ORDINANCE NO. 1775

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE RATES AND CHARGES TO BE CHARGED TO THE USERS OF WATER SERVICE; WASTEWATER SERVICE; CISTERN WATER TREATMENT; AND A STORM UTILITY SURCHARGE; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT LEGISLATION; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, that:

SECTION ONE

The Village Manager is hereby authorized and directed to manage and control the waterworks system, wastewater system, and cistern in said village in a safe, economical, and efficient manner as provided by law.

SECTION TWO

The Village Manager is further authorized and directed to make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the safe, economical, and efficient management and protection of said waste waterworks system, subject to the laws of the State of Ohio and ordinances and resolutions of the Council of the Village of Coldwater, Ohio. Such rules and regulations shall have the same force and effect as ordinances when not repugnant to the State constitution or the State laws or the ordinances of the Village of Coldwater, Ohio.

SECTION THREE

Charges for water and water services by the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, shall be paid quarterly in January, April, July and October at the utility office of the Village of Coldwater, Ohio. Said charges shall be in accordance with the following schedule of rates effective with the October 2026 bill, to-wit:

	In Village:	Outside Village:
First 6,000 gallons at	$9.00 per 1,000 gallons	$12.00 per 1,000 gallons
Next 94,000 gallons at	$9.00 per 1,000 gallons	$12.00 per 1,000 gallons
Excess over 100,000 gallons at	$7.00 per 1,000 gallons	$9.00 per 1,000 gallons

All funds collected for water service shall be deposited into a separate and distinct fund known as the Water Fund, and said monies shall be used for the payment of the costs and incurred expenses of the administration, operation, and repair of the waterworks system and for no other purpose.

SECTION FOUR

The minimum water charge per quarter for 6,000 gallons or less shall be $54.00 in the village or $72.00 outside the village per dwelling unit.

SECTION FIVE

The charge for making water taps shall be as follows:

	In Village:	Outside Village:
¾ inch tap	$600.00	$900.00
1 inch tap	$700.00	$1050.00
All larger taps	Labor & material plus 10%	Labor & material plus 50%

The charges herein established are for water taps only and shall not be part of the water charge for water supplied to the consumer. All new service lines and replacement of old lines must be type K copper tubing or CTS water service plastic pipe and a minimum size of ¾ inch inside diameter from existing curb stop to the meter on the premises.

All water meters shall conform to the "I-pearl" automatic reading system (ARS), and the same shall be furnished and installed by the Village of Coldwater, Ohio. Any normal maintenance or replacement thereafter will be provided by the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, and should replacement be required, in the discretion of the Village Manager, the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, shall furnish the consumer with a said ARS meter.

If a meter is damaged or destroyed through the fault or neglect of the consumer, or is damaged or destroyed as result of a casualty or catastrophe occurring on the premises of the consumer, the expense of repair or replacement of the meter shall be paid by the consumer.

SECTION SIX

The scheduled charges to be made by the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, for wastewater services and for the maintenance, administration, and operation of the sewerage system shall be as follows:

	In Village:	Outside Village:
First 6,000 gallons at	$8.00 per 1,000 gallons	$10.50 per 1,000 gallons
Next 94,000 gallons at	$8.00 per 1,000 gallons	$10.50 per 1,000 gallons
Excess over 100,000 gallons at	$5.00 per 1,000 gallons	$6.00 per 1,000 gallons

SECTION SEVEN

The minimum wastewater charge per quarter for 6,000 gallons or less shall be $48.00 in the village or $63.00 outside the village per dwelling unit.

SECTION EIGHT

A cistern water treatment charge may be imposed by the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, on each residence or household using a cistern, which charge shall be as follows:

a. $0.00 per quarter for any dwelling unit which is in compliance with the Backflow Prevention Program.
b. $25.00 per month for any dwelling unit which is not in compliance with the Backflow Prevention Program.

