

News from City Hall

All new meters have been installed except for two. These new meters are not hooked up to the new billing system or receive a radio read yet, but they are in use, and we will be hand reading them for monthly bills until they can be radio read. Once they are hooked up to the billing system, you can view your usage and bills online.

Meters are city property. The city has easement right to their meters. Tampering with a meter, blocking a meter, preventing a meter from work, or preventing it from being read in any way, is a violation of the city's water ordinance and is subject to a fine or prosecution. New language concerning our new water meters will be added to the water ordinance and put on the December agenda for approval. These new meters cost an average of \$250 after parts, install, technology, and hired contractors. If you break your meter, you will be charged \$250 to replace it.

Harassment and assault on city workers and the contractors we hire to do work is a distraction and safety issue. Orange cones and orange caution tape will be placed around our work zones and citizens are not allowed inside these work zones. Please do not approach, harass, or distract workers you see on your property doing city work or in other work zones around town. If you have question, concerns, or complaints, please contact City Hall and those will be addressed there. An assault and harassment ordinance will be drafted and put on the December agenda for approval.

The city found two water leaks in town and repaired them. Hopefully this is our leaks we have been dealing with since late summer. There will be more line and valve repairs taking place as we discovered much needed maintenance as we worked on these leaks. There have been 2 boil advisories in place with these two leaks. One leak took place on a weekend while all city employees were out of town. The fastest and most effective way to reach everyone in that situation was social media. The city has a city website, a city Facebook page, and a GroupMe app for these situations. Please add yourself to all these platforms for the best way to receive notifications. When applicable, we will post notices in 3 public places around town and issue a breaking news release with the local papers (those will appear online and on Facebook as the papers only print once a week). I also encourage you to add your telephone number to your water bill account so you can be contacted directly.

Information on boil advisories and boil orders: A public water system may issue a boil water advisory when there is concern that a problem with drinking water may exist, but it has not yet been confirmed. These are most issued for major water main breaks or other low-pressure events where the possibility of contamination intrusion exists. They may also be issued while waiting for results of confirmation samples collected for bacteriological analysis, which can take up to two days plus the time required to transport samples to the laboratory. A boil water order is issued by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to public water systems when a threat to the public health exists, or is likely to exist, that boiling the water will remedy. The public water system is then required to notify consumers as soon as possible, and by the most effective methods, that need to boil their drinking water. The following steps need to be taken for a boil order or advisory: 1. Boil water vigorously for three minutes prior to use. Use only water that has been boiled for drinking, diluting fruit juices, all other food preparation, and brushing teeth. 2. Dispose of ice cubes and do not use ice from a household automatic ice maker. Remake ice cubes with water that has been boiled. 3. Disinfect dishes and other food contact surfaces by immersion for at least one minute in clean tap water that contains one teaspoon of unscented household bleach per gallon of water. Note: Let water cool sufficiently before drinking (approximately

110 degrees F. The presence of fecal coliform or E. coli bacteria is a common cause for issuing a boil water order. Other instances include low water pressure and inadequate levels of chlorine at systems that require chlorination. High turbidity levels, cross connections, inadequate treatment techniques and the presence of other microbial pathogens such as Giardia or Cryptosporidium are potential causes for boil water orders that occur less frequently.

Sewer: A sewer rate increase will be discussed for approval at the December 8th council meeting. Rates on the sewer ordinance will need to increase to the 2% median household income for the city to stay in compliance with the sewer revitalization project and to receive special grants and funding in sewer repairs. **Current rates are \$35 for the first 1500 gallons, then 50 cents per 1,000 gals. The suggested rate change will stay at the \$35 but with no minimum usage and \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons.** This information and the ordinance draft is available to the public for viewing.

Missouri Primacy Fee (MPF on your bill) will increase on Jan 1, 2023. Residential meters will increase to \$5.28 and meters greater than 1" will increase to \$21.00. This is once a year fee in July and rates are set from DNR.

Grease and sewer caps: Please do not dump grease down the sewer. There is an excessive amount of grease in our sewer plant from residents dumping it down the toilet or drain. Also, if you have a down spout on your house and it runs off directly into the city sewer system it needs to be disconnected and capped. All residents need to locate their sewer clean out on their property and make sure it is capped. If the clean out needs repaired the resident must repair and cap it. If the city comes out to cap and repair clean outs there will be a charge to the resident.

City Hall contact info: phone [660-928-3281](tel:660-928-3281), email skidmore@nwmo.net, the city's Facebook page at [City of Skidmore City Hall](#), the city's website skidmoremo.org, and City of Skidmore GroupMe app.

Thank you.