

## City Council to Consider New Utility Rates

At its December 6, 2016 meeting, the Broken Arrow City Council is expected to approve new utility rates for water, sewer and stormwater services. Earlier this year, the City of Broken Arrow Administration completed the multi-year process of analyzing its day-to-day operational needs and five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Utilities Department. Through a very detailed review, the Administration identified the need for a major capital reinvestment in the department's systems. More specifically, a total of \$140 million worth of improvements were identified to include: \$26 million to improve our water system, \$102 million to renovate and upgrade our wastewater (sanitary sewer) system, and \$12 million for stormwater systems.

“The City has experienced explosive growth over the past 30 years, and major capital investments are needed to make our utility systems reliable and efficient, and to ensure we have the capacity to accommodate future growth anticipated in the next 10-15 years,” said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. “These problems have to be addressed now, otherwise the cost to complete the projects is only going to increase. Moreover, we must have the ability to provide high

quality utility services to both current and future customers and position ourselves to accommodate continued economic growth in Broken Arrow.”

The proposed structure will pay for both operational expenses and \$90 million of the capital funds needed for the utility systems improvements through the utility rates charged to customers. To keep rates affordable and stable, City officials will consider asking voters to consider a General Obligation Bond in late 2017 or early 2018. Last year, the City hired the engineering consultant firm of Black and Veatch, which specializes in helping municipalities analyze costs for services delivered and establish appropriate utility rates. Black and Veatch, working with staff, has determined what Broken Arrow's water, sewer and stormwater fees should be in order to pay for the necessary utility systems improvements, operational expenses, and additional staffing needs to maintain the systems.

Under the proposed plan, a typical residential customer using 7,000 gallons of water per month could see their water bill increase between \$2.45 to \$3.36 per month. For a typical sewer usage of 5,000 gallons per month, the bill could increase



between \$1.85 to \$2.75 per month. The stormwater fee will increase by \$0.76. The main driver of the increase is the funds needed for debt service payments for the \$90 million that must be borrowed for the capital improvements. The plan calls for a rate increase once a year for five years.

View the complete Capital Improvement Plan at [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/UTILITYCIP](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/UTILITYCIP). View a video showing some of the problems and Q&A with City Manager Michael Spurgeon at [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/WATERBILL](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/WATERBILL).

## Large Items to Throw Away? Remember to Call for Bulky Waste Pickup

The City of Broken Arrow Sanitation Division began transporting solid waste collected to the Covanta Tulsa Waste to Energy Plant on December 1. Disposing waste with Covanta is environmentally friendly. It turns the trash we throw away into energy, which is captured from the combustion process inside the facility.

Please keep in mind that some items appropriate for disposal at the landfill are not accepted by the Covanta plant. As a result, our Sanitation crews will have to collect some larger, bulkier items during a separate pickup. A bulky waste pickup will be required for the following items:

- Roofing, materials and/or wood from remodeling, privacy or other fencing
- Bags of dirt, rocks or concrete

- Large items such as: mattresses and/or box spring sets, hot water heaters, disassembled swing sets, furniture items, major appliances, carpet rolls, lawn mowers, lawn and yard equipment
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners (Accepted only if the proper documentation is attached which documents the refrigerant has been properly removed by a licensed CFC technician.)
- Large piles of yard waste or brush that is not or cannot be bundled

Customers will need to call and schedule a bulky waste pickup by calling the Action Center at 918-258-3587 or making a request online at [ActionCenterBA.com](http://ActionCenterBA.com). These pickups will occur weekly on Thursdays and Fridays. As usual, the standard pickup charges will apply. Rate information is available at [BrokenarrowOK.gov/TRASH](http://BrokenarrowOK.gov/TRASH).

## Citizens Recycling Committee

Earlier this year, a survey was conducted asking Broken Arrow residents about their satisfaction with their current trash service and if they would like a curbside recycling service in addition. The survey showed that residents overwhelmingly like the current trash service, but are interested in recycling options as well.

