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New FY14 Utility Billing Rates Announced

The City is charged with providing clean water and the removal of wastewater. Those services are tracked using water and sewer funds. Since these are enterprise funds, this means that they are not designed to make a profit. Therefore, the City Council is entrusted with passing annual rates that meet, but do not exceed, each fund's long-term operational and capital needs.

The City of Chicago wholesale pricing has increased a compounded 117% since 2007. Additionally, rising infrastructure costs has necessitated replacing fewer miles of water mains and sewer lines than recommended by industry standards. Facing these issues, the City Council commissioned a multi-year water and sewer rate study in 2012 from Baxter & Woodman.

Using that study, in 2013 the City Council decided on and approved next fiscal year's utility rates during five open meetings on 1/29, 2/5, 2/11, 2/18, and 3/4. These meetings and their agendas, Council documents, and minutes are available on the City's website www.parkridge.us.

Based upon the recommendations of the rate study, the sewer fixed charge, the sewer rate, and the Park Ridge water rate were set. The Chicago water rate will now cover customers' wholesale water costs from Chicago. In both the current year and in the next year, water fixed charges were set by a weighted average capacity model.

The following are the new utility rates per City ordinance:

Sewer fixed charge:	$3.10 / billing period
Sewer rate:	$1.32 / 1,000 gallons
Park Ridge water rate:	$3.05 / 1,000 gallons
Chicago water rate:	$3.03 / 1,000 gallons

Water fixed charge per billing period:

Meter Size	Cost
⅝ "	$ 9.11
¾ "	$ 9.11
1 "	$ 22.09
1½ "	$ 44.18
2 "	$ 70.69
3 "	$ 198.81
4 "	$ 441.80
6 "	$ 883.60

To bill's usage compares between the FY13 and FY14 rates, please take advantage of the interactive spreadsheet on the City's website or at: http://tinyurl.com/UtilityBillComparison