

## ORDINANCE 37-2023

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HILLCREST VILLAGE, TEXAS, SETTING RATES FOR WATER, SEWER, TRASH PICKUP SERVICES, BRAZORIA COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FEE (BCGCD), TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) FEE, AND FIRE/EMS SERVICES, ESTABLISHING A DUE DATE FOR PAYMENT, ESTABLISHING A LATE CHARGE FOR PAYMENT AFTER DUE DATE, ESTABLISHING AN AUTOMATIC DISCONNECT DATE FOR NON-PAYMENT, ESTABLISHING A DELINQUENT SERVICE CHARGE, ESTABLISHING A BAD CHECK CHARGE, ESTABLISHING A METHOD OF PAYMENT AFTER RECEIPT OF TWO BAD OR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHECKS, AND ESTABLISHING A DEPOSIT AMOUNT FOR NEW CUSTOMERS.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HILLCREST VILLAGE, TEXAS, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1:** THAT there is hereby set, and there shall be collected for the use of water service twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month, per household, for the first three thousand (3,000) gallons of water used, with a minimum charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month, per household, and eleven dollars (\$11.00) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons thereafter up to five thousand gallons (5,000), and thirteen dollars (\$13.00) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons thereafter uses per month, per household.

**SECTION 2:** THAT there is hereby set, and there shall be collected for the use of sewer service a flat rate of forty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents (\$47.75) per month, per household.

**SECTION 3:** THAT there is hereby set, and there shall be collected for twice weekly household trash pickup services a flat rate of sixteen dollars (\$16.00) per month, per household.

**SECTION 4:** THAT there is hereby set, and there will be collected for a semi-annual curbside heavy trash pickup service at a flat rate of four dollars (\$4.00) per month, per household.

**SECTION 5:** THAT there is hereby set, and there shall be collected for use of Fire & EMS Services a flat rate of twelve dollars and sixty cents (\$12.60) per month, per household.

**SECTION 6:** THAT there is hereby set, and there shall be collected a monthly BCGCD Fee of two dollars and no cents (\$2.00) per household that has a City provided water connection. This fee is required for water well permitting, production reports,

records, and pumping fees as required by Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District monthly requirements.

**SECTION 7:** THAT there is hereby set, and there shall be collected a monthly TCEQ fee of three dollars and zero cents (\$3.00) per household that has a City provided water and/or sewer connection. This fee is required to offset annual costs for permitting and reports as required by The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

**SECTION 8:** THAT a state and county mandated six and three-fourths percent (6  $\frac{3}{4}$  %) state and county sales tax shall be charged against trash pickup services.

**SECTION 9:** THAT there is hereby set and there shall be collected a water meter re-read fee of \$35.00 added to monthly utility bill for any meter that is inaccessible to read on days meters are read, or when a customer requests a re-read and no discrepancy is found.

**SECTION 10:** THAT meters are read on the third Monday of each month and billed the following Friday. The due date of the bill will be fifteen (15) working days from that Friday.

**SECTION 11:** THAT payment received after due date of utility bill shall incur a late charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month until paid in full.

**SECTION 12:** THAT after (1) working day from due date noted on the utility bill, a past-due notice will be sent to the resident.

**SECTION 13:** THAT if payment is not received in P.O. Box 1172, Alvin, Texas, 77512, or at the City office, 106 W. Blackstone Lane, Alvin, Texas 77511 after an additional fifteen (15) working days, there shall be an automatic disconnection of water service until the bill is paid in full plus a non-refundable one hundred dollar (\$100.00) reconnect fee.

**SECTION 14:** THAT if utility service is disconnected a second or more times at same residence and same customer for a delinquent payment, the said customer shall post a non-refundable reconnection fee of two hundred fifty dollars and no cents (\$250.00) for service to be restored. The deposit shall be in the form of cash or certified check only.

**SECTION 15:** THAT there shall be a forty-five dollar and zero cent (\$45.00) fee for all checks returned unpaid by the bank.

**SECTION 16:** THAT the method of payment after two checks are returned unpaid by the bank shall be cashier's check, money order, or by cash.

**SECTION 17:** THAT there shall be, for new utility customers, a deposit as follows:



1. If customer is the recorded property owner listed in county records, a one hundred seventy-five dollar and zero cents (\$175.00) deposit.
2. If the customer is a renter of the property, and responsible for utilities, a two hundred seventy-five dollar and zero cent (\$275.00) deposit.

Deposits are required upon application to begin service and will be applied as a credit when service is disconnected. **An application for Service Utility Billing and Collections must be completed by resident for new service.**

**SECTION 18:** THAT after review, any disputed bill must be paid in full to avoid late fees. A credit or refund would be given for billing errors.

**SECTION 19:** THAT it shall be the responsibility of each user to maintain the water and sewer lines from the point of connection to the City water or sewer system to the building being served. If a resident has a water leak or sewer backup, they are responsible for hiring a licensed plumber at their cost to fix any leak, and/or to determine which side of the meter the leak is on.

**SECTION 20:** THAT if a resident requests the City's utility operator to respond to a potential problem and the problem does not affect the City's utility services, the resident will be billed a minimum of \$80.00 or actual costs.


**SECTION 21:** THAT the resident hereby agrees not to interfere with any city personnel, or utility contractor personnel in the discharge of their duties. The resident will not allow anyone except personnel authorized by the City to tamper with or in any way interfere with any City property installed upon the resident's premises. Upon failure of the resident to observe this requirement, the resident shall be held responsible and liable for such damage as may be done to the City's property and the City may shut off the services at once and remove the water meter without notice to the resident, until all monetary claims by the City are resolved.

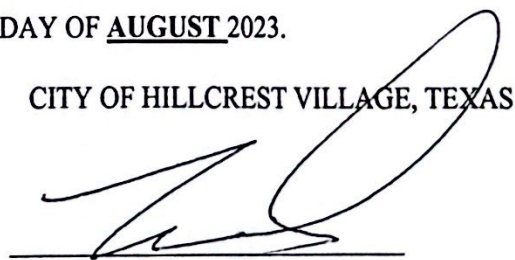
**SECTION 22:** THAT this ordinance shall take effect and shall be in full force from and after its passage.

FIRST READING:

PASSED AND APPROVED, THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2023.

CITY OF HILLCREST VILLAGE, TEXAS

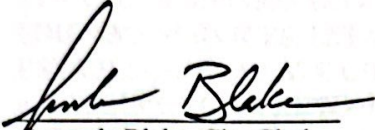
  
Amanda Blake, City Clerk

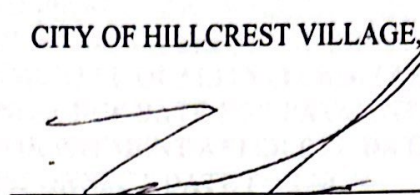
  
Tom Wilson, Mayor

FINAL READING:

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

CITY OF HILLCREST VILLAGE, TEXAS

  
Amanda Blake, City Clerk

  
Tom Wilson, Mayor