



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Kimberly Bruce  
Strategic Communications Manager**

---

**August 5, 2015**

**Phone: 779-348-7331**

**E-mail: [Kimberly.Bruce@rockfordil.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Bruce@rockfordil.gov)**

### **ROCKFORD TO HOST COMMUNITY INPUT SESSIONS AS IT CONSIDERS WATER RATE INCREASE**

Rockford, IL – The City will host two community input sessions this month as the City Council considers options for a water rate increase to pay for the replacement of old water pipes.

Many of the water pipes that deliver drinking water to Rockford residents and businesses need to be replaced. According to Water Superintendent Tim Holdeman, the City has about 860 miles of water pipes buried beneath the City. Approximately 120 miles of Rockford's water pipes are 80 years old or older. Many of the older pipes require frequent repairs. Holdeman says, "The pipes that have a frequent break history are the ones we are targeting for the Water Pipe Replacement Program."

At \$1.5 to \$2.5 million per mile, replacing the pipes will cost millions of dollars over the next several years. During City Council's Strategic Planning Session on June 27, the Water Division recommended spending an additional \$1 million per year for the next five years on replacing water pipes. Last night, Aldermen were presented four options for increasing the City's water rates. Each option will generate an additional 12 percent in revenue in 2016.

Currently, 65 percent of Rockford's residential customers are paying between \$18.28 and \$30.05 per month depending on the size of their meter and the amount of water used. If the increase is approved, the same water bills would be \$19.58 to \$33.66.

City Council will likely vote on the water rate increase in November. An insert explaining the Program was distributed with August water bills. Customers are encouraged to provide their feedback by going to the City's website <http://rockfordil.gov/> to complete a water survey or by attending one of the public meetings listed below.

Wednesday, August 26, 2015  
6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.  
Klehm Arboretum & Botanical Garden  
2715 S. Main St, Rockford

Thursday, August 27, 2015  
6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.  
U. of I. - College of Medicine  
Robert J. Vickrey, M.D., Auditorium (E207b)  
1601 Parkview Ave, Rockford