

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE WAS SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBER VOGELTANZ AND CO-SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN DISCON, MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DISCON AND SECONDED FOR ADOPTION BY COUNCILMEMBER VOGELTANZ.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO AMEND SECTION 17-15 OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY, MAXIMUM VOLUME COMPONENT AND RESIDENTIAL SEWERAGE CHARGE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

WHEREAS: Section 17-15 of the City of Mandeville Code of Ordinances imposes a “monthly sewerage charge” for “residential customers” of the City’s sewer utility consisting of both a “monthly minimum charge” and a “volume component.”

WHEREAS: The volume component is calculated as the “actual monthly water usage billed minus three thousand (3,000) gallons time the applicable volume rate shown in division 17 of appendix C of the City of Mandeville Code of Ordinances.”

WHEREAS: The current sewerage “volume rate” is \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons of water delivered to the residential customer.

WHEREAS: The United States Census Bureau estimates the average number of persons per household within the City of Mandeville from 2020 to 2024 equals 2.27 people.

WHEREAS: The Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources estimates that “each person uses about 75-100 gallons of water per day” (extrapolated to be between 2,250 and 3,000 gallons of water per person per 30-day month). The United States Geological Survey estimates that Louisiana citizens who receive water from a public utility consume an average of 119 gallons of water per day (extrapolated to be 3,570 gallons per person per 30-day month) (*see* USGS, “Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015” at Table 6). The National Environmental Education Foundation estimates that “the average Louisiana resident [uses] 104 gallons [of water] per day in and around their home” (extrapolated to be 3,120 gallons per resident per 30-day month).

WHEREAS: The City of Mandeville estimates that, based on the preceding statistics concerning average household size and monthly per capita water consumption, the average Mandeville residential household likely consumes between 5,107 and 8,104 gallons of sewer service per month, and a household of six would consume between 13,500 and 21,420 gallons of sewer service month.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that, in recent history, the City has been ineffective in charging and collecting its statutory sewerage charge.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that the current sewerage rate established by Ordinance 24-40 likely charges at least some residential customers for a monthly volume of sewer that the customer did not actually consume based on the preceding state and federal statistics concerning average household size and amount of water consumed per capita per day.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that overcharging any residential customer for the amount of monthly sewer service actually consumed may result in unnecessary and unaffordable billing, an inability for the customer to pay, unnecessary and unhealthy sewer rationing, and an overall decrease in the health, safety, and welfare for the City of Mandeville and its residents.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that the most appropriate method of calculating each residential customer's monthly sewerage charge may be the so-called "Winter Quarter Averaging" method, or a substantially similar method, which imposes a monthly sewerage charge per residential customer based on the customer's average sewer consumption during the preceding months of December, January, and February.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that the City is currently unable to implement a Winter Quarter Average sewerage rate because of technological and other hurdles.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council encourages the City to explore methods and solutions to effectively implement a Winter Quarter Average sewerage rate during the next twelve months, whether that be by increasing the City's technological and human capital capabilities or by outsourcing such calculations and billing to a cost-effective, third-party vendor experienced in the field.

WHEREAS: In the meantime, the Mandeville City Council finds that placing a temporary cap on all residential customers' monthly sewerage charge is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Mandeville and its residents.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that, for purposes of calculating, charging, and collecting the monthly sewerage rate for residential customers, a cap of 25,000 gallons per monthly billing cycle reasonably protects the average residential customer from the risk of overbilling while ensuring that households with greater than average sewerage consumption pay their accurate share each month.

WHEREAS: The Mandeville City Council finds that, under the current sewerage formula codified in Appendix C, Division 17, Section 17-15 of the Mandeville Code of Ordinances, the maximum monthly sewerage charge that could be assessed for any residential customer based on a maximum, monthly cap of 25,000 gallons of sewer use equals \$83.50.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Mandeville hereby amends the Mandeville Code of Ordinances, Section 17-15, by inserting the following subsection (b)(2):

- (b)(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section or Appendix C Division 17 of the City of Mandeville Code of Ordinances to the contrary, during the time period beginning on June 1, 2026 and ending on May 31, 2027, the City of Mandeville shall not levy or bill any residential customer a monthly sewerage charge greater than \$83.25.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall be enacted upon signature of the Mayor and, upon enactment, shall be effective retroactive to June 1, 2026.


BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance, upon enactment, unless renewed and reenacted in accordance with all applicable law, shall expire at the final moment of the day on May 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Clerk of this Council is authorized and empowered to take any action reasonably necessary in her discretion to promulgate the provisions of this Ordinance.

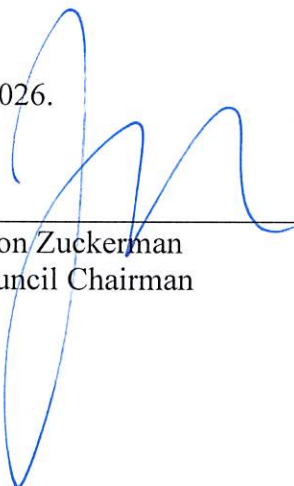
The Ordinance being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Strong-Thompson, Vogeltanz, Discon
NAYS: Lane, Zuckerman
ABSTENTIONS: 0
ABSENT: 0

and the Ordinance was declared adopted this 11th day of June 2026.



Alicia Watts
Clerk of Council



Jason Zuckerman
Council Chairman