

Salem City Residents,

Thank you to many residents who have changed their outside watering habits and cut down on water use. Residents typically use 60% to 70% of their annual water usage on outside watering, which in Salem comes from our pressurized irrigation system. Since we live in a desert and understand the importance of preserving our valuable water resources (even after a snowy winter), we continue to encourage each resident to water wisely.

The most effective and fairest way to encourage wise watering is to charge people for exactly the water they use. Over the last two years, Salem City has been installing meters on the Pressurized Irrigation System, which has been mandated by the state to help conserve water. The city has been working with Hansen Allen & Luce, an engineering consulting firm, to come up with a fair rate structure for the metered Pressurized Irrigation System that encourages conservation. During the March 15, 2023, city council meeting, Hansen Allen & Luce presented to the council their recommended rate structure. The council approved Resolution 31523C adopting the new rates, as follows:

1" Meter Base Rate - \$30.13

Usage	Proposed Rate (\$/1,000gal)
Tier 1 (from 0-20,000 gal)	\$0.50
Tier 2 (from 20,001 -50,0000 gal)	\$1.05
Tier 3 (from 50,001 – 80,000 gal)	\$1.50
Tier 4 (from 80,001 - up gal)	\$2.20

(Most residents have a 1" meter, for other meter sizes base rate, please see the city website)

Example: If you use 20,000 gallons for the month, your month's bill would be: \$40.13 (\$30.13 base + \$10.00 usage (20 x \$.50))

YEARLY BASE RATE. The base rate will be charged year-round. The reasoning behind this decision was to spread that cost out over the year, rather than have really big bills in the summer months. This was also supported by the residents when the P.I. System was started.

METER/USAGE. With meters in place, during the irrigation system season, residents will be charged for their actual water usage. If residents use a lot of water, their bills will increase. During the hot summer months, we strongly encourage residents to be mindful of how much water they use. Residents whose meters were installed last year can view their actual usage on their utility bills in Xpress Bill Pay accounts (although we did not charge by usage last year because not all the meters were installed). Residents can create an account with Xpress Bill Pay (link on city web page) and view their prior months' bills. You do not have to use their service to pay your bills, but you can use the services to view your prior bills.

WHEN THE NEW RATES WILL BEGIN. The city is anticipating having all the meters in place before May 1, 2023. At this time we will begin metering the water usage for the month of May. The new rates will not go into effect until June 1, 2023. This will give residents the opportunity in May to evaluate their watering habits or make changes in their landscaping if they desire. A letter will also be mailed the first part of June to show residents how many gallons of water they used in May.

WAYS TO CONSERVE. There are many ways residents can conserve water usage, here are some examples: 1 – Check sprinkler heads, make sure they are being efficient on their watering. 2- Turn off your sprinklers when it is raining/has rained. 3 – Only water when your lawn needs watering.

Here are some useful websites to view for other ideas/ways to conserve water usage:

Slow the Flow H2O - www.slowtheflow.org

Central Utah Water Conservancy District – www.cuwcd.com

Utah Department of Natural Resources – www.conservewater.utah.gov