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The proposed tax rate stays the same. The water rate does not change for residential or business customers, except gas well businesses. But, an increase in wastewater rates is proposed for fiscal year 2009/2010.

The proposed tax rate for 2009/2010 is the same rate, 69.4 cents per \$100 valuation, as this current fiscal year. The average Burleson home is valued at \$125,268. The average City tax bill for 2009-2010 will be \$870 a year or \$72 a month. If you are 65 years of age or older, your City taxes are frozen.

There is no change to the residential or commercial rates for City water in the 2009-2010 budget. The rate per 1,000 gallons varies from \$3.40 to \$4.75, depending on your usage. The base rate varies from \$11 to \$819.70 based on your meter size. Most residential meters will be at the \$11 base rate.

The monthly minimum wastewater charge is increasing from \$11.20 to \$12.60 a month. The volume-based wastewater rate is increasing from \$3.26 to \$3.67 per 1,000 gallons.

The proposed 2009-2010 City of Burleson budget does not include any salary increases for cost of living, merit, or step-pay adjustments for employees. The new budget does include a one-time payment of \$650 for all hourly and non-management employees to help offset the 12.5 percent increase in employee health insurance coverage.

Highlights of the 2009-2010 proposed budget include the partial year funding of a school resource officer for the new high school that is expected to open in August 2010; a full year of funding for six new firefighters to staff Station 3 in south Burleson; the elimination of a \$44,352 subsidy to MedStar ambulance; and, extension of the time for replacement of police patrol vehicles and motorcycles from three years to four years (traffic vehicles will stay on a three-year replacement schedule). Elimination of the subsidy to MedStar does not affect the service provided by MedStar to the citizens of Burleson. The City's subsidy lowers the cost of a typical transport by about \$135.

For more information about the proposed budget and proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2009/2010, go to the City of Burleson web site, www.burlesontx.com, click on "Public Notices" in the blue online features box in the center of the home page, click on "public hearings," then click on "2009/2010 Budget Brief." The second public hearing on the tax rate is set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Burleson City Hall. The budget and tax rate will be adopted at the Sept. 21 Burleson City Council meeting.