

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1274, SUB 11

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Application by Lake Junaluska Assembly,)	
Incorporated for Authority to Amend Its Tariff)	
to Increase Rates for Providing Water and)	ORDER APPROVING TARIFF
Sewer Utility Service for the Increased Cost)	REVISION AND REQUIRING
of Purchased Water and Sewer from the)	CUSTOMER NOTICE
Town of Waynesville in Its Service Area in)	
Haywood County, North Carolina)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 27, 2023, Lake Junaluska Assembly, Incorporated (LJA), filed a letter with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission), pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water and sewer customers in its Lake Junaluska Assembly service area in Haywood County an increase in the cost of purchasing bulk water and sewer treatment service from the Town of Waynesville (Waynesville). On August 7, 2023, LJA filed the required verification. Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) has reviewed the current rates for water service. LJA has two usage charges for water service for: (1) customers who receive both metered water and sewer service; and (2) customers who receive metered water service only. Waynesville charges LJA its bulk water and sewer usage rates for all water purchased by LJA. For LJA’s metered water-only customers, the water usage charge includes the additional component of the bulk sewer usage charge from Waynesville. The Public Staff’s water rate calculations account for the current regulatory fee of 0.1475%. The Public Staff recommends that LJA be allowed to increase its usage charge for metered water service by \$0.19 per 100 cubic feet (ccf), increasing the rate from \$2.69 per ccf to \$2.88 per ccf, and increase its usage charge for metered water only by \$0.10 from \$6.55 per ccf to \$6.65 per ccf.

LJA provides sewer service to both metered sewer customers and flat rate sewer customers. An increase in only the usage charge would have no effect on flat rate customers, leaving metered customers to bear the full impact of the increase in the cost of sewer treatment. Therefore, the Public Staff used the rate design approved in LJA's certificate of public convenience and necessity in Docket No. W-1274, Sub 7, as reflected in the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry, Casselberry Exhibit No. 11, filed on December 20, 2019, and adjusted the rates to reflect an increase of \$19,456 in revenue for purchased sewer treatment. The Public Staff's sewer revenue increase accounts for the current regulatory fee of 0.1475%.

LJA's current rates and the Public Staff's recommended rates for sewer service are shown below:

Monthly Metered Sewer Service: (Residential and Commercial)

	Present Rates	Public Staff Recommend Rates
Base facility charge (zero usage)		
3/4" meter	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00
1" meter	\$ 42.50	\$ 42.50
2" meter	\$ 136.00	\$ 136.00
3" meter	\$ 255.00	\$ 255.00
4" meter	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00
Usage charge, per 100 cubic feet	\$ 5.95	\$ 6.39
Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 7.95	\$ 8.54

Monthly Flat Rate Sewer Service (Residential and Commercial)

	Present Rates	Public Staff Recommend Rates
Sewer Only		
Residential (3/4" meter)	\$ 33.00	\$ 34.25
Commercial (3/4" meter)	\$ 33.00	\$ 34.25
Restaurant	\$ 264.00	\$ 274.00
Mobile Home Park	\$ 495.00	\$ 513.75

The new rates will increase the average metered residential monthly water and sewer bill by \$1.75, from \$60.03 to \$61.78 based on an average usage of 2.78 per ccf (not including \$16.28 for the water and sewer capital improvement assessment). The average usage was determined in the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry, Casselberry Exhibit No. 10, filed on December 20, 2019, in Docket No. W-1274, Sub 7.

SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

MONTHLY METERED SERVICE: (Residential and Commercial)

Base Facilities Charge (zero usage)		Assessment
3/4" meter	\$ 17.00	\$ 8.14
1" meter	\$ 42.50	\$ 20.35
2" meter	\$ 136.00	\$ 65.12
3" meter	\$ 255.00	\$ 122.10
4" meter	\$ 425.00	\$ 203.50
Usage Charge, per 100 cubic feet	\$ 6.39	
Usage Charge, per 1000 gallons	\$ 8.54	

MONTHLY FLAT RATE: (Residential and Commercial)

<u>Sewer only:</u>		Assessment
Residential (3/4 inch meter)	\$ 34.25	\$ 8.14
Commercial (3/4 inch meter)	\$ 34.25	\$ 8.14
Restaurant	\$ 274.00	\$ 65.12
Mobile Home Park	\$ 513.75	\$ 122.10

Reconnection Charges:

If water service is cut off by utility for good cause	\$ 15.00
If sewer service is cut off by utility for good cause	\$ 15.00

Connection Charge:

Water	\$600
Sewer	\$600

Bills Due: On billing date

Bills Past Due: 25 days after billing date

Billing frequency: Shall be monthly for service in arrears

Finance Charge For Late Payment:

