



Your Water and Sewer Rates

The City of Titusville has been working to develop utility rates that meet the projected expenditure requirements of the water and sewer systems in order to maintain a financially sound utility and fund its anticipated needs. In September of 2001, the City Council adopted a new rate structure that addresses these objectives. Below are the answers to some of the commonly asked questions regarding the new rates.

Rates in General

? *What is the difference between this year's water and sewer rates and last year's rates?*

In September of 2001, the City of Titusville changed the entire rate structure for water and sewer service. Rates were changed to reflect the actual costs to provide these services, as well as promote the conservation of our valuable water resources and comply with the rate covenants of outstanding loans. The rates have two components: (1) a fixed monthly charge based on meter size, and (2) a volume charge based on usage. As a result, the effect of the new rates varies depending upon the type of customer, meter size, and usage. **The average residential customer experienced a 2% increase in his/her monthly water/sewer bill.**

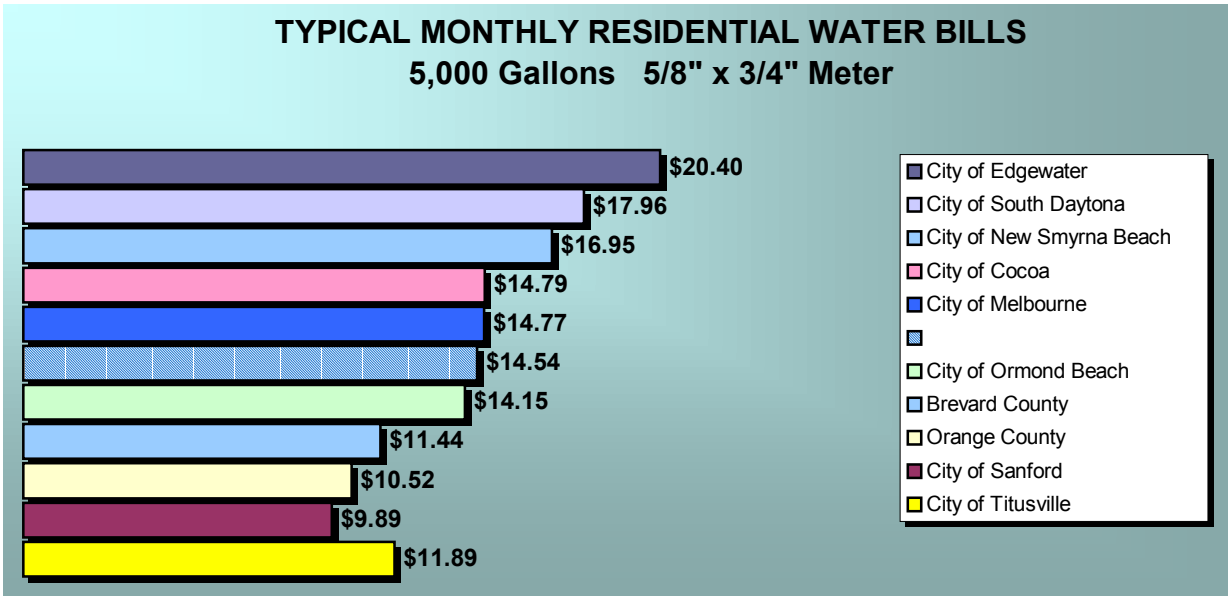
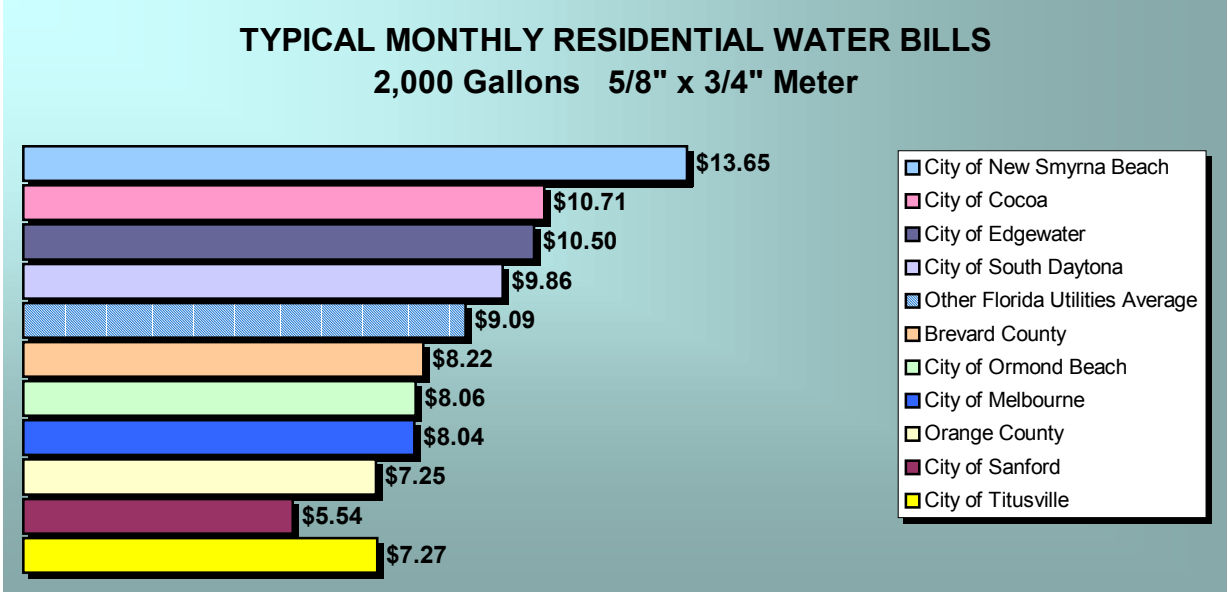
? *How does the City's water and sewer rates compare with the rates charged by other utilities and/or cities?*

