

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA**

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County, Georgia recognizes the need for establishing a policy for the orderly administration of its water and sewer services to its citizenry; and,

WHEREAS, the said Board of Commissioners deems it to be in the best interest of all concerned to provide for uniform water and sewer rates and other fees of the County's water and sewer service program;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the County Board of Commissioners that the public have sufficient advance opportunity to adjust their use of County water and sewer services before the effective date of this resolution and, accordingly, the Board of Commissioners has conducted a public hearing and adopted this resolution at least one billing cycle (30 days) in advance of the effective date;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County, Georgia, hereby establishes and declares the following as its official policy regarding its water and sewer rates, service rules and regulations, County and consumer responsibilities, and County and consumer remedies, effective January 1, 2020.

SECTION 1. RATE SCHEDULE

A. MINIMUM CHARGE FOR 0-1,000 GALLONS (PER 30 DAY BILLING PERIOD)

Line Size	Minimum Bill	Senior Citizen* Minimum Bill
5/8" or 3/4" Service Meter	\$12.42	\$9.42
1" Service Meter	\$15.53	n/a
1 1/2" Service Meter	\$20.70	n/a
2" Service Meter	\$31.05	n/a
3" Service Meter	\$93.15	n/a
4" Service Meter	\$129.38	n/a
6" Service Meter	\$258.75	n/a
8" Service Meter	\$465.75	n/a
10" Service Meter	\$621.00	n/a

****Residential account holders aged 62 and over are eligible for a reduced minimum bill.***

B. RESIDENTIAL METER RATE SCHEDULE

Minimum charges reflected in Section 1.A.

Tier*	Average Gallons-Per-Day Usage	Gallons Per Billing Period (assuming 30 day period)	Rate per 1,000 Gallons
Tier 1	33-200 gallons	1,000-6,000 gallons	\$3.50
Tier 2	200-400 gallons	6,000-12,000 gallons	\$4.73
Tier 3	400-800 gallons	12,000-24,000 gallons	\$6.63
Tier 4	800-1200 gallons	24,000-36,000 gallons	\$9.41
Tier 5	1200+ gallons	36,000+ gallons	\$13.65

**Tier is determined by average gallons-per-day usage.*

Tiered Water Rate Calculation (rate per gallon x average gallons per day x number of days = charge). This charge is added to the minimum charge from Section 1.A.

Tiered Water Rate Calculator available at <http://www.forsythco.com/Departments-Offices/Water-Sewer/Customer-Service/Water-Sewer-Rates>

C. IRRIGATION METER RATE SCHEDULE

Irrigation tiers are based on total area being irrigated. The charts below detail gallons per billing period (assuming 30 day period) and gallons per day for various acreage. Additional calculations for acreage 5.5 acres and up will be made based on ½ acre increments on an as-needed basis.

The rate for 1 acre or less will be applied by default to all accounts. Customers may apply for a rate based on larger irrigated acreage by submitting appropriate evidence. The application process is described below.

Minimum charges are reflected in Section 1.A.

GALLONS PER 30 DAY BILLING PERIOD

Rate	\$7.00/1,000 gal	\$10.50/1,000 gal	\$14.00/1,000 gal	\$17.50/1,000 gal
Acreage	Tier 1 gallons	Tier 2 gallons	Tier 3 gallons	Tier 4 gallons
Up to 1 ac	1,000-6,000	6,000-12,000	12,000-24,000	24,000+
1.01 ac to <1.5 ac	1,000-12,000	12,000-24,000	24,000-48,000	48,000+
1.5 ac to <2 ac	1,000-18,000	18,000-36,000	36,000-72,000	72,000+
2 ac to <2.5 ac	1,000-24,000	24,000-48,000	48,000-96,000	96,000+
2.5 ac to <3 ac	1,000-30,000	30,000-60,000	60,000-120,000	120,000+
3 ac to <3.5 ac	1,000-36,000	36,000-72,000	72,000-144,000	144,000+
3.5 ac to <4 ac	1,000-42,000	42,000-84,000	84,000-168,000	168,000+

