Sewer User Fee rates in Rayne have not been adjusted since November 2006. Revenues that come from current monthly user fees have not been enough to properly operate and maintain the sewerage system. Current revenues do not cover the cost of wear and tear on aging equipment and replacement costs in the future. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality mandate that the City of Rayne must manage its utilities systems so that annual revenues meet expenses.

Section 78-110 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rayne requires that Sewer User Fee rate adjustments must be made every year based on annual reviews and computations performed by an independent team. The team is required to be made up of the City Clerk, City Engineer, and Certified Public Accountant of the City. The ordinance further requires that upon certification of this team, the necessary rate adjustments must be put into effect.

The City Clerk, City Engineer, and Certified Public Accountant of the City have recently reviewed the best available information and made the required calculations. This independent team of professionals has determined and certified in writing that Sewer User Fee rates must be adjusted to a monthly minimum fee of:

$14.00 for the first 3,000 gallons and $4.03 for each additional 1,000 gallons of water used.

(The current user fee is based on a monthly minimum of:

$12.00 for the first 3,000 gallons and $2.50 for each additional 1,000 gallons of water used.)

Customers who use 3,000 gallons of water or less each month will see a monthly increase of $2.00 in user fees. Customers who use between 3,000 and 6,000 gallons of water each month will experience an average monthly increase of about around $4.30 in user fees. Customers who use between 6,000 and 10,000 gallons of water each month will see an average monthly increase of around $9.75.

This adjustment will begin with water meter readings, which sewer usage is based upon, for the month of October 2020. Monthly utility bills that go out in November will reflect this adjustment.