

The Richmond Record

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www.richmond-utah.com

Culinary Water Rate Increase Proposal

The water tank, well and infrastructure project is almost complete after approximately three years. As part of this process the city council must finalize the monthly utility fee schedule to pay off the debt associated with the project.

I want to provide a background on this project and the proposed new monthly rate schedule.

On January 12, 2012 the city signed a loan/bond agreement with the Utah State Division of Finance in the amount of \$5,145,000. The interest rate on the loan is 3.75% and the loan payback term is 30 years. The third payment on the loan was made in July. The yearly loan payment is \$288,625. There are approximately 750 utility service connections in the city which means each connection is required to pay \$32.07 per month towards the repayment of this debt.

The council, over the course of many meetings, determined the best way to implement the monthly increase to pay off this debt was in a three tier increase. Tier 1 and Tier 2, totaling \$22.00 per month, have been implemented over the last couple of years.

The council wanted to wait until the project was completed before determining the last rate increase and how to apply it.

The council has looked at many different options over the last few months and held a public hearing in June when a proposed increase was introduced. Approximately a half dozen people expressed their opinion about the increase and the proposal was tabled at that time for further discussion and review.

The council held further discussions at the July and August city council meetings and has come up with the proposed rate schedule that is listed below. **A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at approximately 7:15 P.M. to discuss this proposal.**

After much discussion, over many months, the council feels the third increase should be paid for by those using the majority of the culinary water. The more a household/business uses the more the household/business pays. The council does not feel the majority of the current increase should be paid by those using the standard allowance of 10,000 gallons per month or less. The council has structured the proposed increase so those using between 10,000 and 100,000 gallons per month will see a small increase and those using over 100,000 gallons per month will see a significant increase.

The increase is not being taken lightly by the council; it affects every resident and every business. Dairies, commercial users, and regular households will all be affected. Once again, the intent of the third increase is for those using the majority of the water to pay the majority of the increase. The first two increases were base rate increases only and were not based on the number of gallons used. Listed below is the current debt for the water enterprise fund:

Water Tank, Well & Infrastructure Bonds	\$4,847,000
Loan from the Capital Projects Fund	\$338,330
Loan from the Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$381,443
Utah Division of Public Finance Bonds	\$35,947
Utah Division of Public Finance Bonds	\$153,000
Total long term liability for the Water Enterprise Fund:	\$5,755,720

What does this mean to each household/connection in the city? Expenses for the water enterprise fund during a fiscal year are as follows:

	Annual	Monthly
Loan on the Water Tank Project	\$288,625	\$32.07
Loan on the other two bonds	\$51,002	\$5.67
5 year average of maintenance & repair costs	\$281,264	\$24.25
Total per household/connection		\$61.99

The new proposed rate schedule would be based on the following:

- 0 to 10,000 gallons would be included in the base price of \$55.00 per month.
- From 10,001 to 100,000 gallons used would be charged at a rate of \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons used.
- From 100,001 to maximum gallons used would be charged at a rate of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons used.

The table below lists a detailed cost of the proposed change with the current fee structure and the new proposed fee structure.

Gallons Used per Month	Current Residential Rate (\$)	Current Commercial Rate (\$)	Proposed Rate (\$)
0 to 10,000	55	55	55
20,000	64	64	65
30,000	72	72	75
50,000	89	89	95
100,000	133	133	145
200,000	233	233	345
500,000	533	493	945
1,000,000	1,033	1,118	1,945
5,000,000	5,033	7,118	9,945

The vast majority (80 to 85%) of the city connections fall into the under 20,000 gallons per month category.

The proposed rate schedule, if approved, would go into effect on January 1, 2016.

If this increase is not adopted, the council will then have to implement the last base rate increase of \$10.00 per month which would change the current monthly base fee from \$55 per month to \$65 per month. The city must meet the obligation to the state to repay the debt incurred for the loan.

The council and staff are and have always been concerned about the total amount billed on the monthly utility service. Statements are made daily by residents that the city utility bill is the highest in the valley. The bill is towards the top end. I would encourage you to take into account other factors such as the current property tax rate. Several local communities raise their property tax yearly; Richmond has not seen a property tax increase since the 1970's. There is a cost to rural living. For example, Richmond has to divide the cost of a project over 750 connections whereas Smithfield City can divide the cost of the project over 3,400 connections.

Also, we hear comments all the time mentioning the new water tank and infrastructure project was done because of one local business or the ski resort. This is absolutely incorrect! This project was completed per a State of Utah mandate. The city could not meet fire flow demands before the project was completed. The simplest explanation of this requirement was if two homes in town were burning at the same time, one of the homes would be a total loss and burn to the ground as there was not enough water to fight two fires at the same time.

The council and mayor encourage you to attend the public hearing or send an email to communityresponse@richmond-utah.com and the email will be distributed to the council and mayor for review before the public hearing.

Justin B. Lewis
City Recorder

The Family Place

The Family Place (formerly known as the Child & Family Support Center) has a lot to offer families in the valley:

Playgroup for children ages 0-4 from 10:30-11:30 every Friday, starting September 4, \$1 a week or \$3 for a 5 week punch pass.

Children's Workshops:

Ages 5-6, Tuesdays, September 15-October 20, 4-5pm, cost \$25

Ages 7-9, Wednesdays, September 16-October 21, 4-5pm, cost \$25.