4 ac to <4.5 ac	1,000-48,000	48,000-96,000	96,000-192,000	192,000+
4.5 ac to <5 ac	1,000-54,000	54,000-108,000	108,000-216,000	216,000+
5 ac to <5.5 ac	1,000-60,000	60,000-120,000	120,000-240,000	240,000+

AVERAGE GALLONS PER DAY

Rate	\$7.00/1,000 gal	\$10.50/1,000 gal	\$14.00/1,00 gal	\$17.50/1,000 gal
Acres	Tier 1 gallons	Tier 2 gallons	Tier 3 gallons	Tier 4 gallons
Up to 1 ac	33-200	200-400	400-800	800+
1.01 ac to <1.5 ac	33-400	400-800	800-1,600	1,600+
1.5 ac to <2 ac	33-600	600-1,200	1,200-2,400	2,400+
2 ac to <2.5 ac	33-800	800-1,600	1,600-3,200	3,200+
2.5 ac to <3 ac	33-1,000	1,000-2,000	2,000-4,000	4,000+
3 ac to <3.5 ac	33-1,200	1,200-2,400	2,400-4,800	4,800+
3.5 ac to <4 ac	33-1,400	1,400-2,800	2,800-5,600	5,600+
4 ac to <4.5 ac	33-1,600	1,600-3,200	3,200-6,400	6,400+
4.5 ac to <5 ac	33-1,800	1,800-3,600	3,600-7,200	7,200+
5 ac to <5.5 ac	33-2,000	2,000-4,000	4,000-8,000	8,000+

Tiered Water Rate Calculation (rate per gallon x average gallons per day x number of days = charge). This charge is added to the minimum charge from Section 1.A.

Tiered Water Rate Calculator available at <http://www.forsythco.com/Departments-Offices/Water-Sewer/Customer-Service/Water-Sewer-Rates>

The default rate for all accounts is the rate for 1 acre or less. Customers may apply for a rate based on larger irrigated acreage in one of two ways: If the customer installs a new irrigation system, the customer will be given the opportunity to request the rate for a larger area during the irrigation system permitting process. This process is discussed in Section 18-189(d) of the Forsyth County Code of Ordinances. The irrigation area reflected in the permit application submitted to the Forsyth County Water & Sewer Department will be used to determine the appropriate rate. Alternatively, if a customer has an existing irrigation system and wishes to apply for the rate applicable to an area larger than one acre, it may apply to the Forsyth County Water & Sewer Department to begin using that rate. Such customers must first bring the existing irrigation system into compliance with the requirements for new irrigation systems found in Section 18-189(d)(2)(A) and (B) of the Forsyth County Code of Ordinances. Such customers shall also supply a current certification from an Irrigation Association Certified professional (CIT, CLIA, CIC, CID, or CLWM) verifying the acreage to be irrigated, and confirming that all technical components under Forsyth County Code of Ordinances Section 18-189(d)(2)(A) and (B) are present and properly working, the irrigation system is sound, and all irrigation zones have been programed to minimize runoff (a “Compliance Certification”).

In addition, each customer desiring the irrigation meter rate must, once every five years after the date of issuance of the irrigation permit (new installations) or notice of eligibility for the rate (existing installations), submit a renewed application for the acreage-based rate. The application shall contain a current Compliance Certification as defined in the preceding paragraph. Failure to

timely reapply will result in the customer's account being changed to a standard (pricing for one acre or less) irrigation account.

D. COMMERCIAL METER RATE SCHEDULE

This classification also includes multi-family housing utilizing a master meter, industrial usage, and institutional usage.

Minimum charges reflected in Section 1.A.

Each additional 1,000 gallons over 1,000 gallons \$3.85

E. MASTER METER RATE SCHEDULE

Minimum charges reflected in Section 1.A.

Each additional 1,000 gallons over 1,000 gallons \$3.85

F. REUSE METER RATE SCHEDULE

Minimum charges reflected in Section 1.A.

Each additional 1,000 gallons over 1,000 gallons \$2.33

G. FIRELINE METER RATE SCHEDULE

Minimum charge per billing period (does not include any usage):

2" SERVICE METER (domestic use only)	\$20.00
4" SERVICE METER	\$30.00
6" SERVICE METER	\$48.00
8" SERVICE METER	\$66.00
10" SERVICE METER	\$87.00

Usage will be charged at \$3.85 per 1,000 gallons.

