ORDINANCE NO. 1831 OF 2022

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 27-161 OF CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA RELATIVE TO THE MONTHLY RATE CHARGED FOR SEWER SERVICE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA:

§1. Section 27-161 of Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Ruston, Louisiana, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

"Sec. 27-161 Monthly Rate.

(a) A base charge of $7.50 for each residential customer will be levied, plus a volume charge of $4.22 per 1,000 gallons of metered water flow based upon the average water usage calculated from the previous December, January, and February meter readings. The volume charge will be added to the base charge to determine the monthly user charge.

(b) A base charge of $5.00 for each individual residential unit located within a housing development or complex that is master metered or that is serviced by a master sewer service lateral shall be levied. The base charge for individual residential units shall be separate from and in addition to base charge(s) for master accounts.

(c) A base charge of $7.50 for each non-residential customer will be levied, plus a volume charge of $4.65 per 1,000 gallons of metered water flow based upon the average water usage calculated from the previous December, January, and February meter readings. The volume charge will be added to the base charge to determine the monthly user charge.

(d) A base charge of $5.00 for each individual non-residential operating unit located within a commercial development or mall complex that is master metered or that is serviced by a master sewer service lateral shall be levied. The base charge for individual non-residential units shall be separate from and in addition to base charge(s) for master accounts.

(e) The City will review user charges annually and revise such periodically to reflect the actual cost of improvements, operation, and maintenance of the sewerage works.

(f) The City may proportionately adjust user charge amounts if a user substantiates that the quantity of water discharged is significantly less than the quantity of water consumed.

(g) The minimum monthly bill for a new customer with no water consumption history shall be $27.72 per month until a monthly flow based upon the average water usage calculated from the previous December, January, and February meter readings can be established, at which time a new customer will be charged the new monthly rate which will be adjusted annually. A new customer exception can be made for one of the following reasons:

(1) A new customer lives at a location where a group water meter has been replaced with an individual water meter, not at the new customer's request.

(2) The new customer has lived at the present location and has been a City electrical customer, in good standing, of not less than one year.

(h) The applicable charges set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) shall apply to residential and non-residential accounts located outside the corporate limits of the City plus a surcharge of 50 percent.

(i) The rates and charges set forth in this section shall not apply to special contract

customers.

§2. The amended rates and charges set forth herein shall be effective on January 1, 2023.

§3. If any one or more of the provisions of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance, but this Ordinance shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein. Any constitutional or statutory provision enacted after the date of this Ordinance which validates or makes legal any provision of this Ordinance which would not otherwise be valid or legal, shall be deemed to apply to this Ordinance.

§4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final adoption and publication in the manner required by law.

This Ordinance was introduced on October 3, 2022, by Alderwoman Carolyn Cage, Notice of Public Hearing was published on October 9, 2022, and said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion to adopt, as amended, by Alderwoman Carolyn Cage, seconded by Alderwoman Angela Mayfield, a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEA: ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN CAGE
ALDERWOMAN MELANIE LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN ANGELA MAYFIELD
ALDERMAN BRUCE SIEGMUND
ALDERMAN JIM PEARCE

NAY: NONE

ABSTAINED: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 7th day of November 2022.

ATTEST:

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JULIE K. SPEIR, CLERK **RONNY WALKER, MAYOR**