

Raising utility rates is never an easy decision for Monroeville's Village Council to make. While the entire administration is proud to achieve positive results from the infrastructure investments and upgraded technologies with the current water and sewer rates, in order to ensure continued exceptional service and commitment to the community, the decision to raise these rates became necessary. In addition to the major water and sewer infrastructure projects that have been accomplished recently, and are projected to continue as necessity requires and as the Ohio EPA mandates them, this administration is determined to continue the efforts to improve productivity, efficiency, and reliability of the Village's water and sewer services. Along with increased skills from our dedicated employees, who are committed to deliver on water and wastewater quality service, the administration has endeavored to find cost savings at every opportunity to mitigate being outpaced by costs of raw material, chemicals, production and general overhead administrative and insurance costs. With four years passing without an increase in these utility rates, and based on the recommendation of Courtney & Associates and the Utilities Committee, rate increases of 7% for water and 11% for sewer will be invoiced in two increments. Beginning with the November 2020 utility billing, residential customers will see an increase of \$1.22 for the first two thousand gallons of water usage, and an increase of \$3.86 for the first two thousand gallons of sewer usage. Beginning with the May 2021 utility billing, water rates will increase by another \$1.21 for the first two thousand gallons of usage, and the sewer rates will increase by another \$3.85 for the first two thousand gallons of usage. Consumption in excess of the first two thousand gallons of usage for both utility services will increase incrementally.

Realizing that these times may be difficult for our community, especially with the financial challenges being presented during Covid-19, we are happy to announce that at the October 13th meeting Council moved to apply to each utility account (with active accounts from March – July 31st), a one-time \$25.00 CARES Act credit. You will see this credit on your December bill. Monroeville continues to take pride in the quality services offered to our community.

As always, we are in this together and continue to look for ways to be fiscally responsible and serve all those who live and work here to the best of our ability.