H. INTERGOVERNMENTAL WHOLESALE RATE

The rate will be equal to that set by the City of Cumming for sale of water to Forsyth County. The rate may change as the City of Cumming adjusts its rate.

I. SEWER RATE SCHEDULE PER BILLING PERIOD

Per 1,000 gallons based on water usage \$6.29

In addition to sewer flow charges, a flat base rate will be applied per month. This charge is \$13.00 per month for residential consumers and \$26.00 per month for commercial consumers.

Note: Reservation of sewer capacity may also be required. This is addressed in a separate County policy.

J. PERIODIC RATE INCREASES

The rates referenced in Section 1, except Intergovernmental Wholesale Rates, will undergo annual increases effective January 1, 2020 and on January 1 of each year thereafter through December 31, 2028, unless changed by the Board of Commissioners. The annual water rate increase shall be 3.5% and the annual sewer rate increase shall be 5% of the prior year's rate.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE AND SECURITY DEPOSITS

There will be a \$25.00 non-refundable fee to establish service. In addition, a security deposit in the following amount shall be paid by the consumer to activate service:

Flat rate sewer consumers	One month's sewer charges
Consumers who do not own the property to which service is to be provided (i.e. renters)	\$125.00
All other consumers	\$ 75.00

The Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer is authorized to require up to three times the applicable security deposit amount (above) for any consumer that the County has previously disconnected from service due to nonpayment.

In addition, the Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer may require a consumer to pay outstanding water and sewer fees and charges owed by that consumer (including written-off debt and penalties assessed on past-due accounts) as a condition of establishing service.

SECTION 3. INITIAL WATER CONNECTION FEES

A. WATER CONNECTION FEES. Each consumer subscribing to water service at a location lacking a metered connection shall pay the following connection fees:

5/8"	METER	\$2,238.00
3/4"	METER	\$2,238.00
1"	METER	\$3,805.00
1 1/2"	METER	\$7,385.00
2"	METER	\$11,862.00
3"	METER	\$22,380.00
4"	METER	\$37,375.00
6"	METER	\$74,526.00
8"	METER	\$119,286.00

B. REUSE METER CONNECTION FEES

5/8" & 3/4"	METER	\$1,100.00
1"	METER	\$1,325.00
1 1/2"	METER	\$2,200.00
2"	METER	\$2,750.00
3"	METER	\$3,300.00
4"	METER AND LARGER	\$4,400.00

Developers will be responsible for installing taps and meters for 3"+ connections

For compound water meters or other types of non-standard meters, the consumer will be charged a connection fee based on the largest diameter of the meter (see Chart A above), plus the added cost attributable to the non-standard meter.

Consumers who wish to temporarily connect to the County's water service for approved purposes only via a fire hydrant may do so by obtaining a hydrant meter and permit. A security deposit of \$500 will be required upon receipt of the permit and will be applied to the final bill. There will also be a charge of \$31.05 for the first 1,000 gallons, \$4.73 per each additional 1,000 gallons of water used, \$15.00 weekly rental fee, and \$25.00 per day late fee for hydrant meters not returned on the assigned day to be read. Consumers must also comply with all specifications for fire hydrant usage as directed by the County.

SECTION 4. SEWER CONNECTION FEES

RESIDENTIAL	\$7,702.00
NON-RESIDENTIAL	\$28.52 PER GALLONS CAPACITY RESERVED (GPD)

SECTION 5. PENALTIES

Failure of water and sewer users to pay charges duly imposed shall result in the automatic imposition of penalties based on the following:

- A. Payment shall be due twenty (20) days after the billing date.
- B. Nonpayment by the due date will subject the consumer to a penalty equal to ten percent (10%) of the delinquent amount.
- C. The County reserves the right to waive one month's penalty upon the consumer signing up for "Automated Payment" (AutoPay) via Water & Sewer's online payment portal. Through the AutoPay agreement, the County will automatically debit the consumer's bank account or charge the consumer's credit card for the utility balance on the due date of the current bill. The consumer will receive this option once per account and will be expected to remain on AutoPay for at least one year.

