

## **ORDINANCE NO. 08102020**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR REVISING THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY RATE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN WATER AND SEWER UTILITY RATES AND CHARGES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

***WHEREAS***, certain rates and charges related to the provision of water and sewer utility services to water and sewer utility customers are necessary to ensure that projected revenues are sufficient to cover projected expenses and financial obligations of the Water and Sewer Department; and

***WHEREAS***, those rates and charges for water and sewer utility services have been revised from time to time by the City Council; and

***WHEREAS***, the City of Merkel's last revision, on September 9, 2019, increased water rates to adjust for an increase in the cost of water from the City's water provider according to the Water Supply Contract; and

***WHEREAS***, at this time there is a need to revise current water and sewer rates and charges; and

***Whereas***, City staff has recommended that the City Council adopt the Four-Year Plan to Revise the Water and Sewer Utility Rate Schedule (Rate Schedule) effective November 1, 2020 and to also provide for automatic revisions to the Rate Schedule to be made effective in each of the three subsequent fiscal years in accordance with the respective Rate Schedules of the four-year plan; and

***Whereas***, the City Council of the City of Merkel is empowered to enact this Ordinance to ensure continued water and sewer utility service to the Citizens of Merkel and to those receiving water and sewer utility service outside the City Limits of the City of Merkel;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS, THAT:**

**PART ONE:** The schedule of rates and charges for water and sewer utility services adopted by Ordinance No. 09092019-2 on September 9, 2019 is hereby replaced by the respective Water and Sewer Utility Rate Schedule for each year of the Four-Year Plan for Revising the Water and Sewer Utility Rate Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part of this ordinance for all purposes.

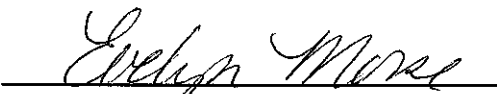
**PART TWO:** The effective date of the action for all customers shall be such that the first billing statement prepared in November 2020, and each November of the subsequent three years of the four-year plan, which generally reflects water used in the prior October, and all subsequent billing statements of each plan year, shall be based upon and reflect the rates presented in Exhibit "A".

**PART THREE:** City staff will annually review the Water and Sewer Utility Rate Schedule to ensure that projected revenues can cover all projected expenses and financial obligations of the Water and Sewer Department.

**PART FOUR:** This Ordinance adopting the Four-Year Plan for Revising the Water and Sewer Utility Rate Schedule shall be kept on file in the City Secretary's office and in the Water Utility office.

**PASSED AND APPROVED on this, the 10th day of August 2020.**

  
Mayor, Mary Schramper

Attest:   
City Secretary, Evelyn Morse

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney, Claudia Clinton