has passed through and been recorded by the account’s water meter.

C. Accounts’ Billings will be mailed by City Hall during the first business week of each month. For the purpose of this ordinance, the first business week shall be the first five business days (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) in whatever sequence these days may occur during the billing month.

D. Payments on accounts shall be due on or before 4:00 PM of the twenty seventh (27<sup>th</sup>) day of the month billed and are payable at the City Hall of the City of Youngsville, or via on-line banking that the account holder may establish. If an account is not paid in full by 4:01 PM of the twenty seventh (27<sup>th</sup>) day of the month billed, a delinquency fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount billed shall be added to the original amount due, and the account shall be identified as “DELINQUENT”. The account will remain delinquent until the total account balance and all associated fees are paid.

E. The City of Youngsville shall terminate the delivery of water to those accounts that are DELINQUENT for longer than thirty one (31) days or in those cases where an account balance or deposit has been paid using a bank draft that has been returned to the City of Youngsville because of a lack of funds in that bank account. Water service thus terminated will be reconnected on the same day that the delinquent account is paid, if full payment is made at City Hall prior to 3:00 PM. Service will not be restored until the account is paid in full, including a reconnect fee of \$25.00 plus any delinquent fee assessed under paragraph “D” and the reevaluated deposit described in paragraph “F.2.” herein. In those cases when a \$29.00 check handling fee has been charged as described in paragraph “G” herein, the outstanding account balances and fees must be paid with cash or money order. The City of Youngsville Mayor or CAO may authorize deviations from the collection of fees prior to reconnects.

F. Deposits for water and sewage accounts shall be due at the time an application for service is submitted to City Hall. The deposit amount will be periodically updated by the City of Youngsville deposit amounts shall not be changed from those prescribed herein without the prior approval of the City Council of the City of Youngsville. The deposit amount for accounts that exist prior to the adoption of this ordinance shall not change except in those cases outlined in paragraph “F.2.” and “E” herein or upon future increases approved by the City Council. Deposit amounts shall be:

1. Initial deposits for new service applications shall be \$100.00.
2. Deposit amounts shall be reevaluated for accounts that are disconnected under paragraph “E” herein. This reevaluated deposit amount shall be sufficient to fully offset the account balance at the time the service was disconnected and only if the account balance at the time of disconnect was greater than the deposit which had already been paid for this account. The City of Youngsville Mayor or CAO may authorize deviations from the collection of deposits prior to reconnects.
3. City Hall shall review the data base of “Unpaid Accounts” described in paragraph “J” herein, and collect any outstanding balance(s) due. The deposit for service to the newest account for an individual listed on the “Unpaid Accounts” data base will be an amount that equals two months of the “Unpaid Account” balance.

G. There shall be a \$35.00 check handling fee for processing a check/bank draft that was used by an account holder to pay an account balance or service deposit and that check /bank draft is returned to the City of Youngsville because the bank account did not have sufficient funds to cover the value of the check. This check handling fee shall be added to and become a part of the overall account balance.

H. Water consumption is the account holder’s responsibility. The account shall be billed for all water having been delivered via the City of Youngsville water meter, regardless of the circumstances under which the water was used. If the account location has a water leak or water is consumed by unknown forces on the delivery side of the water meter, the account holder is responsible for monitoring the water usage and for the security of his/her system and thus also responsible for payment for all water consumption which has passed through the water meter. For the purpose of this ordinance, the “delivery side” of the water meter shall be understood to mean that portion of the water system on the output side of the city owned water meter. The City of Youngsville Mayor or CAO may authorize deviations from the collection of fees.

I. The water meter shall be the property of the City of Youngsville. As such, it will be a violation of this ordinance for any unauthorized person to tamper with or manipulate the water meter in any way, shape or form. Individuals violating this ordinance shall be subject to fees which offset the costs to repair or replace the water meter and an additional deposit of \$250.00 shall be paid by the Account holder before water delivery is continued.

J. Accounts that have remained in DELINQUENT status for sixty two (62) days or more shall be known as “Unpaid Accounts”. In these circumstances, City Hall shall first attempt to contact the missing account holder and collect the outstanding balance. If unsuccessful in this collection attempt, a post-account collection fee of \$45.00 shall be assessed and added to the account balance, and the account shall be turned over to a collection agency. The collection agency will pursue the account holder and collection of the balance due. The account holders’ names and outstanding balances of uncollected accounts shall be entered in the data base of Unpaid Accounts.

Any City of Youngsville ordinance or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This ordinance having been introduced on November 9, 2017, was published by title only and was submitted for a vote and the vote therein was as follows:

YEAS: Jamison Abshire, Lauren Michel, Matt Romero, Ken Stansbury, Dianne McClelland  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

The ordinance was adopted on this the 11th day of January, 2018.

/s/ Ken Stansbury  
Ken Ritter, Mayor

/s/ Sally M. Angers  
Sally M. Angers, City Clerk