

ORDINANCE NO. 342

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO 197 TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES TO THE DEPOSIT FEES REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF BETHEL HEIGHTS, ARKANSAS

NOW THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Bethel Heights, Arkansas, as follows:

Section 14 of the City's Ordinance No. 128 provides that the council shall establish sewer use charges by ordinance.

The Wastewater Treatment Committee has established that the equitable criterion upon which to base user fees for differing user classifications is by the established "equivalent residential units" (ERU's). One ERU should be established as 2.5 people per household or 250 gallons per day of effluent flow.

The council has previously established the charges to be assessed for the use of the Bethel Heights sewer services and enacted those rates by Ordinance No. 197.

The council has determined that the rates to be charged should be increased to meet the current operating needs of providing the sewer service and therefore have determined that Ordinance No. 197 should be and hereby is repealed and replaced by this Ordinance pursuant to the following:

Section 1: CONNECTION FEES REQUIRED: Deposits, Deposit Refunds and Inspection Fees:

1. Deposit fee: Residential - equivalent to three (3) months projected billing (estimated at this time at \$120.00).
2. Deposit fee: Apartments, Duplexes and Residential Rental - equivalent to three (3) months projected billing per unit (estimated at this time at \$120.00 per dwelling unit).
3. Deposit fee: Commercial / Industrial - equivalent to three (3) months projected billing (estimated at this time at \$180.00).
4. Deposit fees for new buildings, commercial, industrial or residential (equivalent to three (3) months projected billing) shall be paid at the time of receiving the plumbing permit from the city of Bethel Heights payable to the Bethel Heights Sewer Department. Existing businesses and residents that require service shall pay the deposit fee at the time of connection to the collection line.
5. Deposits will be refunded upon disconnect or one (1) year of timely payments.
6. A deposit may be used for an unpaid account and the remainder refunded.
7. City inspection fee - \$35.00. Sewer Plumbing Permit fee - \$30.00

Section 2: ASSESSMENT: All Residential and Commercial property owners shall be responsible for placing orders through the City of Bethel Heights for each STEP or STEG Interceptor Tank kit

installed on the property. Residential tank kits shall be 1500 gallon tank kits and installed by a certified installer. Commercial tank kit requirements shall be determined by the City Engineer and installed by a certified installer. Charges for purchase and installation of the required kits for residential and commercial property owners will be billed to the owners by the supplier for the purchase of the STEP or STEG Interceptor Tank kits. Installation charges are to be paid to the certified installer.

Section 3: FEES: Based upon the above, as are adopted herein, the monthly sewer fee for each user shall be calculated as follows:

RESIDENTIAL: Base of one ERU shall be \$40.00 with all additional gallons calculated at an ERU rate of \$4.66 per 1000 gallons and added to the minimum base rate of \$40.00.

APARTMENTS, DUPLEXES and RESIDENTIAL RENTAL: Base of one ERU shall be \$40.00 per dwelling unit and shall be paid by the owner or manager of the property with all additional gallons calculated at an ERU rate of \$4.66 per 1000 gallons and added to the minimum base of \$40.00.

COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL: Base of one ERU shall be \$60.00 with all additional gallons calculated at an ERU rate of \$7.00 per 1000 gallons and added to the minimum base of \$60.00 and shall be paid by the owner or manager of the property. This shall be charged on an actual usage per month all year round. Laundries, Laundromats, Car Washes, etc., rates shall be determined before any connection shall occur.

Section 4: EFFECTIVE DATE: These rates shall become effective for all existing users in the first billing cycle of 2016 and for all new applications for service upon completion of service installation.

Section 5. RETURNED CHECK FEE: A fee of \$15.00 per returned check will be charged to the user's account.

Section 6. LATE FEE: A late fee of 10% will be assessed to the user if payment is not received by the due date listed on the statement.

Section 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE: For the necessity of continuing sewer user charges and deposits in order to meet the City's needs in a continuous and uninterrupted manner to ensure continuous and uninterrupted service to the citizens of Bethel Heights and the public in general, it is hereby declared that an emergency exists and this Ordinance being necessary for the preservation, health and welfare of the citizens of Bethel Heights, Arkansas, shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council for the City of Bethel Heights, Arkansas on this 20 day of October, 2015.

APPROVED: Cynthia Black
Mayor

ATTESTED: Janet Nelson
Recorder / Treasurer