To look into the best way to incorporate a recycling program with our current services, the City has formed a citizens recycling committee, which held its first meeting on November 29. This committee, made up of City officials and Broken Arrow residents, will spend the next nine months exploring curbside recycling

options and recommending one that works best for our sanitation customers. The committee is expected to make a recommendation for a program by June 30, 2017. If the City Council approves the program, curbside recycling is expected to start in late 2017 or early 2018.

Members of the committee include Councilor Johnnie Parks, Councilor Scott Eudey (as an alternate for Councilor Parks), Jim Hoffmeister, Tom Hahn, Russell Peterson, Dawn Seing, Jill Spurgeon, Michelle Bergwall, Vicky Randolph, EJ Hardwick, Becky Wood, Tom Chatterton, Chris Taylor and Peggy Striegel.

## Best Sources for City News and Updates

The City of Broken Arrow offers a variety of communications tools that you can use to receive important news and information. Check out the current list to help ensure you know what's happening in BA!

**WEBSITE** - The City's website is [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov). You can find meeting agendas and minutes, read about traffic alerts, sign up for email notifications and much more. Be sure to visit often and read about current news and events.

**SOCIAL MEDIA / VIDEO** – Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and subscribe to our YouTube Channel. Our social media accounts are an easy way to access City Council Highlights videos, a quick recap from the City Council meetings, which are held twice a month.

- [Facebook.com/CityofBA](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBA)
- [Twitter.com/CityofBA](https://twitter.com/CityofBA)
- [YouTube.com/CityofBrokenArrow](https://www.youtube.com/CityofBrokenArrow)

**MOBILE APP** - The City has launched a new service that makes it easy to report non-emergency issues such as potholes, streetlight outages, and other concerns through your mobile device or computer. Download the mobile app for Android and iOS devices at [www.ActionCenterBA.com](http://www.ActionCenterBA.com).

**PRINT** - The FOCUS newsletter, which comes with your utility bill, is a great source of information about upcoming changes and local events. The annual Financial Newsletter is another publication you'll want to read, as it contains information on the City's revenues and expenses.

**PHONE** - The City uses a phone call notification system to alert the community about emergencies, neighborhood meetings and other important information. By signing up for notifications, you'll stay connected and ready for any event. Sign up today at [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/ALERT](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/ALERT), or text Swift911 TO 99538.

### Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** - There will be no trash service on Monday, January 2 as City offices will be closed. Monday trash customers will be serviced on Tuesday, January 3, and Tuesday trash customers will be serviced on Wednesday, January 4. Regular service resumes on Thursday.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY** – There will be no trash service on Monday, January 16 as City offices will be closed. Monday trash customers will be serviced on Tuesday, January 17, and Tuesday trash customers will be serviced on Wednesday, January 18. Regular service resumes on Thursday.

### Ice Rink Brings Holiday Fun to the Rose District

The Rose District Plaza will host a holiday ice skating rink from December 1 to January 8. Hours are 3:00 - 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 3:00 - 10:00 p.m. on Friday; and 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Extended hours will be 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. daily from December 21 to January 3. Holiday hours for Christmas Eve are 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. and on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve from 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. The ice rink is located at 418 S. Main Street in downtown Broken Arrow.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Ongoing through January — BA Girls Spring Softball Registration.** Ages 4-18. Visit [www.bagsl.org](http://www.bagsl.org) for details.

**Ongoing through January 14 — BA Spring Soccer Registration.** Visit [www.bascok.com](http://www.bascok.com) for details.

**January 2 — City offices closed for New Year Holiday.** Trash service will be one day later.

**January 3 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**January 12 — Planning Commission** 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St

**January 16 — City offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.** Trash service will be one day later.

**January 17 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**January 26 — Planning Commission** 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St

**January 27 — Bunco Bash** 6:00 p.m. dinner and 7:00 pm.m bunco, BA Senior Center, 1800 S. Main. Tickets are \$10. Call 918-259-8377 for details.

**February 11 — Daddy Daughter Dance,** Nienhuis Park Community Center. Ages 4-16. Tickets are \$5 per person. Call 918-259-6550 or 918-259-8437 for more information.

**February 7 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**February 9 — Planning Commission** 5:00 p.m., City Hall