- D. The County may, upon approval of the Director of Forsyth County Water & Sewer, waive penalties in severe or unique situations. Approval of such requests is at the sole discretion of the Director of Forsyth County Water & Sewer.

SECTION 6. RECONNECTION OF SERVICE AND NSF CHARGES

- A. Service disconnected for non-payment of bills will be restored only after all past due charges are paid in full, together with payment by the defaulting consumer of a service charge of \$75.00 for each meter being reconnected. However, in exceptional circumstances the Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer *may* authorize the establishment of payment arrangements and approve a waiver of the aforementioned charge.
- B. When a meter is pulled or physically removed from active service for an account in bad standing due to non-payment, illegal action, code violation, etc., a \$750.00 reconnect charge will be assessed to reestablish service. Consumers are prohibited from reconnecting without Forsyth County Water & Sewer's permission, and any damage to locks or meter parts caused by an unauthorized attempt to restore service will be subject to the water meter tampering and damage fees set forth in Section 8. In exceptional circumstances the Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer *may* authorize the establishment of payment arrangements and approve a waiver of the aforementioned reconnect charge.
- C. When service is disconnected due to a delinquent backflow test, service will be restored only after all past due charges are paid in full together with payment of a service charge of \$75.00. However, in exceptional circumstances the Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer *may* authorize the establishment of payment arrangements and approve a waiver of the aforementioned charge.
- D. Any returned check or other rejected method of payment on an account will result in a \$35.00 charge as well as possible disconnection of service for nonpayment. In exceptional circumstances the Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer *may* approve a waiver of the aforementioned charge

SECTION 7. METER RE-READ AND TESTING FEES

- A. The County will make a special water meter reading at the request of a consumer at no charge. If additional requests are made and it is determined by the County that additional readings are not necessary a fee of \$25.00 will be charged to the consumer.
- B. The County will test a water meter on-site at the request of the consumer once at no charge. If additional requests are made and it is determined by the County that further tests are not necessary a charge of \$25.00 for an on-site test or \$100.00 for the removal of the meter and laboratory test will be assessed and posted to the consumer's account. If the meter is found to over-register beyond 2% of the correct volume, the charge will be credited to the consumer's account.

SECTION 8. WATER METER TAMPERING AND DAMAGE FEES

- A. All water meter parts are to be replaced by an authorized Forsyth County employee only.
- B. Once replacement costs for parts are determined by the Forsyth County Water and Sewer, the account holder will be charged a \$150 repair fee, plus all material and labor costs for the specific repair/replacement needed. Items that may require replacement or repair include but are not limited to: meter, backflow (*when wire seal is broken the backflow is required to be replaced*), curb stop, meter box, meter box lid, antenna, transmitter/register, and meter lock.

SECTION 9. REVIEW & INSPECTION AND WATER SAMPLING FEES

- A. Review & Inspection Fees are collected at the preliminary sign-off stage of all sewer plans submitted to the County for approval. The plan review fee is \$1,000.00. Inspection fees are charged on a 90¢-per-foot basis, with a minimum fee of \$1,750.00. If a re-inspection is necessary due to no fault of the County, additional inspection fees may be assessed.
- B. Water Sampling Fees are collected at the final plat sign-off stage on all water lines submitted to the County for approval. There is a \$40.00 charge per line or cul-de-sac.

SECTION 10. PUMPING STATION PHASE-OUT AND OPERATIONS CHARGE

Pumping Station Phase-Out Charge (Revised 3-1-2007)

For development-installed sewage pumping stations and developments connecting to existing pumping stations, a phase-out charge shall be based on the following calculation:

$$D \times C (1 + cci)^{20} (P/F)$$

D is the distance from the proposed pumping station to the nearest down-gradient interceptor sewer. If no down-gradient sewer exists at the time of plan approval, the distance used shall be a maximum of 5,000 feet.

C is the cost per linear foot of constructing new 8-inch gravity sewer (or size needed by development) as estimated by the FORSYTH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER using recent competitive bids on other projects. When no recent competitive bids are available, the current Forsyth County Sewer Master Plan unit costs shall be used.

