

	<div>STAFF</div> <div>REPORT</div>
Date:	July 18, 2023
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Subject:	Winter Sewer Averaging for Commercial Businesses

In March of 2021, the Board of Aldermen approved Ordinance 2093-21, which made significant changes to the winter averaging process for new residential utility accounts by allowing a new account holder to elect for the residential winter sewer average without needing a previously established average. Previously, new Smithville residents were required to furnish a utility bill from their previous residence to establish an average, otherwise the wastewater portion of their bill would be billed in accordance with the water portion of the bill (which created a major financial burden when performing watering and landscaping activities during the summer months).

In addition, the ordinance expanded the exclusion from winter sewer averaging for just a few identified businesses (such as the Smithville School District, Carwashes), to all Smithville based businesses. That change meant that the wastewater portion of the bill would be based upon actual water used year-round, and not just the usage that occurred during the three months of December, January, and February. In performing calculations in 2023, it was discovered that the provision excluding all businesses from the winter sewer averaging process was not activated in the calculations.

As a result of this error, businesses are currently being averaged based upon their usage from the previous winter quarter and billed accordingly. Staff anticipates implementing the code language, as written, in March of 2024 when winter sewer calculations are updated for the new cycle so that all businesses are excluded from winter sewer averaging.