

# BRISTOL'S

# BULLETIN

## FAQ on the new Water and Sewer rates

Why is my June bill higher than last month's bill?

You may notice an increase in your bill due to a rate adjustment and a correction of an error in the billing system. We do apologize for this inadvertent mistake.

Where can I find the rate information?

On the Town's website under Water and Sewer Bill information. Both the ordinance and the rates summaries are posted.

Are commercial user rates increasing?

Yes. The Town decided to change from a single rate structure for all users to a cost-of-services-based rate structure. Residential users are low-cost users and commercial users are high-cost users. The result is commercial users' water and sewer bills increased more than residential users.

What if my new bill is double or more than my last bill?

The new rate projections estimated an average residential increase of around 70%. If your bill is substantially higher than a 70% increase, call Town Hall at 574-848-7007 so we can review your bill. If you are not utilizing the Town's Water Scope App, we encourage you to sign up for this free service. Call the Town Hall to see if you have a new meter yet and if you are able to access this helpful tool. Water Scope allows you to monitor water use in real time and alert you to leaks or other water use which can increase your water bill.

Why is the increase necessary?

The water infrastructure has not been able to fully meet the Town's needs for several years and needs to be updated. A new 1-million-gallon water tower, larger water main lines and constructing system loops will improve water pressure and greatly improve fire protection capabilities. In addition, the Town is adding another well to the system. The Town has received awards for the quality of water we provide residents and businesses. That will continue as the new well will produce the same high-quality water for users. The wastewater treatment plant is outdated and old. Some estimate it is at least 5 years beyond the recommended replacement life. The new plant will not add capacity but will be able to better handle surges in flow. The new plant is expected to operate with reduced odor. In addition, the new plant will be able to be expanded if it becomes necessary. The current plant cannot be expanded.

## DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP

Join the Bristol community and stay informed by downloading the Our Town Bristol app. Receive push notifications on your iPhone or Android device by scanning the QR code provided.

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- View Latest Updates
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## 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN BRISTOL PARKS



We need your assistance in enhancing our Parks. You will have multiple opportunities to participate in a 2024 public survey aimed at shaping the Park Board's 2025-2030 park master plan. The feedback gathered from the survey will play a pivotal role in helping the Park Board prioritize new amenities, facilities, and programs that align with the community's interests and needs.

**Park Board Members:**

- Scott Dreamer, President
- Mikel Ropp, Vice President
- Linda Powell, Member
- Andrew Medford, Member
- Rosemary McDaniel, Secretary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 4th - Town Hall office will be closed
- July 11 - 13 - Bristol Homecoming
- July 19 - 27 - Elkhart County 4-H Fair
- August 17 - Car Show in Congdon Park
- August 15 - First Day of School
- September 28 - Corn Dog Festival

[www.bristolindiana.org](http://www.bristolindiana.org)

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# Town Council

Jeff Beachy, Council President  
jeffbeachy@bristolindiana.org

Cathy Burke, Council Member  
cathyburke@bristolindiana.org

Dean Rentfrow, Council Member  
deanrentfrow@bristolindiana.org

Doug DeSmith, Council Member  
dougdesmith@bristolindiana.org

Gregg Tuholski, Council Member  
greggtuholski@bristolindiana.org

# Town Officials

Cathy Antonelli, Clerk-Treasurer  
townclerk@bristolindiana.org

Jill Swartz, Assistant Town  
Manager  
jillswartz@bristolindiana.org

Mike Yoder, Town Manager  
mikeyoder@bristolindiana.org

Tim McCandless -  
Water & Sewer Superintendent  
& Stormwater Coordinator

Eric Funkhouser -  
Street Superintendent

Bristol Town Hall  
303 E. Vistula Street  
P.O. Box 122  
(574) 848-7007

Town Hall Office is open  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Bristol Police Department  
non-emergency  
(574) 848-4464

## Town Manager Perspective

Today, one word comes to mind when I think about Bristol: change. I know people believe that no one likes to change, but that is not an accurate assumption. We usually enjoy change, at least the change that we control, it's the change that is out of our control that gives us heartburn. There is a lot of change occurring in Bristol that is outside of our individual control. The surrounding farmland is being converted to new business sites, and soon, new homesites. New streets are being built, a railroad crossing was closed, businesses leaving downtown, new businesses coming to downtown, new fees for water and sewer, and more. This summer we begin construction projects that will not be fully completed until 2026. INDOT is rebuilding our main street, new water mains and a new water tower tank will be constructed, a new wastewater treatment plant will be built, and new business development south of town is possible. While it may appear, that these changes are simply happening, your Town Council has been working on these projects for nearly 3 years. Every discussion and every decision occurred in a public meeting, which now happens during our 3 regularly scheduled meetings per month and also during special meetings that are held to address time-sensitive contracts or bid openings.

In the past, we could rely upon our local newspapers to keep us informed about local government actions and news. That is another change that has happened, local newspapers do not cover local government as they used to do, so now it is up to us to be more proactive. It is now an ever to watch Council meetings because Bristol's website provides easy access to the Town Council meeting material and video of the meetings. You can also watch live or watch at a later time that is more convenient for you. We have an important phone app everyone in Bristol should have on their phone and the Town Facebook page is a good source for information. If you have a question, the entire Town hall staff is available to get you answers, in fact we love questions from people that prefer to know the facts rather than social media opinions. This newsletter is another effort to provide information.

We cannot control all the changes in our lives, but knowing ahead of time of change that is happening will helps us move through it. Please don't rely on other's opinions or social media rhetoric to be informed, rather invest 30 to 40 minutes a month looking at the Town Council meeting agendas and then watch the segment of the meeting that interest you to hear the discussion and the decisions. This small investment in time will keep you informed. Lastly, don't be afraid to call Town Hall or a Council member if you have an idea, opinion, or a question.



We intend to send out a quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on projects and important items. We are committed to enhancing the quality of these newsletters. We are seeking a catchy name for our newsletter and welcome your suggestions. Please submit your ideas via email to [jillswartz@bristolindiana.org](mailto:jillswartz@bristolindiana.org).

Bristol Town Hall  
PO Box 122  
Bristol, IN 46507

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