

City Utility Fees and Information

201 E. 6th St., PO Box 586, Newton KS 67114
316-284-6007 • www.newtonkansas.com/utilities

When starting or transferring service, a non-refundable service fee of \$30.00 is billed on the first utility bill.

When service is terminated and no longer billed for services, a service fee of \$30.00 will be applied to the final bill.

Utilities are billed on a monthly basis. Payment is due **20 days** after the bill date. On the 21st day after the billing date, a delinquent notice is mailed in an envelope with bold red words "IMPORTANT NOTICE." If you receive one of these, please act immediately. Payment of the delinquent amount must be received **in our office by 5 p.m. on the stated date** of the delinquent notice or service will be disconnected. If this happens, the full amount due on the account plus a \$60.00 non-payment fee must be paid before service will be restored.

The following is an example of a City of Newton average monthly utility bill of \$131.99:

WATER (500 cu ft)	35.50
KS WTR PLN	0.12
SEWER (500 cu ft)	52.96
REFUSE	23.29
PLNT UPGRADE	<u>20.12</u>
AMOUNT DUE:	131.99
AFTER 20 DAYS:	138.59

Water Service: Minimum charge is \$17.65 for the first 200 cubic feet of water used. Service over the minimum is \$5.95 per 100 cubic feet. (100 cubic feet of water is approximately 750 gallons)

Sales Tax: Commercial customers are charged 8.5% sales tax on water only.

Kansas Water Plan: Kansas State Legislature implemented this fee to ensure an ample future water supply. 2.3938 cents per 100 cubic feet is charged to you and then remitted to the state.

Sewer Service: The minimum charge is \$34.96 for the first 300 cubic feet, plus \$9.00 per 100 cubic feet in excess of the minimum. Residential consumption is based on the average winter water usage and is recalculated annually. Commercial consumption is based on the current water consumption.

Refuse: Residents are charged \$23.29 per month for weekly trash and recycling service. Each residence is provided with two roll-out carts, one for trash and the other for recyclable items. For more information, call the Newton Sanitation Division at (316) 284-6070.

Sewer Plant Upgrade: Residential and commercial customers are charged 38% of their sewer charge per month to finance necessary upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Payments may be made by:

- Mail to PO Box 586, Newton KS 67114.
- In person at City Hall, 201 E. 6th St.
- Automatic bank/credit card draft.
- Online at www.newtonkansas.com/payonline.
- Drop boxes at both Newton Dillons stores or on the west side of City Hall. Please bring cash payments to our office. **Payments placed in the drop boxes are not credited to your account until the next business day.**

If you need assistance in paying your utility bill, please contact our office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. for a list of agencies who may be able to help. You can reach us by phone at (316) 284-6007.

Sewer Plant Upgrade Fee



Important information about your utility bill

Beginning 01/01/2014, a new fee was added to the City of Newton utility bill.

Earlier this year the City Commission added the new fee to Newton sewer rates to pay for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is in need of major improvements because of:

1. **Growth of the community** – All the wastewater that is drained or flushed from Newton homes and businesses is cleaned at the sewer plant. The plant is now permitted to treat 3 million gallons a day of wastewater. During average periods, it sees 1.9 million to 2.6 million gallons, with much higher flows in peak periods. This project will increase capacity to 4.4 million gallons per day.
2. **Aging and deteriorating infrastructure** – Such sewer treatment equipment generally has a life of 20 years. Some structures now in use date to the 1940s, and many are in imminent danger of failure.
3. **Additional state and federal environmental regulations** – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) govern the quality of the water discharged from the plant into Slate Creek and Sand Creek. This project will allow Newton's plant to meet the more stringent Biological Nutrient Reduction (BNR) requirements for the discharge of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

The cost is expected to be about \$26 million. City staff have been planning for this project for a number of years, and the department has saved about \$3 million from previous rate increases, but state and federal requirements have continued to

change over the years, and costs have continued to rise.

Utility rate expert Jerry McKenzie of MGT of America said that environmental mandates are driving rate increases across the country. There are two types of communities, he said: ones that are raising utility rates and those that *will* raise utility rates. Federal regulations designed to protect the environment do have a cost attached, and it's often local governments that are expected to find a way to pay for them.

The fee

The fee will appear on your monthly utility bill as PLNT UPGRADE. The cost will be 38 percent of your sewer charge.

- All proceeds of this fee will go toward debt service payments on the sewer plant upgrade project.
- The fee will only remain in effect as long as necessary to pay the debt service.
- The City Commission will review the revenues annually to determine whether the fee should be adjusted.

For example, if your household or business uses 300 cubic feet or less on sewer, the Plant Upgrade fee will be \$13.28 per month.

The average Newton customer uses about 500 cubic feet and will see a Plant Upgrade fee of \$20.12 per month.