

Water Commissioners hold public hearing, approve 2024 budget

Significant investments in the water treatment plant improvements and water infrastructure continue into 2024.

The 2024 budget that includes these investments was approved by the Board of Water Commissioners at their September 12 meeting.

If approved by the Saint Paul city council this year, 2024 consumption rates will increase by 35 cents per unit (per 748 gallons) in 2024 to \$4 per unit in the winter and \$4.13 a unit in the summer.

The water main surcharge will go up 2 cents per unit of water. The water service base fee will also increase by 65 cents a quarter to \$21.75 per quarter for residential customers who have meters 1-inch or smaller. Business and residential customers who have larger meters can expect to pay more based on meter size.

The budgeted investments bring a multitude of benefits including enhanced safety, health, sustainability, and overall quality of life.

By supporting these projects through rate increases, communities are making a wise choice that will pay off in the long run and ensure the well-being of residents for years to come.

Investments in the water treatment plant ensures that the water supplied to households is of the



The Board of Water Commissioners held a public hearing on Sept. 12 on the 2024 water rates and budget at 1900 Rice Street. No one from the public addressed the board at the meeting. The 2024 budget that includes increases to the water rates was passed during the regular board meeting that followed the public hearing.

highest quality. Clean and safe water is essential for public health, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and contaminants that can impact both short-term and long-term health. By maintaining and enhancing water treatment facilities, the utility is demonstrating a commitment to delivering water that meets rigorous quality standards.

Investing in water infrastructure is an investment in the long-term sustainability of a community. Aging infrastructure can lead to leaks, breaks, and water loss, all of which can be costly to repair

and disruptive to daily life. By proactively upgrading and maintaining the water treatment plant and distribution system, the utility is reducing the risk of sudden and costly emergency repairs, while also extending the lifespan of the infrastructure.

Water will cost less than a penny per gallon, even with the rate and fee increases. Investing now in these quality improvements can prevent larger expenses down the line. The modest increase in the cost per gallon of water now is a small price to pay for the investments in the future.

Family fun day/public open house a success

Right, crowds gather to watch the pipe-tapping team of Joe Garcia, Andrew Lardani, Marcus Fitzgerald, Jake Wolf, and Jake Masiello. The team was demonstrating a skill that they used during a contest at the MN Section of the American Water Works Association in Duluth this week. The family fun day/public open house was held on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 1900 Rice Street.



Deputy Mayor visits construction site



Deputy Mayor Jamie Tincher and General Manager Patrick Shea toured the new plant construction site on September 12.

New staff sought in several positions

The utility is looking to hire staff in several positions.

The position of civil engineer III is open until Sept. 25.

The position of maintenance worker I is open until Sept. 26.

The position of engineering tech. supervisor is open until Oct. 4.

All three positions require

applicants to possess and maintain a Minnesota class D driver's license or equivalent out of state driver's license.

For more information on these and other city job openings, go to stpaul.gov/jobs.

All jobs must be applied for online.

Metric Giles retires after 37 years of service

Metric Giles retired from the water utility after 37 years of service.

Metric started with the water utility as a water utility worker I in 1986. He was promoted to water plant aide in 1994 and became a water plant worker in 2004.

He was promoted to maintenance worker I in 2014, the position from which he retired on August 17, 2023.

Congratulations to Metric on his retirement!



Metric Giles working in the garden he helped to create in this undated photo.



Metric Giles operating the filter press in the dewatering building in 2003.