

**PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025, AT JACKSON PARISH POLICE
JURY (TONY ZENO ROOM) 160 INDUSTRIAL BLVD, JONESBORO, LA 71251**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-003

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWN OF JONESBORO'S 2024-007 REGARDING WATER
RATES TO ENSURE RATES CHARGED TO CERTAIN ENTITIES IS RATIONAL AND
REASONABLY BASED ON USAGE**

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2024-007 was adopted by the Mayor and the Board of Alderman of the Town of Jonesboro after a rate study was conducted and it was determined that adjustments were necessary to ensure the sustainability and improvement of the water system;

WHEREAS, under the amended ordinance Churches continue to be treated the same as all commercial businesses regardless of their actual structure or water usage;

WHEREAS it has been determined that Churches that do not have a school, weeklong daycare, a store, or other commercial enterprise on the premises have minimal water usage and are being disproportionately impacted by the water rate increase;

WHEREAS it has been determined that the water rates should be amended to ensure that the rates charged are rational and reasonably based on actual usage;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Town of Jonesboro hereby amends Ordinance 2024-007 to add Section 10 as follows:

SECTION 10: CHURCH RATES

- A. Churches do operate a school, a weekday daycare, a store, or other commercial enterprise on the premises shall be billed at same rate as residential water customers.
- B. Churches that either operate a school, a weekday daycare, a store, or other commercial enterprise on the premises shall be billed at the commercial rate.

C. Operation of a weekday daycare specifically does not include the providing of daycare during regular worship services.

D. In order for a church to be billed at the residential rate pursuant to this amendment, the church must complete and turn in an Application to the Town Clerk which confirms that the church does not have any of these type of facilities. Upon receipt of the signed Application that confirms that it does not have any of these facilities, the church’s water bill shall be adjusted prospectively to provide that the Church shall be billed as a residential customer.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

This Ordinance was duly introduced at the regular meeting of the Town Council on the ___ day of March, 2025, the title of this ordinance was duly published in accordance with law, a public hearing was held, and then duly read and adopted on the ___ day of April, 2025 by the following votes:

YEAS: _____ NAYS: _____
ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____

This Ordinance was adopted on the ___ day of April, 2025 and presented to the Mayor for his signature on the ___ day of April, 2025 (which is less than 3 days from the date the ordinance was adopted).

TOWN CLERK

Approved by the Mayor on this ___ day of April, 2025.

MAYOR JAMES "SPIKE" HARRIS