

ORDINANCE NO. 197

AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 132 SEWER USER CHARGES, ORDINANCE NO. 146 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 132, AND ORDINANCE NO. 157 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 132 AND CHANGING THE DEPOSIT FEE AMOUNT AND THE DEPOSIT REFUND TIME TO ONE YEAR 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 user charges by ordinance.

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

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 \$105.00).
2. Deposit fee: Apartments, Duplexes, and Residential Rental – equivalent to three months (3) projected billing per unit (estimated at this time at \$105.00 per dwelling unit).
3. Deposit fee Commercial / Industrial – equivalent to three (3) months projected billing (estimated at this time at \$157.50).
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, which are adopted herein, the monthly sewer fee for each user shall be determined as:

RESIDENTIAL: Base of one ERU shall be \$35.00 with all additional gallons prorated per ERU rate (\$4.66 x 1000 gallons) minimum base rate \$35.00.

APARTMENTS, DUPLEXES, and RESIDENTIAL RENTAL: Base of one ERU shall be \$35.00 per dwelling unit and shall be paid by owner or manager of property. (1000 gallons x \$4.66) minimum base rate of \$35.00

COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL: Base of one ERU shall be \$52.50 with all additional gallons prorated per ERU rate (\$7.00 x 1000 gallons) minimum base rate of \$52.50 and shall be paid by the owner or manager of property. This shall be charged on actual usage per month all year round. Laundries, Laundromats, and Car Washes, etc., rates shall be determined before any connection shall occur.

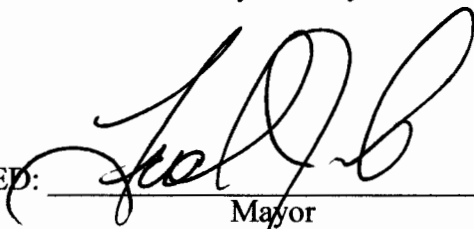
Section 4: EFFECTIVE DATE: These rates shall become effective on the completion of service installation.


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

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

Section 7: EMERGENCY CLAUSE: For the reason of continuing sewer user charges and deposits in order to meet the Cities needs, it is hereby declared that an emergency exists and this ordinance being necessary for the preservation, health, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Bethel Heights, Arkansas and shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City of Bethel Heights Council on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.

APPROVED:   
Mayor

ATTEST:   
Recorder/Treasurer