The water and sewer rates charged by a city or utility depend upon a number of factors such as the source of water, the type and amount of treatment (for both water and sewer), the number of and type of customers served, age of system, debt requirements, local growth, and long-range objectives. As previously noted, the City of Titusville restructured its water and sewer rates to meet projected expenditures and anticipated needs. In addition, it developed rates that were based on cost-of-service principles so that the components of the monthly rates and user fees were restructured to match customer benefits and costs. Usage levels were established so that the rates promoted water conservation. Therefore, lower consumption corresponded to a lower cost per 1,000 gallons.

As shown on the following graphs, Titusville's water rates are highly competitive with other utilities. Titusville had the third lowest water rates when compared with 9 other regional utilities at a 2,000-gallon usage level. When usage was increased to 5,000 gallons, Titusville had the fourth lowest water rates.



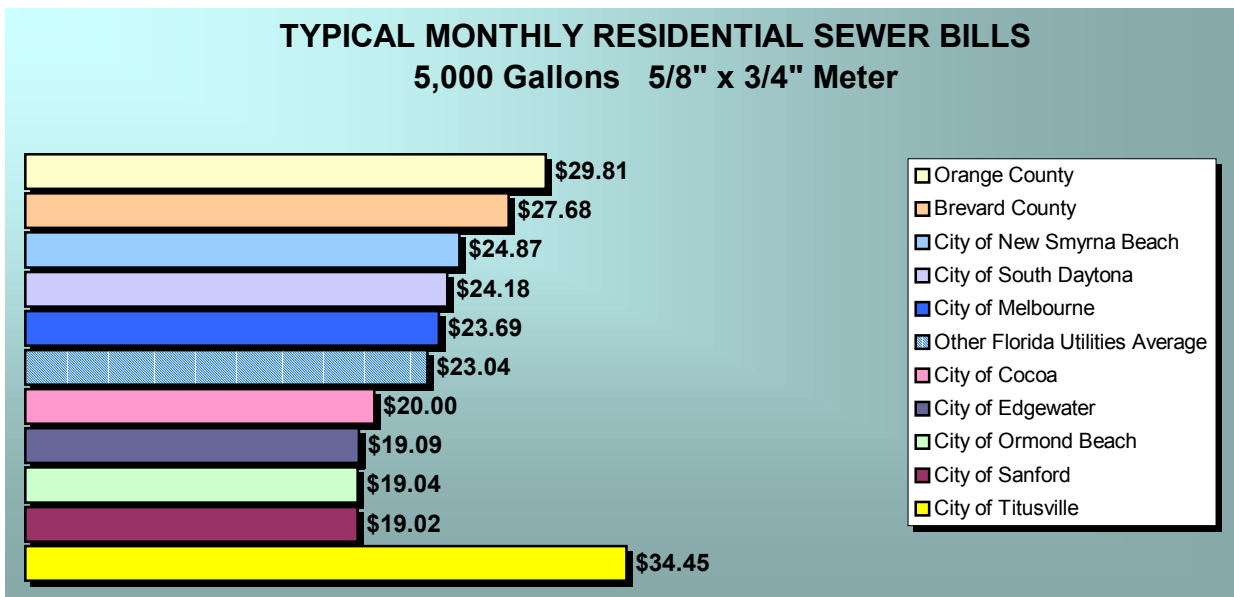
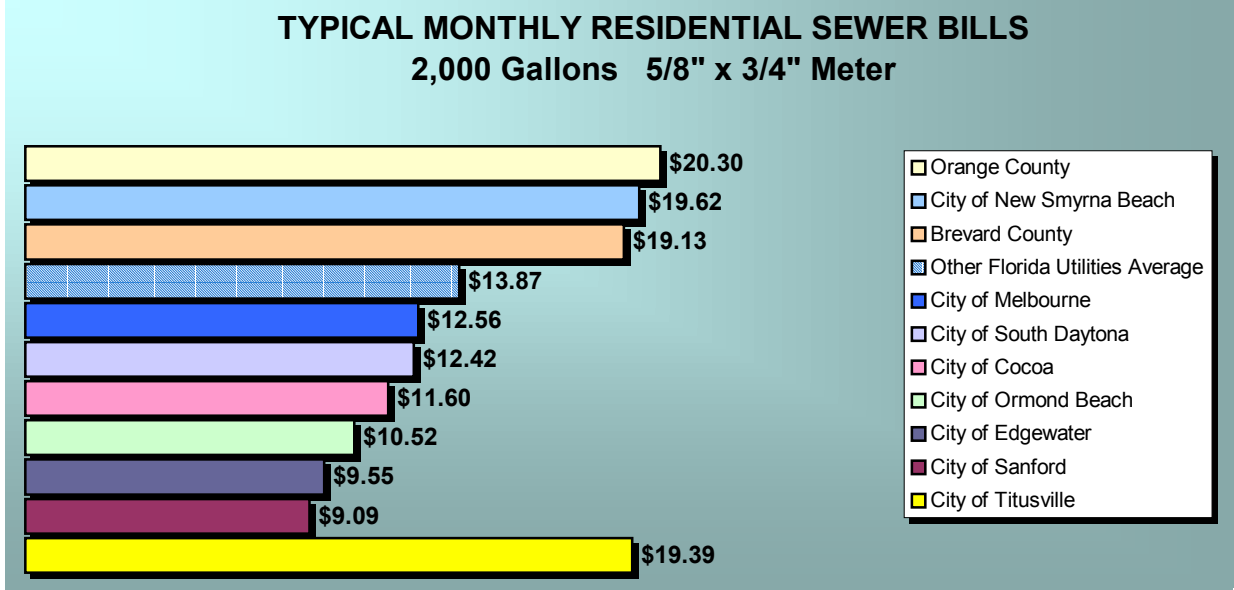
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However, when the same comparison was made for sewage rates (based on water usage of 2,000 and 5,000 gallons) Titusville's rates were less competitive.



