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December 30, 2024

Dear Hartford Resident,

As you know, maintaining and improving the infrastructure that supports our community's growth and well-being is a priority for the City of Hartford. The city is currently utilizing a lagoon system for our wastewater treatment, but these lagoons have reached their life expectancy. The construction of a new mechanical plant is underway.

The cost of this new wastewater treatment facility was originally estimated at \$16.7 million. Luckily, the city secured grants for over 1/2 of this cost but the remaining balance, approximately \$7.2 million, required the city to secure a State Revolving Fund loan. This is a 30-year loan at 2.125% interest and did require the city to place a \$26.00 surcharge on every sewer account to guarantee loan repayment.

Unfortunately, due to cost increases in supplies over the last few years, the estimated cost of the new wastewater treatment facility has increased to \$23.5 million, requiring the city to secure a second State Revolving Fund loan for \$5.75 million. This is also a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 3.25%. This second loan will require a 2nd surcharge of \$23.40 to be placed on every sewer account to guarantee loan repayment. This second surcharge will be implemented with your February 1st, 2025, water bill. This will bring the total surcharge for the new mechanical plant to \$49.40 per month, approximately \$1.65 per day.

We understand that any increase in fees can be concerning, but the new wastewater treatment facility will not only ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, but it is also vital to public health, environmental protection, and economic development. As our city grows, so does the need for infrastructure that can meet the demands of an expanding population. The new treatment facility is a forward-thinking solution that will provide reliable service and accommodate future growth, both residential and commercial.

We understand the importance of keeping you informed. Our goal is to be transparent about the financial decisions that affect you and to ensure that the funds collected through the surcharge are used directly to repay the loan and maintain the wastewater treatment system. If you have any questions or concerns about the surcharge, please don't hesitate to reach out to city hall at 605-528-6187.

We thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to maintain and improve the essential services that make Hartford a great place to live.

City of Hartford