
Northampton City Council votes to freeze water and sewer rates



The City Council froze water and sewer rates as is.



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NORTHAMPTON - Heeding the complaints of Northampton residents on fixed incomes, the **City Council** voted unanimously Thursday to keep water and sewer rates at their present levels.

Mayor David J. Narkewicz had proposed increasing both to pay for improvements to the systems and for debt on past projects, but he backed away from that stance after hearing from citizens at a public forum last week. Those property-owners, many of them seniors, said they have been worn down by tax increases and new bills such as the stormwater enterprise fund, which bills residents for run-off from their lots.

The cost of water will remain at \$5.58 per hundred cubic feet and sewer services at \$6.08 per hundred cubic feet.

"I do not recommend this freeze lightly," Narkewicz wrote in his recommendation to the council.

He noted that the Department of Public Works will have to put off certain projects for lack of revenues. Meanwhile, he said, the city will explore the possibility of giving discounts to seniors and low-income families.

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