

**CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM

Council Bill 2019-531 – Approving certain language changes related to sewer billing and collecting

MEETING DATE

November 18, 2019

ORIGINATING DEPT

Finance

ATTACHMENTS

CB 2019-531 Ordinance

REVIEWED BY

Department Head: Leslie Haase; Public Works Director: David Hertzberg; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Dan Pekarek

SUMMARY

This Council Bill changes certain language to improve sewer billing and collection procedures.

BACKGROUND

The City bills residential users based on a winter quarter average for the months of December, January and February. If a resident isn't at the location for these winter quarter months, the City uses an "average" of 6,000 gallons by policy. This ordinance changes the language to include adjusting the average for these customers annually based on the actual average consumption of all residential customers rather than a set "average". This change has been factored into the wastewater rate study.

Additionally, this ordinance changes the language relating to when the late penalty is assessed. Currently, the late penalty is assessed at 30 days past due. However, the next bill is currently being generated and then the late penalty is assessed under the 30-day timeframe. As a result, customer's bills with past due amounts are incorrect due to this timing issue. Therefore, this ordinance changes the penalty assessment to 25 days, which will correct this issue.

The language changes will be effective on January 1, 2020.

FUNDING SOURCE

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends this council bill be approved on first reading.