

RESOLUTION 2026-15

A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO INCREASE THE CITY OF HARLOWTON WATER AND SEWER RATES AND CHARGES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026, AND SET A DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Whereas, the water rates and charges that are in effect at the present time are not adequate to provide revenues to defray the costs of operation, maintenance, and capital of the distribution Facilities and Systems for the City of Harlowton.

Whereas, the water and sewer rates were reviewed to insure that charges are reasonable and just by the City of Harlowton City Council.

Whereas, the provision of the water and sewer systems and facilities is essential to the preservation of the public health and welfare and that the new rate must, before taking effect, be approved by the council of the City of Harlowton after advertising and conducting a public hearing pursuant to the rules and regulations (MCA 7-1-4127).

Whereas, the current budgetary requirements with respect to the operation of said facilities, to address rising operational costs, infrastructure maintenance, and system improvements necessary to ensure reliable water and sewer services, require that the rates become effective on July 1, 2026, if the City Council approves the increase in rates at the June 9, 2026 Council meeting. The new rates per EDU will be

Central MT Rural Water Base Rate \$37.72

Water Base Rate \$49.16

Water Usage \$1.75/1000 gallons

Sewer Base Rate \$62.76

Sewer Usage \$1.75/2000 gallons

Solid Waste \$2.23

Meter Fee \$2.00*

*Meter Fee is to help offset the cost of replacement water meters for the residence.

Whereas, rates will be increased by Council 2-3% each year for the next two years. Increase to become effective the beginning of each fiscal year July 1, 2027 and July 1, 2028;

Whereas, pursuant to Montana Law (MCA 7-1-4131), the City of Harlowton City Council have determined that a public meeting must be advertised and held to gather public testimony and input regarding the proposed increase in water and sewer rates and charges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Harlowton City Council:

1. That the Harlowton City Council considers it both advisable and necessary to increase the municipal water and sewer rates for all users and;

That a public hearing will be held on May 26, 2026, at 6:30pm at Harlowton Public Library. The public hearing will be held and will be followed by a board discussion and a vote on the proposed water and sewer rate increase.

2. Notice of the hearings shall be posted in conformance with MCA 7-1-4127 or MCA 69-7-111 in a local newspaper between fourteen (14) and twenty-one (21) days prior to the hearing. 3. Additionally, the notice of the hearing shall be mailed at least fifteen (15) days and not more than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing to all known residences/businesses served by the town.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Harlowton on the 9th day of June 2026.

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer