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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FISCAL YEAR 2017 UTILITY RATE ADJUSTMENTS

(Greenleaf, Idaho) Based on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, The Greenleaf City Council approved a fee schedule at their 27 September 2016 meeting that included a one percent (1%) decrease in the monthly water base rate fee, a three percent (3%) increase in the monthly sanitary sewer service fee, and an increase in utility deposits of five percent (5%) or less. The new rates are effective with October water usage, billed at the end of October 2016 and past due after 20 November 2016.

The monthly water base rate was changed from \$53.84 to \$53.30 (1% decrease), and the monthly sanitary sewer fee from \$79.99 to \$82.39 (3% increase). Utility deposit for all monthly billed city services (water, sewer, & garbage) was increased from \$323.20 to \$339.36 (5% increase).

“This is the first adjustment to sanitary sewer service fees since the municipal wastewater treatment plant came on-line in 2013,” explained Mayor Bradley Holton. Mayor Holton commented that, “As part of their financial duty to the city, the Council examines all utility rates every year against expected costs for the coming year during the city's annual budgeting process. Now that the city has a little over three years experience to understand the true costs of operating sanitary sewer, the city is now able to start adjusting the fee structure to better reflect those costs. This increase in monthly sewer fee is less than \$2.50, after three years with no increase.”

Mayor Holton said that, “The City of Greenleaf has the lowest property tax rate of any city in Canyon County, and one of the lowest in the State. Because of this, the city does not have revenue from property tax available to subsidize utility fees by covering all administrative expenses from the city's general fund. The City Council saw this coming and proposed a property tax levy increase that was soundly defeated at the polls in November of 2008. The clear message from the community was a choice for low property tax, and utility rates which bear the full burden of utility costs.”

Per Idaho Code §50-1001, the city's fiscal year starts on the first day of October. Idaho Code §63-1311A authorizes fee increases of up to five percent without a public hearing.

The City of Greenleaf is located in Canyon County, Idaho on State Highway 19, five miles west of I-84 at Caldwell, Idaho, and 5 miles east of US-95 at Wilder, Idaho.

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