



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact Leslie Strickler [leslies@etrecommunications.com](mailto:leslies@etrecommunications.com), 804-240-0807

Or Clay Hamner [chamner@lythos.com](mailto:chamner@lythos.com), 804-339-5818

May 30, 2017

## City of Petersburg Utility Meter Rates

**Petersburg, Va:** As part of our ongoing review of the City's Utility Accounts, it was discovered that 1,716 customers with one-inch meters had been getting under billed. To verify our billing system discovery, we've conducted a physical survey to validate that 1,716 customers have, in fact, been getting underbilled. Since 2015, they have been getting billed at the rate for a smaller 5/8" meter on the capacity rate portion of their bill. The capacity rates for a 5/8" meter and a 1" meter are different. There are two parts of a water bill: capacity and usage. Together these rates determine the amount of the water bill.

The capacity rate doesn't change unless you install a different size meter. The size of the water meter in a home is determined by the builder or developer (not the city) and is based upon several factors. The larger meter can provide more water to more devices spread over a larger area. The meter determines the maximum amount of water that can flow into a home at any given time.

A 5/8" meter can surge water flow up to 20 gallons per minute or maintain continuous flow at 10 gallons per minute. A 1" inch meter can surge up to 50 gallons per minute or maintain 25 gallons per minute in continuous use.

Per the City Ordinance, the minimum monthly capacity rate for a 1" meter is \$17.06 for water and \$38.66 for sewer. If water usage is **over** zero, the customer will be billed the capacity rate plus consumption. If the water usage is zero you will only be billed for the capacity rate. Below is a summary of the changes in your bill over the last month.

Base Rate Chart as established by Petersburg City Code Sec 114-23 and Sec. 114-136

	5/8 Meter Rates	1 Inch Meter Rates
Water	\$6.82	\$17.06
Wastewater	\$15.47	\$38.66

On the utility billing statement with the due date of May 1, 2017, only the water capacity rate was increased to the correct amount. On the utility billing statement with the due date of May 31, 2017, the sewer capacity rate was increased to the correct amount. The May 31, 2017 utility bill statement reflects the fully corrected rates. The total increase for both water and sewer is \$33.43. So, the capacity rate portion of your water bill from May should be \$33.43 higher than your capacity rate from March. All of this information only applies to the 1,716 customers with 1” meters who have been getting under charged.

The current increase in the bill, for those 1,716 customers, is unrelated to the recent 13.4% passed by City Council in April 2017 which will be reflected in the utility bill due June 26, 2017. This rate increase is city wide and applies to ALL 11,500 utility customers. If you have questions regarding your utility bill please call 804-733-2349.

###