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Burleson City Council members unanimously approved the City's \$71 million budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 and a tax rate of \$0.6900 per \$100 valuation at tonight's Sept. 17 council meeting.

That \$71 million budget includes the two largest funds - \$27.2 million in the General Fund and \$18.7 million in the Water and Wastewater Fund.

The tax rate remains the same as Fiscal Year 2011-2012 with the money brought in during Fiscal Year 2012-2013 going to maintenance and operations (\$0.5278) and debt service (\$0.1622). The average home is currently valued at \$120,049. The average City tax bill in Fiscal Year 2013 is expected to be \$828.34 per year or \$69.03 per month. The average home value has gone down from the Fiscal Year 2012 value of \$122,063. The average City tax bill in Fiscal Year 2012 was \$842.23 per year. The average residential City tax bill will see a reduction for the third consecutive year.

The General Fund covers the majority of City services, including the library, parks, police, fire, streets and administrative services. Expenditures are \$27.2 million. Water and Wastewater accounts for the maintenance and upkeep of the City's water and wastewater system as well as the purchase of water service and wastewater disposal services provided via a contract with the City of Fort Worth.

Taxpayers will see two changes to their billing. The new budget includes a 3 percent increase in the volumetric water rates (charge per 1,000 gallons of water). Rates will become \$3.50 for the first 10,000 gallons used, \$4.22 for the next 10,000 gallons used and \$4.89 for anything over 20,000 gallons. Rates for gas well drilling remain the same at \$11.39 per 1,000 gallons. This is the first time since 2008 that the City has raised water rates.

The rate for trash and curbside recycling will also increase from \$17 a month to \$18.10 a month due to an increase in the cost of waste collection and mulching services. The City contracts with Progressive Waste Solutions/IESI and Community Waste Disposal (CWD) for trash and curbside recycling services.

There are no changes to the wastewater rates. The monthly minimum is \$15.25 and the volume based wastewater rate is \$4.44 per 1,000 gallons. The usage is

calculated using the winter quarter average, which is the average of the usage billed in January/February/March.

Highlights of the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 include a pay increase of 3 percent for civilian employees and the reinstatement of a step plan for police officers and firefighters with a minimum increase of 3 percent. Funds are budgeted for administrative support for the library and Municipal Court will add a city marshal via a court security fund. The City also has funds budgeted to address facility needs.

For more details about the planning process for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, go to [www.burlesontx.com/budgetreports](http://www.burlesontx.com/budgetreports).