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DO BEGIN WITH OCTOBER'S UTILITY BILLS

a new utility charge when they get their statements in October. The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council in July with the adoption of Ordinance 273. The Ordinance essentially established a storm water drainage utility, pursuant to the establishment of the new utility fund will be to assist the City in

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paying for costs associated with the building, construction, reconstruction, repairing, enlarging, and/or any other manner, of the City's storm water drainage system. With the adoption of the Ordinance, the City Council established four (4) rate classes based on the land use of a particular property. Residents and property owners will pay anywhere from \$2 to \$8 per month based off of the rate classes below:

<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>Land Use Description</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
1.	Residential, 0.0-0.9 acres	\$2
2.	Residential, 1.0+ acres Multifamily, 2-15 units Churches, Public-Institutional, Commercial, Business, Industrial, & Mixed-Use Properties, 0.0-4.9 acres	\$4
3.	Multifamily, 16+ units Churches, Public-Institutional, Commercial, Business, Industrial, & Mixed-Use Properties, 5.0-9.9 acres	\$6
4.	Churches, Public-Institutional, Commercial, Business, Industrial, & Mixed-Use Properties, 10+ acres	\$8

Public right-of-ways, wetlands and public waters, vacant and undeveloped land, agricultural land, and land owned by the City are all exempt from charges. Land uses not listed will be assigned a rate by the City. The Ordinance also established a Storm Water Access or Connection Charge (SWAC) for every new or improved property that enters the City's storm water system. The SWAC charge is \$1 per 100 square feet of a lot size or area with a minimum charge of \$100. A complete copy of ordinance 273 can be read online at the City's website or viewed at City Hall.

STORM WATER DRAINAGE UTILITY Q & A

Why did the City of Arlington Establish a Storm Water Drainage Utility?

The City needs a continuous, dedicated funding source to meet growing storm water management needs. The City is required to address new state, federal, and county regulations regarding protecting and improving the water quality of surface water within the City. Items like storm water ponds are regulated at the state level and the City is ultimately responsible for making sure those items are properly taken care of. This dedicated revenue source will enable Arlington to provide improved flood protection, storm water system maintenance, water quality protection, erosion and sediment control, improved High Island Creek water quality and wetland/resource protection.

Why is more funding needed for storm sewer maintenance and improvements?

Much of Arlington's storm sewer system was built decades ago when the community was much smaller. This system is often undersized in comparison to today's standards, and does not always provide protection from large, uncommon storm events. This results in street and yard flooding along with standing water during heavy rainfalls. As the City began to take a look at upgrading these systems, they were looking for the fairest way of paying for these upgrades. The City Council determined that the fairest way to pay for these upgrades was through a storm water drainage utility.

How are the Fees Based?

Fees are not based on the value of the property, but instead are based off of the type and size of the lot. Larger lots and lots with more storm water runoff pay more. A list of charges by rate class are available within the enabling ordinance and/or at City Hall.



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utility bill and will be treated just like another utility account with the

by the fees?

The fees collected can only be used for storm water management. The fees collected will help pay for the following:

- Repair and maintenance of existing storm sewer and ponds
- Replacement of undersized pipe and the repair of breaks
- Installation of new storm water system
- Surface water quality and wetland protection measures
- Flood reduction measures

In addition to the above uses, the City could issue bonds for large improvement projects with the revenue from the fees used to help with the payoff. In the past, property taxes and special assessments helped pay for the bonds.

Do other cities in Minnesota have storm water utilities?

More and more cities are establishing storm water utilities to help pay for costs associated with their storm water system. Cities as small as Twin Valley (821) and as large as St. Paul have storm water utilities. Gaylord is the closest city to Arlington with one.

Will rates increase each year?

At this time, there is no scheduled rate increase in the foreseeable future. Rates will be reviewed by the City Council on an annual basis.

Since rates vary by property type and size, how can I find out what fee is being charged for my property and/or how it was established? What if I disagree with my property's classification or size?

Contact Liza Donabauer or Lisa Tesch at City Hall (507-964-2378).