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Fixed Monthly Charge

? *What is the fixed monthly charge? What does it fund compared to what consumption (usage) charges fund?*

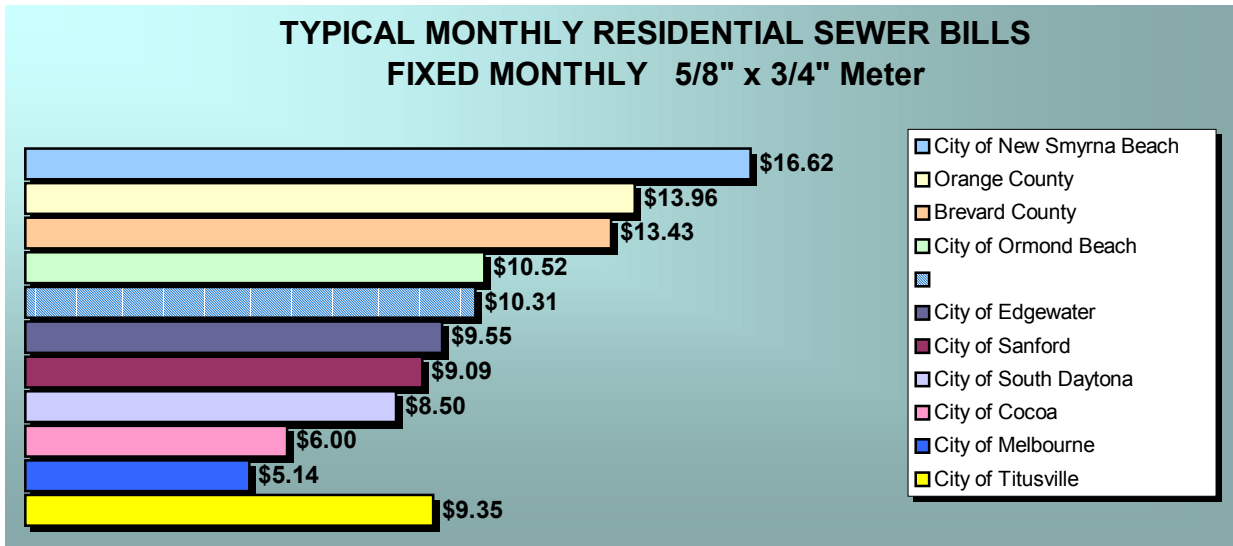
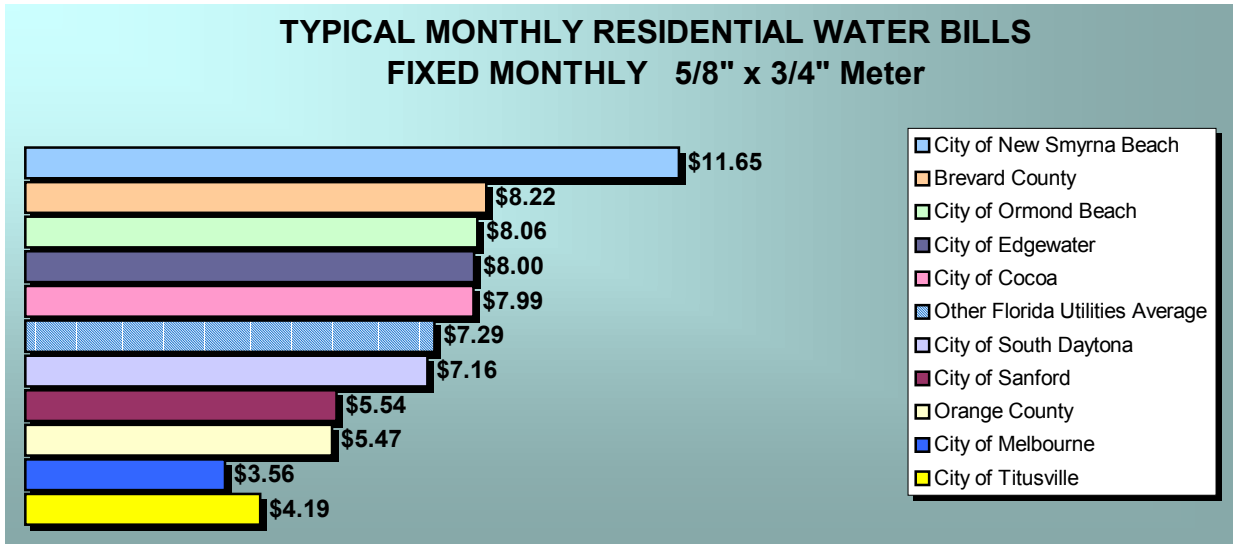
Under the old rate structure your water bill reflected a fixed monthly charge that recovered some of the costs of providing water and sewer service. Under the new rate structure, the fixed monthly charge was based on the actual cost to provide water and sewer service. These costs include billing, meter reading, debt service, system maintenance, and future water supply needs. Your fixed monthly charge is not dependent upon how much water you use. Consumption or usage charges, on the other hand, pay for variable costs such as the amount of



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electricity and chemicals used in treating, collecting and distributing water. This charge will vary each month depending upon how much water you use.

As shown in the following comparison of utilities, Titusville has the second lowest fixed monthly charge for water and the fifth lowest fixed monthly charge for sewer.



Temporarily Turning Off Service

? Do I still pay a fixed monthly charge if I have my meter temporarily turned off while I'm out of town?

Yes. Much like the other utility bills you pay, even though you have temporarily turned off your meter, the service is still being provided to you by the City. You will be charged a \$15 administrative fee when your service is turned back on.



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Notification

? *What public notification was given on the new rates and rate structure?*

