

# THE TOWN OF Batesburg-Leesville

## Council Approves Water Base Rate Increase

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2016

Contact: Ted Luckadoo

803-532-4601 | [tluckadoo@batesburg-leesville.org](mailto:tluckadoo@batesburg-leesville.org)

Town Council on Monday night held second reading of an ordinance to increase water base rates by \$5.50 for most customers. The increase is necessary due to critical infrastructure needs at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and throughout the distribution system.

These new rates are the culmination of an exhaustive six month process by staff at Town Hall to analyze needs, compare rates, and evaluate options. Town leaders also worked with numerous municipalities across the midlands and throughout the state to compare our rates with peers, identify commonly accepted practices, and understand historical differences among systems. With this knowledge, Town Hall staff members were able to craft a tiered base rate system that remains one of the most competitive in the state. Batesburg-Leesville has always had some of the lowest base rates in the state, and even with this increase, the Town will remain one of the lowest.

“We strive to provide superior water and waste water services to the residents and businesses of Batesburg-Leesville,” said Ted Luckadoo the Town Manager. “Every day our water and waste water infrastructure gets a little bit older, and we must begin addressing our needs before we are in over our heads.”

Although most customers will see a \$5.50 increase beginning on their August bills, Council adopted a tiered base rate schedule based upon meter size. More than 2,800 of the Town’s nearly 3,000 meters are of the ¾ inch variety and whose base rate will increase from \$7.95 to \$13.45 monthly. Customers using larger meters, 1 inch to 6 inches, will pay anywhere between \$24.00 to \$364.50 per month.

In addition to the tiered base rate schedule, Council has also approved the doubling of base rates for out-of-Town customers. The practice of doubling out-of-Town rates is a universally accepted approach to address the increased cost of running and maintaining distribution systems in less populated areas. “It’s much more efficient and cost effective to add 30 new customers in a densely populated area, than adding 30 customers in a less dense area,” said Mr. Luckadoo. “Regardless of where our customers are, or our potential customers, we remain committed to providing superior quality drinking water to residents of Lexington and Saluda Counties.”

The complete base rate schedule can be found at the Town’s website: <http://www.batesburg-leesville.org>. The changes enacted will be reflected in bills issued August 1<sup>st</sup>.

###