



THIS IS EL DORADO

Rate increase to fund needed improvements to water, sewer



City staff clear one of the pumps that move wastewater out to the Wetlands and Water Reclamation Facility.

Did you know debris and discarded items in the wastewater system regularly cause the equipment that pumps the raw sewage to the Wetlands and Water Reclamation Facility to become clogged? Those pumps must then be cleaned out manually by staff, who are exposed to the raw sewage to complete the task. Did you know a water leak can often go undetected for up to two months before a homeowner will see the effect on their bill? Do you suffer with low water pressure where you live?

Among the Public Utilities projects being proposed in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, which will be completed over the next five years, is a wastewater influent grinder replacement that will prevent the pumps from becoming clogged; automated water meters that allow earlier detection of leaks; and a northeast booster pump to increase water pressure in that area. These are just three of a variety of projects that will guarantee the continued water and sewer services our residents expect.

In preparation for these, and other, projects, the City of El Dorado had a water rate study completed. This helped determine where rates should be to fund the various projects over the next five years, including the 2024 increase approved by the City Commission at their first June meeting. For the average El Dorado home (based on water use of 5,600 gallons a month), the increase will be 38 cents

What's Happening in El Dorado

- **July 1 & 15** - City Commission Meetings
- **July 1** - Community Potluck @ Senior Center
- **July 3** - Chamber Chat
- **July 3** - El Dorado Municipal Band Concert
- **July 4** - Independence Day Celebration (See below)
City Offices Closed
Thursday trash will be picked up Wednesday
- **July 6** - Living History Day @ KS Oil Museum
- **July 7** - Farmers and Art Market @ East Park
- **July 11** - Thursday Speaker Series @ KS Oil Museum
- **July 11** - Thankful Thursday
- **July 11** - El Dorado Municipal Band Concert and Bake Sale
- **July 16** - Coutts Brown Bag Program
- **July 16** - Library Book Club
- **July 17-22** - Butler County 4-H Fair
- **July 18** - El Dorado Municipal Band Concert with Kansas Army 35th Infantry Band
- **July 19** - Coutts Museum of Art Annual Fundraiser
- **July 21** - Farmers and Art Market @ East Park (Kid Entrepreneur Day)
- **July 25** - El Dorado Municipal Band

a month for water and 69 cents a month for sewer, bringing the total increase to just over \$1 a month beginning in July 2024. This will give you an idea of where your rates will be when you compare your monthly water usage to the 5,600 average.

In addition to this year's increase, there are also proposed rate increases which will be presented to the El Dorado City Commission in future years. For the average household use, those monthly increases are proposed to only be: \$1.07 in 2024; \$1.59 in 2025; \$1.69 in 2026; \$1.98 in 2027; and 97 cents in 2028.

In addition to water and sewer, the City Commission also recently approved a trash rate increase to help fund new equipment and the continued level of service currently provided. Beginning in July 2024, trash will increase \$1 a month; with proposed increases of 50 cents in 2025; no change in 2026; 50 cents in 2027; and no change in 2028.

The proposed increases will only be brought to the Commission if needed. You can learn more about the automated metering, along with other projects and the proposed rate changes at www.eldoks.com.

Fourth of July Celebration

All events are **FREE** to the public

East Park

- **9 a.m. to noon** - Fourth of July Events
 - Bike parade, turtle races, water balloons, dunk tank, inflatable obstacle course, then lunch at 11:30 with frozen custard by Freddy's (while supplies last)

El Dorado Municipal Pool

- **1 to 4 p.m.** - Swim at the Municipal Pool

McDonald Stadium

- **5:30 p.m.** - Concert featuring Veteran Shannon Book
- **6 p.m.** - U.S. WarDogs Ceremony Honoring Veterans
 - Includes presentation of two service dogs, flyover, Purple Heart recognition and more
- **7 p.m.** - El Dorado Walnuts vs. WarDogs Baseball Game
- **Following the Game** - Fireworks



- Mayor Bill Young read a proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week.
- The Commission approved a bid and contract award of \$6,561,994.30 from Nowak Construction for the Central Avenue Improvement Projects, including construction of a storm sewer system along Central from the Kansas Oil Museum to Gordy Street; construction of a new 16-inch water transmission line on Central from Gordy to Denver; resurfacing/ replacement of pavement on Central from east of Gordy to Denver; and construction of intersection bulb outs at First and Main and Pine and Main.
- Following a public hearing, the Commission approved resolutions stating the following properties are unsafe or dangerous and must be repaired or removed and the premises made safe and secure, including, 434 W. Cave Springs, 1108 Sheldon, 308 N. Taylor, 724 N. Topeka and 616 W. Towanda.
- The Commission approved the rezoning of 78.3 acres on West Towanda Avenue (SW 10th Street) to R3 Residential Multi Family and amended the zoning map of the city.
- The Commission accepted the Belly Acres Plat, located outside the city limits but within the extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- The Commission approved an ordinance annexing vacant land on the north side of West Towanda Avenue (SW 10th Street) into the City of El Dorado.
- The Commission approved a document outlining the City Commission's priorities to help guide the allocation of municipal resources. The priorities focus on the areas of housing, quality of life, economic prosperity, safety and connectedness, and community beautification.

Watch the full meetings at eldoks.com/135/Agendas-Minutes-and-Videos

Are you installing a fence or pool? Here are some guidelines.

Summer is upon us and we want to take a moment to remind everyone about an important aspect of community safety. If you're planning to install a fence, please remember that a permit is required. There are specific requirements for a standard lot versus a corner lot. You can learn more on our website at: www.eldoks.com/QuickLinks.aspx?CID=45

Similarly, if you're considering a pool installation, a permit may be necessary depending on the depth of the pool. Permits are not required for any pool holding less than 24 inches of water, but they are required, along with fencing, for larger pools.

If you have any questions or need guidance regarding permits, feel free to reach out to our Building and Engineering Department at 321-9100. Your safety and well-being are our top priorities, and we're here to assist you every step of the way.

Does My Pool Need a Permit?

Permit Not Required - Any pool holding less than 24" of water



Permit AND Fence Required



Shooting Fireworks in El Dorado

Fireworks can be shot during the following times on your private property (do not discharge fireworks on public property or someone else's private property without permission):

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| June 27-July 3 | 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. |
| July 4 | 8 a.m. to midnight |
| July 5 | 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. |

Please clean up all firework debris. Report violations by calling 322-4398.