

# ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2013-1 AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND ESTABLISHING UPDATED RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR WATER, SEWER, AND SANITATION BILLING FOR THE CITY OF BULL SHOALS, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BULL SHOALS, ARKANSAS:**

## **SECTION 1. BILLING SCHEDULE**

Water, sewer, and sanitation bills shall be printed within the first week of each month.

## **SECTION 2. DUE DATE**

All bills shall be due on or before the **20th day of each month**.

If the due date falls on a weekend or City-recognized holiday, the due date shall move to the **next business day**.

## **SECTION 3. LATE FEES**

Any account not paid in full by the due date shall incur a **twelve percent (12%) late fee** on the outstanding balance.

Late fees shall be applied regardless of customer class.

## **SECTION 4. PAYMENT PLANS**

Payment plans are available upon request at City Hall, subject to the following conditions:

**A. Eligibility.** Payment plans may be granted at the discretion of City Hall and must be formally documented.

**B. Compliance.** Payment plans must be honored exactly as agreed.

**C. Monthly Obligation.** The customer must pay:

1. the full monthly bill **plus**

2. the scheduled payment plan amount

by the **20th of each month**, and all other rules of this ordinance apply.

**D. Default.** Failure to meet any payment plan requirement shall result in **automatic water shut-off without further notice**, and the meter shall remain locked until the full balance is paid.

## **SECTION 5. RED TAG NOTICE**

Any account unpaid at the end of the month shall receive a **red tag notice** delivered to the customer's door. A **\$50.00 service fee** shall be added to the account at the time the red tag is issued.

If the red tag date falls on a weekend or City-recognized holiday, the red tag shall be issued on the **next business day**.

## **SECTION 6. SHUT-OFF DEADLINE**

Customers shall have until the **6th day of the following month** to pay the total balance, including all fees.

If the 6th day falls on a weekend or City-recognized holiday, the shut-off date shall move to the **next business day**.

## **SECTION 7. SERVICE DISCONNECTION**

If payment has not been received by the shut-off date, water service shall be disconnected, and the meter shall be locked. Service shall not be restored until the **entire balance**, including all fees, is paid in full.

## **SECTION 8. SERVICE RESTORATION**

Water service shall be restored only after full payment is made. A reconnection may be performed only by authorized City personnel.

## **SECTION 9. SEWER AND SANITATION CUSTOMERS**

For accounts that include sewer and sanitation only:

If the bill remains unpaid after the shut-off date, **trash collection service shall be suspended** until the account is brought current.

## **SECTION 10. RENTAL PROPERTIES**

If a renter vacates a property with a delinquent balance, the **property owner** shall be responsible for the full amount due, including all late fees, service charges, and red tag or shut-off fees.

## **SECTION 11. HOLIDAY AND WEEKEND ADJUSTMENTS**

All deadlines specified in this ordinance—including the due date, red tag date, and shut-off date—shall automatically move to the **next business day** when they fall on a weekend or City-recognized holiday.

## **SECTION 12. ADMINISTRATION**

City Hall personnel shall administer all billing, fees, notices, and enforcement actions under this ordinance.

## SECTION 13. EMERGENCY CLAUSE

It is hereby found and determined that the timely billing and collection of water, sewer, and sanitation charges are essential to the efficient operation of municipal utilities; that inconsistent prior ordinances create confusion; and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety.

Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance shall take effect **immediately upon passage**.

## SECTION 14. REPEALER

Ordinance 2013-1 and any other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby **repealed**.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2025.

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Mayor BILL STAHLER

**ATTEST:**

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Recorder/Treasurer