

City of Franklin  
Water Management Department

September 26, 2017

# Irrigation Water Billing

# Irrigation systems

- Existing methodologies to related to irrigation systems
  - Irrigation meter impact fee
  - Water user fees associated with irrigation meters is the same as potable water
  - Declining wastewater rate structure that acknowledges increased water consumption can be associated with irrigation and other uses that may not enter the wastewater stream
  - Inclining water rate structure to capture costs associated with large demands caused by irrigation and other uses

# Irrigation systems

- Expressed concerns of existing structure
  - Impact fee too costly to realize an acceptable return on investment
  - Irrigation through potable water service line includes sanitary sewer fees
- Common options
  - Irrigation system metering
  - seasonal pricing concept

Meter Size	Irrigation Meter Fee
3/4"	\$ 3,150
1"	\$ 4,725
1 1/2"	\$ 6,300
2"	\$ 7,875
3"	\$ 9,450
4"	\$ 11,025
6"	\$ 12,600
8"	\$ 14,175

# Irrigation system metering

- Operations considerations of separate irrigation meters
  - Improves metrics on water usage
  - More precise with respect to sanitary sewer charges
  - Increases city metering infrastructure
  - Potential to considerably increase demands on the drinking water system
- Impact fee and rate considerations
  - Irrigation meter impact fee structure
    - Affordability vs. equitability
    - Water necessity Vs. “luxury water”
  - Impacts to water and sanitary sewer user rates

# Irrigation system seasonal pricing

- Operations Considerations of separate irrigation meters
  - Metrics on water usage relies more on estimates
  - Sanitary sewer charges are based on estimates in summer months; accuracy decreases
  - Decreases city metering infrastructure
  - Potential to considerably increase demands on the drinking water system
- Impact fee and rate considerations
  - Irrigation meter impact fee structure
    - Affordability vs. equitability
    - Water necessity Vs. “luxury water”
  - Impacts to water and sanitary sewer user rates

## Surrounding communities

- Metro Water Services: Sewer charges are calculated based on the amount of water used under most circumstances. An exception is made for residential customers during the months of April through November, when water is used to sprinkle lawns or wash cars. Since water used for these purposes does not go into the sewer, sewer service charges for residential bills are automatically adjusted during these months to reflect a “sprinkler credit.” The winter quarter average (January, February, and March) plus 30 percent will be the maximum sewer charges billed.

# Surrounding communities

- City of Brentwood
- **Sec. 70-134. - Sewer rates.**
- (a) The monthly sewer rate charged by the city shall consist of a base rate and, if applicable, a wastewater treatment cost surcharge. The combined base rate and surcharge shall be applied to each customer's average winter water consumption as billed in the months of December through March using the following rate schedule. For sewer customers who are not water customers of the city, the computation of average winter water consumption shall be based upon the four-month period that most closely corresponds to that used for other customers. The established combined rate per 1,000 gallons above the minimum bill shall be prorated for each 100 gallons consumed. (please refer to Brentwood's municipal code for more details)

# Surrounding communities

- City of Spring Hill
- Irrigation Meter Installations
- To avoid paying the sewer charge on the water you use for watering your lawn or garden, you may choose to have an additional water meter installed to be used solely for irrigation. The total cost for this irrigation meter will be \$730.00 (\$400 tap fee, \$140 reserve fee, \$165 meter fee and a \$25 backflow device permit).
- These fees are due to the City of Spring Hill and do not cover the costs of installing the backflow device or the irrigation system. Please note that the City of Spring Hill does NOT install sprinkler systems or backflow devices. This is the responsibility of the homeowner.



# Surrounding communities

- City of Murfreesboro
- **Section 33-51 - Reduction in charges for water excluded from sewerage system.**
- (B) Eligibility.
- (1) Customers are eligible for the adjustment of monthly sewer charges in only the following circumstances:
- (c) customers are eligible for the adjustment of monthly sewer charges in only the following circumstances: the customer is a residential or commercial customer who uses extra water for lawn or garden *irrigation* purposes and satisfies the requirements herein. The reduction period will be only for the months of April, May, June, July, August, September and October. If the consumption for a said month exceeds 120% of the monthly winter average calculated by averaging the months of November through March less the high and the low months, the customer shall not be charged sewer charges on the excess. If the customer does not have a consumption for winter average calculation as set forth above herein, the consumption average for the customer's category plus 20% shall be used and 6,750 gallons shall be used as an average for residential applicants; or
- (d) the commercial or residential customer has and utilizes a separate water meter for an *irrigation* system.