

Pawnee City water bills likely to increase

**(KLZA)-- The Pawnee City Council approved on first reading Monday night an amendment to the city water rates.**

**Randy Hellbusch with the Nebraska Rural Water Association met with the Council to review a new rate study on the sewer and water services.**

**Hellbusch said there was no changes proposed for the sewer rates, but said with the City adding a water tower maintenance contract with Maguire Iron, there would be a need to increase the water rates.**

**If approved on three readings, the water rate increases which will be made over a three-year period, would take effect October 1, of this year.**

**Under the proposal the current \$28 base fee plus \$2 per 1,000 gallons of water used for a 3/4-inch meter would increase to \$29.50 and \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons on October 1. The increase on October 1, 2022 will be an additional \$1.75 for the meter base fee with the fee per 1,000 gallons of water increasing to \$2.25. On October 1, 2023 the meter base fee will increase \$1.50 to \$32.75 with the rate per 1000 gallons increasing to \$2.35.**

**For out of town water customers the meter base fee increases \$4.25 per month with the water charge increasing a dime. In October 2022 the meter fee will increase to \$46 per month with an additional 15 cents added to the water usage fee and on October 1, 2023 the meter base fee increased to \$48.25 with the water usage fee climbing by an additional dime.**

**The tower maintenance agreement Pawnee City will be paying will be \$47,296 annually for the next four years, then the annual maintenance fee will drop to \$14,440 per year with an annual increase of approximately \$600 thereafter.**

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