The term **cci** is the **average construction cost index** factor of the previous five years.

P/F is the factor to calculate the present worth of future expenses in twenty years at an interest rate equal to the effective rate of the most recent water and sewer revenue bond

issue. This charge may not be applicable in instances where the best interest of the County is served by the installation of the pumping stations. The circumstances for non-payment of this charge shall be documented by the Director of the FORSYTH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER. Examples of when this charge does not apply include, but are not limited to the following: 1) no net increase in existing or previously approved pump station inventory; 2) pump station is at the downstream county line and is in a location required by the Sewer Master Plan; 3) pump station is at the upstream boundary of another jurisdiction's sewer service area and is in a location required by the Sewer Master Plan; 4) all the necessary easements for an outfall sewer which would connect the development to the existing sewer systems cannot be made available; 5) the pump station is part of a petition sewer installation. The ultimate decisions as to whether charge shall be applicable shall rest within the reasonable discretion of the Director of FORSYTH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER, in conjunction with the directives and policies of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, and further based upon a reasonable application of the Forsyth County Sewer Master Plan, financial and cost considerations, and the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Forsyth County. In cases where a residential development is less than 100 units, the Phase-Out Charge shall be adjusted, such that a development with less than 100 units would pay a pro-rated proportion of the fee (pro-rated against 100 units). By way of example, a 30 lot subdivision would be obligated to pay 30/100 of the phase-out calculation. Developments with 100 units or greater would pay the entire fee according to the calculation.

For commercial or industrial developments where the projected sewer flow is less than 27,000 gallons per day (GPD), the Phase-Out Charge shall be adjusted, such that a development with less than 27,000 GPD would pay a pro-rated proportion of the fee. Developments with 27,000 GPD or greater projected sewer flow would pay the entire fee according to the calculation. This charge shall be paid to the FORSYTH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER prior to issuance of an LDP for the pumping station. All revenue from this charge shall be dedicated to the category of capital projects: pump station phase-outs.

Charge for Future Operation and Maintenance Costs of Sewage Pumping Stations

Given the economic burden placed on consumers from the present cost of conveyance by development-installed sewage pumping stations, payment shall be made as follows for sewage pumping stations contributed to the FORSYTH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER.

\$190,000 per station (this fee will not be charged to developments connecting to existing stations)

This fee will be applicable for any developer installed pumping station, regardless of whether or not a Phase-Out Charge is paid by the developer, unless waived by the Board of Commissioners.

This charge shall be paid to the FORSYTH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER prior to issuance of an LDP for the pumping station. All revenue from this charge shall be dedicated to the category of sewer pump operations.

SECTION 11. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR REGARDING DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

The Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer, or his/her authorized representative, shall have the authority to refer delinquent accounts including, but not limited to, fees, penalties and interest, to an agency for collection.

The Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer, or his/her authorized representative, shall have the authority to write off accounts that are over one year old in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per account. The Forsyth County Manager may write off any such accounts in amounts between \$1,000.01 and \$50,000.00. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners may write off any such accounts in amounts over \$50,000.00. This write-off option shall be utilized only after it has been determined by the Director of Forsyth County Water and Sewer that there is no cost-effective means of collecting the account.

The “write-off” of debt, as described above, refers to the accounting procedure by which the amount due is removed from the asset portion of the County’s balance sheet. Writing off of debt is not legal forgiveness of debt.

SECTION 12. IMPACT OF EFFECTIVE DATE

All bills issued, fees assessed and policies implemented by the County on or after the effective date of this resolution shall reflect the terms of this resolution.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

SO RESOLVED, this 21st day of November, 2019

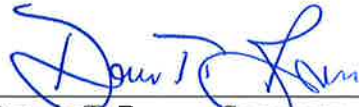
FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Laura Semanson, Chairman



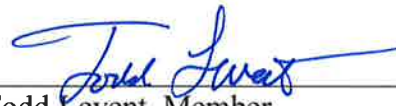
Cindy J. Mills, Vice Chairman



Dennis T. Brown, Secretary



Molly Cooper, Member



Todd Levent, Member

Attest:



Rhonda P. Hansard, Clerk to the Board