Ages 10-12, Thursdays, September 15-October 22 4-5pm, cost \$25.

Ages 13-18, Dates and times to be determined, call for more info.

Amazing Parenting Workshop: Wednesdays, September 16- November 4, 6:30-8:00pm, cost \$25 for individual, \$30 for a couple.

Visit TheFamilyPlaceUtah.org to register or for more information.

City Party September 11

The annual city party will be Friday, September 11, at the city park. Rides will open at 5:00 p.m. and the meal (prepared & served by the city council) will begin at 6:00 p.m. The Cache County Sheriff's Department will have displays up for National Night Out; also attending will be Cache County Search & Rescue, the Mounted Posse, and Richmond Fire & Rescue Department.

Fireworks (postponed from our soggy Black & White Days celebration) will begin at dusk.

The party is open to all Richmond City residents and is a thank you from the city council and employees for your support and willingness to help our great community.

Meet the Candidates Night - October 8

The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd and three candidates will be elected to start serving in January 2016:

The candidates are as follows, listed alphabetically by last name:

- Paul Erickson
- Justin Gilbert
- Cori Lundgreen
- Tom Petroff
- Tucker Thatcher
- Jeff Young

The Richmond Lions Club and the Richmond Library will host the event at 7:30 p.m. in the community hall. Each candidate will be given 3-5 minutes to tell why they are running and then they will answer questions from the audience.

Richmond CERT Volunteers Needed

The Richmond CERT Team is looking for volunteers who have completed CERT Basic Training to help build a leadership council. This includes a Co-Program Manager, Secretary, Training Coordinator, and Community Liaison. If you are interested in helping us build an efficient CERT Team please contact Nancy LaMunyon, Richmond City CERT Program Manager, at richmondcert@gmail.com or (435)770-0738.

Library News

"I only read on two occasions – when I am bored and when I am not."

— Unknown

The library now has a new look in the Jr. Fiction section. We have color coded the Jr. Fiction to match Park Elementary's Lexile coding, so those of you who are wanting to find books in your Lexile level to help with your school reading, the search is now so much easier. Come in and explore the shelves.

Enter the library **drawing for free Salt Lake Comic Con Wristbands!** The State Library has collaborated with Salt Lake Comic Con and the Richmond Public Library to give six of our patrons an opportunity to attend the 2015 Comic Con on **Thursday, September 24, 2015**. Drawing entries will be accepted up to September 15th and winners will be drawn and notified on the 16th. Good luck – and "May the force be with you".

September library Lecture: On Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 PM Sharik and Cheryl Peck will be sharing some amazing experiences of their humanitarian expedition to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands – they will also speak about their recent trip to Hong Kong and the new health information that took them there. The lecture will be in the library basement and refreshments will be served.

The library wishes to recognize and THANK Anna Marie Isaacson and Bryan Dayton for the many years, and hours and hours, of volunteer service they have given in serving two terms each on the library board of trustees. Their time and efforts in behave of the library are so very much appreciated. We would also like to recognize and welcome our two newest board members, Rose Ann Anderson and Aaron Curdy - Thank you for joining the library force.



Preschool Story Hour begins again! Come join Story Hour each Thursday morning at 10:30 AM,

starting September 3rd. Story Hour will be each Thursday through next May, with the exceptions of holidays and school breaks/conferences. Farol Nelson is our treasured Story Hour Lady who loves and welcomes all preschool children from birth to school-age with lots of fun and learning in

every story hour day. Bring your little ones to enjoy stories and amazing activities.

Preschool Story Hour Schedule

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Sep 3	Welcome Back
Sep 10	Making Friends
Sep 17	Pets
Sep 24	ABC

New Arrivals

Children's Books:

Smick! By Doreen Cronin
Don't Talk to Strangers by Christine Mehlhaff
The Adventures of Beekle: the Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat
Here Comes the Tooth Fairy Cat by Deborah Underwood
The Biggest Kiss and The Perfect Hug by Joanna Walsh

Junior Books:

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick S. Catling
Beyond the Kingdoms (Land of Stories #4) by Chris Colfer
The Battle of Wondla (Wondla #3) by Tony DiTerlizzi
Thursdays with the Crown by Jessica Day George

Teen Books:

5 titles in the *Healer's Apprentice* series by Melanie Dickerson
Woven by Michael Jensen
Mark of the Thief by Jennifer Nielsen
Alcatraz by Roland Smith
Palace of Lies by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Adult Books:

The Prairie Prince by Marcia Lynn McClure
A Tale of Light and Shadow by Jacob Gowans
The Firebird by Susanna Kearsley
Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee (also in audio)
Your Best Body Now: Look and Feel Fabulous at Any Age by Tosca Reno

For a complete list of "New Arrivals" go to our website: richmondlibrary.us, Search Our Catalog,

Catalog tab, Destiny Quest (on left) and Resource Lists (in center) where New Materials for last 4 months is shown.

Connect with Richmond City!

Richmond City Website

Visit the website at www.richmond-city.com for information on council meetings, public safety, resident info (utilities, licenses, permits), and much more.

Richmond City on Facebook

The city has an official Facebook page. To subscribe and find out what's going on in our community, go to www.facebook.com/richmondcityutah.

Community Response System

If you're interested in joining the city's community response system, please send an email to communityresponse@richmond-utah.com. If you'd like information on the system, send your request to the above email address.

Newsletter Submissions: send to terlou38@msn.com by the 20th of each month.

