



3847 Country Manor West - P.O. Box 18 - North Vernon, Indiana 47265

Office: (812) 346-5500 - Fax: (812) 346-0838 - www.JNRU.org

Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities
Special Public Meeting Minutes
Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities Office
November 15, 2023

President Brian Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Roll call was performed. The following members were present: Brian Hatfield, Marshall Jenkins (5:16 PM), Dale Boyd, and Judi-Johnson Stevens. Also in attendance: Andrew Klescht (Utilities Manager), Jeff Maddux (Utility Superintendent), Kayla Zimmerman (Attorney), and (7) members of the public.

Rate Study:

Katelyn Shafer from Reedy Financial Group was introduced by President Brian Hatfield. Reedy discussed the reasons why JNRU needed to have a rate study performed. The largest contributing factor was a nearly unannounced rate increase JWJ (Jennings Water Incorporated) passed on to its customers starting in summer 2023. Reedy further went into detail of the proposed rates for JNRU. The rates that were under discussion are an entirely new rate structure. Currently JNRU has an entirely volumetric flow rate structure with a minimum rate regardless of flow and a multi-tier structure. Under the proposal under Ordinance 2023-3 the rates would be broken into 4 parts. These would be a base charge for water and for sewer. There then would be a flow charge for both water and sewer, with a single tier billing structure for water and for sewer, and all billing would be only for water used.

Public comment was made by various members of the public in attendance. Those in attendance were presented with a packet created by JNRU that had a breakdown of the current rate structure and the proposed rate structure under 2023-3. There was discussion among attendees and board members.

The next order of business was the first reading of ordinance 2023-3. Vice President Marshall Jenkins read in the ordinance.

There was concern from the public regarding what the increased rates were going to do. One item of concern was the extreme hardness of JWJ's water. The public asked if JWJ had plans to lower the hardness level as part of this rate increase. Members of the JNRU Board stated they understood the concerns and frustrations people have with the water quality/hardness, but we are unable to know what JWJ's rate study showed nor what the plans of JWJ are for capital improvements that may or may not include water softening. President Brian Hatfield did inform the audience that JNRU does not have a backup water supplier and then moving forward in the future we would like to see North Vernon municipal utilities become the backup water source for JNRU and possibly the main supplier of water as the North Vernon water is much softer than that of JWJ.



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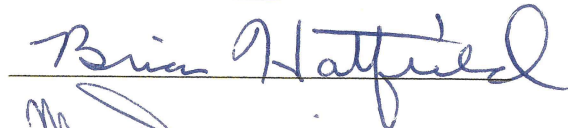
Adjournment:

President Brian Hatfield asked for a final call for any comment from the public or the board, with there being none, President Hatfield called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Dale Boyd. Motion passed (4-0) The meeting adjourned at 5:54 P.M.

Members

Signatures

Brian Hatfield



Marshall Jenkins



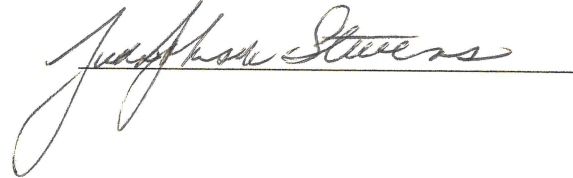
Mike Gerth




Dale Boyd



Judi Johnson-Stevens



ATTEST: December 13th, 2023



Marshall Jenkins, Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 2023- 3

An Ordinance Amending Rates and Charges for Water and Service for Customers of the Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities in Jennings County, Indiana.

WHEREAS, the Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities has caused a financial study of the water works utility and sewage works utility to be made by Reedy Financial Group P.C., Certified Public Accountants, Seymour, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities, a regional district under I.C. 13-26 ("District"), has heretofore acquired, improved and has in operation a water works for the purpose of providing water pursuant to Indiana Code 13-26 ("Act") and other applicable laws; and,

WHEREAS, Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities, a regional district under I.C. 13-26 ("District"), has hereunto constructed and has in operation a sewage works for the purpose of collecting and disposing of sewage in a sanitary manner pursuant to I.C. 13-26 ("Act"), and other applicable laws; and,

WHEREAS, the District has, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2009-2, adopted by the Board of Trustees of the District on July 20, 2009, established the rates and charges for the water works of the District and,

WHEREAS, the District has, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2009-4, adopted by the Board of Trustees of the District on January 18, 2010, established the rates and charges for the sewage works of the District and,

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the Board of Trustees shall, by ordinance, establish just and equitable rates and charges for the use of and service rendered by the water works and the sewage works, payable by the owner of each lot, parcel of land, or building that is connected with and uses the water works and sewage works, or that in any way uses or is served by the works; and,

WHEREAS, just and equitable rates and charges are those that produce sufficient revenue to pay all expenses incident to the operation of the works, including maintenance costs, operating charges, upkeep, repairs, and interest charges on bonds or other obligations; provide the sinking fund for the liquidation of bonds or other evidence of indebtedness and reserves against default in the payment of interest and principal on bonds; and provide adequate funds to be used as working capital, as well as funds for making improvements, additions, extensions and replacements; and,

WHEREAS, based upon the advice of its financial advisor, the Board of Trustees finds that the current rates and charges of the water works are not sufficient to enable the District to meet the requirements of the Act and that the rates and charges for the use of and service rendered by the water works of the District should be increased to enable the District to meet the requirements of the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the rates and charges to be collected shall be fixed by ordinance after due notice and public hearing, which notice and hearing have been properly conducted; therefore, said Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the establishment and collection of the rates and charges as set forth in this ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF Jennings Northwest

Regional Utilities;

Section 1. There is hereby amended and established for the use of and the service rendered by the water works utility system and sewage works utility system for the District, the following rates and charges

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Schedule of Water Monthly Rates and Charges

A. BASE FEE CHARGE

This charge is billed monthly to every customer, regardless of the volume used.

Base Charge	\$16.50
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B. VOLUMETRIC CHARGE

This charge is billed based on volume used. It is measured in gallons and the rate is based on 1,000 gallons.

Volumetric/Flow Charge	\$15.40
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Schedule of Sewer Monthly Rates and Charges

C. BASE FEE CHARGE

This charge is billed monthly to every customer, regardless of the volume used.

Base Charge	\$11.20
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D. VOLUMETRIC CHARGE

This charge is billed based on volume used. It is measured in gallons and the rate is based on 1,000 gallons.

Volumetric/Flow Charge	\$12.80
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Section 2. The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of this ordinance which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts. Ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its date of passage and the rates and charges set forth herein shall apply to the January 17, 2024 – February 17, 2024 billing period of the District following adoption of this ordinance.

SO ADOPTED this 20th day of December, 2023.

Jennings Northwest Utilities Board of Trustees

Board President

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

ATTEST:

Utility Manager