

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01

**REGULATING THE CALCULATION FOR UTILITY
RATES FOR GAS, WATER, AND SEWER SERVICES**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON, LA:

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the calculation of utility rates for gas, water, and sewer services, to ensure financial sustainability of the utility system, and to limit excessive rate increases.

Section 2. Definitions

- **Sustainability Ratio:** The ratio of total revenue to total expenses for the utility services.
- **Utility Services:** Services provided by the town for gas, water, and sewer.

Section 3. Rate Setting

(a) The rates for gas, water, and sewer services shall be set to maintain a minimum sustainability ratio of 1.15 per service.

(b) Once the sustainability ratio of 1.15 is achieved, any subsequent rate increases shall not exceed 12 percent increase annually of the current rate per service.

Section 4. Review and Adjustment

(a) The Town shall review the utility rates at a minimum bi-annually to ensure compliance with this ordinance. Total expenses shall include funding a contingency fund dedicated to utility emergency maintenance and utility infrastructure improvements.

(b) Adjustments to the rates shall be made as necessary to maintain the minimum sustainability ratio and adhere to the maximum increase limit.

Section 5. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect on March 1, 2025, and shall remain in force until amended or repealed by the Town Council.

Section 6. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

THIS ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED on the 16th day of December 2024 the title having been read and the Ordinance advertised within the legal delays as provided for by law, and after been duly considered at a public hearing, a record vote was taken on the 17th day of February 2025. The final adoption of the foregoing ordinance having been duly moved and seconded, the roll was called, and the following votes were taken and recorded:

YEAS: Erick Fontenot, Beau Wilson, Rogers Malveaux, Tanya Doucet, Mary Lavergne
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

There being a favorable vote on the ordinance of at least a majority of the authorized members of the Town of Washington Council, the ordinance was declared adopted on this 17th day of February 2025.

Attest:

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing ordinance is a true and correct copy adopted at a regular meeting of the Mayor and the Council Members of the Town of Washington, Louisiana on the 17th day of February 2025.


Halli Polotzola, Municipal Clerk

This ordinance was delivered to the Mayor on the 18th day of February 2025.

This ordinance was approved by the Mayor on the 18th day of February 2025.


William Dwight Landreneau, Mayor