

ORDINANCE NO. 565 – WATER RATES

An ordinance repealing ordinance no. 481. Establishing a base rate for water services. Establishing a per year increase, beginning with the February 2024 billing, not to exceed 3% per year for each year thereafter, until January 2030.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF QUINTER, KANSAS:

Section 1. REPEALS: Ordinance No. 481 & 537 are hereby repealed.

Section 2. WATER BASE RATES: Beginning with water bills due in the month of February 2024 until January 31, 2030, the following monthly water base rates shall apply:

Class 1: Residential	\$ 28.27
Class 2: Residential – Out of City Limits	\$ 28.27
Class 3: Special Minimum	\$ 4.99
Class 4: Commercial	\$ 28.27
Class 5: Multiple Use + 2	\$ 56.54
Class 6: Tax Exempt	\$ 28.27
Class 7: Multiple Use + 1	\$ 56.54
Class 8: Multi-Use Trailer Court	\$ 91.25
Class 9: Commercial – Out City Limits	\$ 28.27
Class 10: Commercial Multiple Use + 1	\$ 42.43
Class 11: Car Wash	\$ 28.27
Class 12: Free Water	\$ 0.00
Class 13: Hospital/College Multi-Use + 2 Tax Exempt	\$ 56.54
Class 14: No Water – Sewer Only	\$ 0.00
Class 15: Hotels – Comm Multi-Use + 2	\$ 56.54
Class 16: Bulk Water / Farm Water	\$ 0.00
Class 17: Main Street Apartments Multi-Use + 3	\$ 84.87

**Water customers outside the Quinter City Limits shall pay the regular water rates, plus, an "Out of City Limits" flat rate charge of Five Dollars (\$5.00) per month, per unit.*

Section 3. WATER USAGE TIERED RATES: Beginning with water bills due in the month of February 2024 until January 31, 2030, the following water usage tiered rates shall apply:

Tier 1: 3,001 – 19,999 Gallons	\$ 1.95
Tier 2: 20,000 – 44,999 Gallons	\$ 2.62
Tier 3: 45,000 + Gallons	\$ 3.60

Section 4. INACTIVE ACCOUNTS: The City may designate certain locations as inactive accounts (exempt from the water and sewer base rates) where the water meter has been removed, turned off, or locked by authorized City staff and when the building is uninhabitable or vacant on a long-term basis. A fee of \$300 can be charged for removal, installing, or checking a water meter.

Section 5. DEPOSITS: A deposit of One-Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$120.00) and a service charge of Five Dollars (\$5.00) are required for each account before water is furnished. Deposits will be waived or refunded to customers in good standing. Good standing means no late water or sewer payments during the most recent twenty-four (24) month period. The City shall retain the Five Dollar (\$5.00) service charge under all circumstances. Interest earned on each deposit during the preceding year will be credited to each account by the end of January.

Section 6. MOVING: When a resident or business relocates within the City's service area, previous account(s) must be paid in full, and deposit requirements met before water is turned on at the new location. Accounts and deposit requirements remain the landlord's responsibility until the renter(s) meets deposit requirements. Deposits, minus unpaid balances, will be refunded to customers when the account is closed.

Section 7. WATER BILLING/READING CYCLES:

1 st - 12 th	City Staff Records Meter Readings
20 th - 23 rd	Water/Sewer Bills Mailed
15 th	Payment Due
16 th - 19 th	+ 15% Late Fee, Delinquent Notice Mailed
30 th	+ \$20 Penalty, Door Hangers Hung/Mailed
1 st	+ \$20 Penalty, Water Disconnected

Section 8. EXEPTIONS TO BILLING/READING CYCLES: If the 16th, 30th, or 1st fall on Friday-Sunday or a holiday observed by the City, Delinquent Notices, Door Hangers, and Water Disconnects shall occur on the first business day thereafter. When extreme weather or unusual circumstances prevent the reading of water meters, water usage will be estimated for the current bill and adjusted as needed on a subsequent bill.

Section 9. LATE FEE TAXES: Per State requirements, late fees are taxed. Delinquent Notice and Door Hangers shall provide the amounts due, notice that service will be terminated, and disconnect date.

Section 10. DISCONNECTS: Before the disconnect date, water and sewer users may submit a written request to the City Clerk for a hearing by the City Council at their next regular meeting. When checks or automatic payments are returned for insufficient funds, disconnects may be immediate.

Section 11. RECONNECTS: All past due charges and penalties must be paid before reconnecting. Reconnections are made between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For emergency reconnects after normal work hours, on weekends, or on City holidays, users will be charged a fee based on the City employee's time and overtime rate. Reconnections are done only by trained City employees with appropriate tools. A fine of \$100 + repair costs will be charged to those who reconnect without written authorization by the City.

Section 12. TAP-INS: Each residence or building shall be supplied with water from a separate tap-in and separate water meter and charged as one unit. Out buildings used as part of such residence or building may supplied with water from the same water tap-in and water meter without charge upon approval from the City Council.

Multiple-unit arrangements may be supplied water through one tap-in and meter, but each unit receiving water through such tap-in and meter shall be charged the base water and sewer rate. Rate charges shall be billed to such meter without prorating.

All taps-ins to any City water main or water line shall be made and sanctioned by the City Water Department. The tap-in charge to the user shall be based on the materials and labor costs of the City.

Indoor fire sprinkler system tap-ins and any devices added to a fire sprinkler system must be approved by City staff. Such taps may be unmetered but must include a device to detect unauthorized usage. Users must grant City staff access for fire sprinkler system inspections. When such devices are added to a fire sprinkler system, installation of a water meter and monthly water and sewer rate payments will be required.

Any person(s) violating this tap-in policy shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$100 + the regular tap-in charge.

Section 13. ANNUAL INCREASE: For February 2024 billing, and for February billing for the next 5 years, through the end of January 2030, there will be an annual increase not to exceed 3% over the previous year in each of the 5 years for all base rates and tiered usage rates. The rate at the end of January 2030 will continue in force and effect for subsequent years, unless amended.

- **Rate Increase 2025: Reviewed and Renewed by the Council January 13, 2025.**

Section 14. PUBLICATION: This ordinance shall become effective upon publication in the Gove County Advocate, the Official City newspaper.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Quinter City Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Quinter, this 27th day of December 2023.

ATTEST:

SEAL:



Jeremy Blackwill, Mayor



Marissa Haffner, City Clerk