The City of Titusville strives to keep its citizens informed of all local issues. In order to amend the water, sewer, and reclaimed water rate structure, the City used several different avenues to let its citizens know of the rate changes:

- A notice was placed on all water bills from the end of June (2001) through the beginning of September (2001) stating when and where public hearings would be held on the possible rate changes.¹
- The ordinance² that amended the water and sewer rates was advertised in the *Brevard* section of the *Orlando Sentinel*.
- The rate changes were presented four times to the City Council at public meetings. The final presentation was a public hearing on the ordinance, whereby the public could present any comments to the Council.³
- Titusville City Council meetings are broadcast on channel 99 or 1 through Time Warner Cable. In addition to the live broadcasts, the meetings were taped and rebroadcast on the Saturday following each meeting. They were also rebroadcast on the Space Coast Government (SGTV) channel.

¹F.S.180.136; ²Ordinance 33-2001; ³F.S.166.041

Further Information

? *Where can I get more information?*

For more information, please contact the following:

Water/Sewer Billing:

Utility Billing

Located: First floor of City Hall
555 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville, FL 32796

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: (321) 383-5790 OR
(321) 383-5791

Conservation:

Water Resources Department
Community Programs Coordinator

Located: Mourning Dove Water Production Facility
2836 Garden Street, Titusville, FL 32796

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 383-5669

Fax: (321) 383-5653