1% per month will be applied to the unpaid balance of all bills still past due 25 days after the billing date

Issued in Accordance with Authority by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1274, Sub 11, on this the 22nd day of August, 2023

SCHEDULE OF RATES

For

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INCORPORATED

for providing water and sewer service

in

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY SERVICE AREA

Haywood County, North Carolina

WATER RATES AND CHARGES

MONTHLY METERED SERVICE: (Residential and Commercial)

Base Facilities Charge (zero usage)		Assessment
3/4" meter	\$ 19.01	\$ 8.14
1" meter	\$ 47.53	\$ 20.35
2" meter	\$ 152.08	\$ 65.12
3" meter	\$ 285.15	\$ 122.10
4" meter	\$ 475.25	\$ 203.50
Usage Charge, per 100 cubic feet	\$ 2.88	
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 3.85	

Water only: (Residential and Commercial)

Base Facilities Charge (zero usage)		Assessment
3/4" meter	\$ 19.01	\$ 8.14
1" meter	\$ 47.53	\$ 20.35
Usage Charge, per 100 cubic feet	\$ 6.65	
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 8.89	

This matter was presented at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on August 21, 2023. The Public Staff stated that LJA agrees with the Public Staff's recommended rates. The Public Staff further stated it had reviewed LJA's request and recommends that the tariff revision be approved.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that the tariff revision should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Lake Junaluska Assembly, Incorporated is granted a tariff revision for water and sewer utility service in Lake Junaluska Assembly service area in Haywood County, North Carolina, as set forth herein;
2. That the Schedule of Rates, attached as Appendix A, is approved and is deemed filed with the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-138. This Schedule of Rates shall become effective for service rendered on and after the date of this Order;
3. That a copy of the Notice to Customers, attached hereto as Appendix B, shall be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by Lake Junaluska Assembly to all its affected customers in Lake Junaluska Assembly's service area contemporaneously with the next billing of customers; and
4. That Lake Junaluska Assembly shall file with the Commission the attached Certificate of Service, properly signed and notarized, within 45 days of this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 22nd day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

DOCKET NO. W-1274, SUB 11

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has granted Lake Junaluska Assembly, Incorporated (Applicant), an increase in its water and sewer rates in its Lake Junaluska Assembly (LJA) service area in Haywood County, North Carolina.

The Applicant filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water and sewer customers in its LJA service area in Haywood County an increase in the cost of purchasing water and sewer treatment from the Town of Waynesville. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11 provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff reviewed the current rates for water service and recommends that LJA be allowed to increase its usage charge for metered water service by \$0.19 per 100 cubic feet (ccf), increasing the rate from \$2.69 per ccf to \$2.88 per ccf, and increase its usage charge for metered water only by \$0.10 from \$6.55 per ccf to \$6.65 per ccf. The Commission approved these increases effective for service rendered on and after the date of this notice.

The Public Staff reviewed the current rates for sewer treatment and recommends the rates for sewer service shown below which the Commission approved effective for service rendered on and after the date of this notice:

Monthly Metered Sewer Service: (Residential and Commercial)

	Present Rates	Approved New Rates
Base facility charge (zero usage)		
3/4" meter	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00
1" meter	\$ 42.50	\$ 42.50
2" meter	\$ 136.00	\$ 136.00
3" meter	\$ 255.00	\$ 255.00
4" meter	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00

Usage charge, per 100 cubic feet	\$ 5.95	\$ 6.39
Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 7.95	\$ 8.54

Monthly Flat Rate Sewer Service: (Residential and Commercial)

	Present Rates	Approved New Rates
Sewer Only		
Residential (3/4" meter)	\$ 33.00	\$ 34.25
Commercial (3/4" meter)	\$ 33.00	\$ 34.25
Restaurant	\$ 264.00	\$ 274.00
Mobile Home Park	\$ 495.00	\$ 513.75

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly bill from \$60.03 to \$61.78 based on an average usage of 2.78 per ccf (not including \$16.48 for the water and sewer capital improvement assessment).

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 22nd day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Carroll E Woody Jr, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers the attached Notice to Customers issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1274, Sub 11, and the Notice was mailed or hand delivered by the date specified in the Order.

This the 1st day of September, 2023.

By: Carroll E Woody Jr
Signature

LAKE JUVALUSKA ASSEMBLY
Name of Utility Company

The above named Applicant, Carroll E Woody Jr., personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that the required Notice to Customers was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission Order dated 7-27-23 in Docket No. W-1274, Sub 11.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the 1st day of September, 2023.

Laura M Lanning
Notary Public

Laura M Lanning
Printed Name



My Commission Expires: 3-15-27
Date