

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HAHIRA, GEORGIA

*First Reading: December 4, 2014*

*Second Reading: January 8, 2015*

*Third Reading: February 5, 2015*

To amend certain provisions of the Hahira City Code concerning water and wastewater rates and surcharges, and for other purposes,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira and it is hereby ORDAINED by the authority thereof:

I.

The existing Water and Wastewater Rate and Fee Schedule is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced by the Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges Schedule attached hereto as Attachment "A".

II.

A policy for a low-income senior citizen discount is hereby adopted. Details governing its implementation are attached hereto as Attachment "B". A form to assist its implementation is attached hereto as Appendix "A".

III.

A policy for perpetual annual water and sewer rate increases is hereby adopted as detailed hereto as Attachment "C".

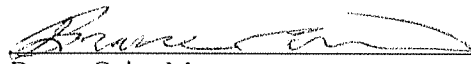
IV.

This Ordinance shall become effective on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.

V.

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

ORDAINED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Cain, Mayor

ATTEST  


\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

## ATTACHMENT “A”

### WATER AND SEWER RATE SCHEDULE

- I. The scheduled rates for residential and commercial water and wastewater service shall be as follows:

<u>GALLONS</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>4/1/15:</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>7/1/15:</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>10/1/15:</u>
<i>RESIDENTIAL WATER – INSIDE CITY LIMITS</i>				
First 3,000 (min.)	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$12.25	\$14.50
Per thousand after				
3,000	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60
<i>RESIDENTIAL WATER – OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS</i>				
First 3,000 (min.)	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$19.25	\$21.50
Per thousand after				
3,000	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60
<i>COMMERCIAL WATER</i>				
First 3,000 (min.)	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$24.25	\$26.50
Per thousand after				
3,000	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60
<i>RESIDENTIAL SEWER</i>				
First 3,000 (min.)	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$16.25	\$18.50
Per thousand after				
3,000	\$5.15	\$5.15	\$5.15	\$5.15
<i>COMMERCIAL SEWER</i>				
First 3,000 (min.)	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$23.25	\$25.50
Per thousand after				
3,000	\$5.40	\$5.40	\$5.40	\$5.40

## **ATTACHMENT “B”**

### **LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN UTILITY DISCOUNT**

#### **I. Granted.**

Each resident of the City or each resident receiving residential water and sewer service from the City who is the head of the household of the residential dwelling unit in which such person resides and upon whom is imposed a monthly residential water and/or sewer service charge for the residential dwelling unit in which such person resides, and who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who has a gross income from all sources, including the income of all members of such person’s family residing within such residential dwelling unit, not exceeding twenty-three thousand three-hundred-forty dollars (\$23,340) per annum, is hereby granted an exemption on the monthly bill for such service charge, which exemption shall be in the amount of the water and sewer base charge above twenty dollars (\$20.00). This amount, not to exceed \$23,340, is a ceiling set by Georgia Power for its Senior Discount Program via the Public Service Commission, and shall be modified from time to time as these agencies determine new income data.

#### **II. Charges for domestic water and sewer for low-income senior citizens.**

A. A low-income senior citizen domestic water and sewer rate is available to individuals who meet the eligibility requirements established in Section III below, subject to the terms and conditions as set forth therein.

B. Exclusion. A low-income senior citizen domestic water and sewer rate will be given only for a single residence served by one meter. Multiple living units serviced by one meter are specifically excluded from the low-income senior citizen domestic water and sewer charge rates.

C. Character of Service. Service shall be for single-family residential purposes only through a three-fourths-inch or a one-inch line.

D. Rates. The monthly base rate for low-income senior citizen domestic water and sewer shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00). There shall be no reduction in the consumption charge for all water and sewer usage in excess of 3,000 gallons per month.

#### **III. Eligibility for low-income senior citizen rate.**

A. The low-income senior citizen water and sewer rate (“the low-income senior rate”) is available to city water/sewer customers who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who have a gross income from all sources, including the income of all members of such person’s family residing within such residential dwelling unit, not exceeding twenty-three thousand three-hundred-forty dollars (\$23,340) per annum.

**B.** To apply for the low-income senior rate, the applicant must submit an affidavit, prepared upon forms prescribed and provided under Appendix A of this ordinance, to the City/Utilities Clerk. Such affidavit shall show the age of the person claiming the exemption on the date of the filing of such affidavit, the total amount of income received by such person's household from all sources during the immediately preceding calendar year from all sources by each other family member residing in the claimant's residential dwelling unit, together with a statement that such claimant's income, when added to the income of each other family member residing in such residential dwelling unit, will not exceed twenty-three thousand three-hundred-forty dollars (\$23,340) in the calendar year in which such affidavit is filed, the exact address of the residence of such claimant and such other information as may be required by the City/Utilities Clerk.

**C.** Income verification must be provided each year that the discounted rate is requested. The city utilities clerk or his/her designee, may require copies of the federal income tax return for the applicant, and the applicant's spouse or co-tenants living at the same location.

**D.** The discount is granted for the duration of the calendar year, with the provision of a grace period at the beginning of the year to accommodate renewals. On April 1st of each year, all accounts without a current approved application on file at the city will be returned to the full rate schedule effective with the period beginning with the April billing cycle.

**E.** Furnishing false information to obtain discounted rate is deemed unlawful. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully furnish any false information in order to qualify for a reduced water and sewer rate.

**F.** The procedure upon recipient's disqualification is stipulated in this section. In the event that any person has qualified under this ordinance for a reduced water and sewer service charge and, subsequent thereto, such person becomes disqualified therefor, it shall be the duty of such person to immediately so notify the City/Utilities Clerk, who shall remove such person's name from the list of those receiving such exemption. In the event that any such person fails to so notify the City/Utilities Clerk and continues to receive such exemption after being no longer qualified therefor, such person shall be immediately liable to the City for the difference the amount actually paid for water and sewer service by such person and the amount that would have been required to be paid by such person without such exemption. Upon the refusal of such person to pay such difference, the City/Utilities Clerk shall cause all City utility service to be discontinued as to such person's residence until such time as they have paid the difference in full.

**G.** Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished as provided for in this ordinance and, in addition thereto, if such person has obtained an exemption under this ordinance when not entitled thereto, such person shall be required to pay, in full, the amount of exemption obtained by such person to which such person was not entitled. Upon the failure of such person to make such payment, the City/Utilities Clerk shall cause all City utility services to be discontinued as to such person's residence until such time as the improperly obtained exemption is paid in full.

## **ATTACHMENT “C”**

### **PERPETUAL WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASES**

I. On January 1, 2016, and on every January 1 thereafter, all base rates for water and sewer shall be increased by 3%.

APPENDIX A

CITY OF HAHIRA

APPLICATION FOR SENIOR CITIZEN-LOW INCOME  
WATER/SEWER SERVICE CHARGE APPLICATION

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINTED Name as shown on City Utility Bill)

Who, upon being duly sworn, did depose and say that deponent is \_\_\_\_\_ years of age.  
(Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_), and resides at:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Complete Street and City Address)

And that deponent is the head of household at such residence and liable for a residential water and sewer service charge at such residence; that the following named persons are all of the members of the deponent's family who reside in said residence with deponent at that the income for each of said named persons for the immediately preceding calendar year is set forth immediately beside each person's name:

	NAME:	AGE:	INCOME:
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

When requested by the City/Utilities Clerk, the deponent agrees to provide such written proof as to income as necessary to verify this application.

Deponent further says on oath that the deponent's total income from all sources will not, when added to the income of all said family members who reside in said residence with deponent, exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Deponent further says on oath that deponent fully believes that deponent is entitled to the senior citizen-low income water and sewer service exemption provided by ordinance.

Deponent understands that it is unlawful to furnish false information to the City to obtain this exemption.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Deponent: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

SEAL

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_