



# CITY OF DONALD

10710 Main Street N.E. • P.O. Box 388 • Donald, OR 97020-0388

Phone 503-678-5543 • Fax 503-678-2750

[www.donaldoregon.gov](http://www.donaldoregon.gov)

Emergency pager for Water and Sewer: 503-301-6479

## NOTICE: RATE INCREASE FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

Starting April 1, 2021

### Water and Sewer Rates

The water and sewer rates will increase by 3% on April 1, 2021. The increases are based on the results of a Water and Sewer Rate Study which was completed on May 25, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2021. The minimum bill will increase by \$2.55 per month. Water bills include 1,000 gallons of water; each additional 1,000 gallon will go up by nine cents, to \$2.98.

### Background

In May 2020 the Donald Budget Committee Meeting voted to forgo the rate increase due to the financial uncertainties to people's budgets because of COVID. The Budget Committee requested that it be reviewed in January 2021 by the City Council. At their January Meeting the Council voted 5-1 to increase the rates starting with the April 2021 bill. Since the City is small, each bill is critical to providing services and keeping up with the expenses to provide water and sewer services.

### Next Rate Increase

Since the 2016 Rate Study ends this year, the Council has engaged with the same firm to update the Study. The results will be ready late spring and presented to the Council. It is anticipated that there will be an increase, especially since the City needs to build a second working well. This well is needed regardless of any housing development since the City Council wants an additional working well to serve the City. The current well is also nearing the end of its life and the new well will become the City's primary well for serving drinking water needs.

### Reserve Funds

A Reserve Fee is collected each month and held for future maintenance, repairs or needed upgrades to the water and sewer systems of the City of Donald. The Donald City Council will expend these funds as a collective.

### The new monthly minimum charge for water and sewer is \$84.05

City of Donald Water Service Fees and Charges	2015	Effective <b>April 1</b>				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	<b>2021</b>
<i>Base charge (monthly)</i>						
Residential/Commercial (first 1,000 gallons included)	\$ 36.25	\$ 37.37	\$ 38.51	\$ 39.68	\$ 40.86	\$ 42.12
Reserve fund fee	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Total monthly base charges	\$ 39.25	\$ 40.37	\$ 41.51	\$ 42.68	\$ 43.86	\$ 45.12
<i>Volume charge (\$/1,000 gallons)</i>						
	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.98

City of Donald Sewer Service Fees and Charges	Effective April 1					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
<i>Residential:</i>						
Sewer monthly bill	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.93	\$ 32.89	\$ 33.87	\$ 34.89	\$ 35.93
Reserve fund fee	2.00	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00
Total monthly base charges	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.93	\$ 35.14	\$ 36.37	\$ 37.64	\$ 38.93
<i>Commercial:</i>						
Base charge (included 5,190 gallons)	\$ 35.81	\$ 31.93	\$ 32.89	\$ 33.87	\$ 34.89	\$ 35.93
Reserve fund fee	2.00	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00
Total monthly base charges	\$ 37.81	\$ 33.93	\$ 35.14	\$ 36.37	\$ 37.64	\$ 38.93
<i>Volume charge (\$/1,000 gallons)</i>	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.97	\$ 2.03

### How is my utility bill calculated?

Here is an **example** of a typical single-family residential bill with a water consumption of 5,000 gallons.

#### WATER:

Base Rate: \$42.12 (includes 1,000 gallons)  
 Consumption Rate: +11.92 (4 x \$2.98 per 1,000 gallons)  
 Water Reserve Fee: + 3.00  
 Water Subtotal: \$57.04

#### SEWER:

Base Rate: \$35.93  
 Sewer Reserve Fee: + 3.00  
 Sewer Subtotal: \$38.93

Bill Total (using 5,000 gallons of water): \$95.97

### Utility Bill Procedure

- Bills are processed and mailed during last week of the month
- Payment is due by the 15<sup>th</sup>
- Late fees are processed on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> for accounts that have a balance due
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month a 48-hour Shut Off door tag is issued for a balance 45 days past due; a delinquency notice fee is charged at that time
- Once disconnected, a reconnect fee plus the account balance must be paid to have service restored
- If an NSF notice is received, payment by check will no longer be accepted for a period of 6 months

### Water and Sewer Fees – per Council Resolution 479-19

- New account fee \$50.00
- Late Fee \$ 5.00
- Delinquency Notice (Red-Tag) Fee \$20.00
- Disconnection/Reconnection Fee \$35.00
- After hours disconnect/reconnect fee \$75.00
- Transfer account to landlord \$20.00
- Return Check Fee \$40.00

### Miscellaneous Utility Information

All water meters in Donald are equipped with backflow devices which are tested yearly by an outside agency. The cost of the backflow testing is paid for through the collection of water bills.

All properties in Donald are equipped with a septic tank. A control box with an alarm is located on your property. If the alarm sounds, call the Public Works Emergency pager; this number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.