This cistern water treatment charge shall be over and above the charge for water and sewer for each quarter.

SECTION NINE

All cistern users are also subject to the rules and regulations of the Village of Coldwater's Backflow Prevention Program as per Charter Ordinance Number 1676 or the latest Charter Ordinance pertaining to the Backflow Prevention Program. Failure to comply with said Ordinance can result in the disconnection of both water and sanitary services, and or additional charges.

SECTION TEN

The charge for making sewer taps shall be as follows:

	In Village:	Outside Village:
4 inch diameter pipe	$400.00	$600.00
All larger taps	Labor & material plus 10%	Labor & material plus 50%

SECTION ELEVEN

A storm utility surcharge shall be and hereby is approved to be placed on all water and sewer bills as follows:

$2.67 per month per residential water user until May 31, 2028
$3.00 per month per residential water user after June 1, 2028
$4.00 per month per commercial or industrial water user until May 31, 2028
$5.00 per month per commercial or industrial water user after June 1, 2028

SECTION TWELVE

A water improvement fee and wastewater improvement fee shall be and hereby is approved to be placed on all water and sewer bills effective June 1, 2028 as follows:

$2.00 per month per residential water user
$2.00 per month per residential wastewater user
$4.00 per month per commercial or industrial water user
$4.00 per month per commercial or industrial water user

These improvement fees shall be deposited into a separate and distinct fund known as the Water Improvement Fund and Wastewater Improvement Fund.

SECTION THIRTEEN

In the event that any condominium or apartment is serviced by one water meter, the quarterly minimum service charge shall be determined by multiplying the number of units by the applicable minimum rate. It is the duty and responsibility of the landlord or owner of such multiple unit premises to notify the utility office of the number of units vacant during any quarter. By way of example, an apartment house or condominium containing 10 units, each such unit shall be subject to an individual service charge; the minimum charge for the premises would be 10 times the minimum charge of $110.00 or $1100.00 per quarter.

A prorated minimum charge will be made if the service had been on for less than a full quarter.

A 10% penalty shall be added to all bills not paid by the 15th day of the month in which said payment is due. All unpaid accounts shall be charged interest at the rate of 1.5%

per month beginning 30 days after the due date of said bill along with an appropriate delivery charge. Any returned check shall be charged all banking fees and fines plus $20.00 for administration cost.

An additional reconnection charge of $50.00 shall be made if water service is discontinued because of non-payment of a bill. When reconnection is requested outside of regular business hours, the reconnection charge may be $100.00. The defaulting customer shall be given a 5 days' notice of the intention to discontinue service prior to any water disconnection. Said notice shall be given by first class mail or other reasonable means and shall be delivered no sooner than 15 days after the due date of the water bill. Service shall be discontinued no later than 30 days after the due date of said bill. All costs and expenses incurred by the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, in notifying the defaulting consumer shall be charged to and collected from the defaulting consumer.

If service is requested by consumer to be discontinued, the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, must be notified by the consumer so the service can be shut off and the meter removed. The consumer must be at that the property when service is discontinued. The service charge shall continue until the water is off.

SECTION FOURTEEN

As authorized and permitted by Section 743.04 O.R.C., all unpaid water charges shall constitute a lien upon the real property served by the waterworks system or wastewater system and shall be certified by the Clerk-Finance Director of the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, to the Mercer County Auditor and collected as other Village taxes are collected including all penalties and accrued charges. The Village Manager may establish policies regarding the requirement of a security deposit for water service to be furnished to rental properties within the Village of Coldwater, Ohio, as permitted by Section 743.04 O.R.C.

SECTION FIFTEEN

All legislation in conflict herewith be and the same is hereby repealed.

SECTION SIXTEEN

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Adopted this 27th day of April, 2026.

Douglas S. Bertke, Mayor

Attest:

Dylan Schwieterman
Clerk of Council

Approved:

Judy A. Koesters
Law Director