CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2023-529 – Approving an agreement with Missouri American Water to terminate water service for unpaid sewer bills.

MEETING DATE
December 4, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2023-529 Ordinance; Exhibit "A" Termination of Water Service Agreement

REVIEWED BY
Department Head: Leslie Haase; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nick Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill approves an agreement with Missouri American Water to terminate water service for unpaid sewer bills.

BACKGROUND
Due to a change in Missouri American Water Company's billing system, the City was required to resume the billing services for sewer and trash services in December of 2012. The City is obligated to collect delinquent sewer bills. State Statute authorizes private water companies to terminate water service upon notification by the City of unpaid sewer bills. In October of 2012, the City entered into an agreement with Missouri American Water to terminate water service for unpaid sewer bills. The water company assesses a fee for this service, which is passed on to the customer by the City prior to restoration of water service. The current fee is $28.50 per termination and restoration attempt.

The water company has not increased this fee since 2012, when the City resumed the billing function. The City was notified on October 12th of an increase in this fee and the need for a new agreement prior to January 15, 2024. The notification indicates the current fees are being subsidized by the water company and as a publicly regulated utility, Missouri American must be mindful of the ratepayers' monies.

As such, this agreement allows the Water Company to terminate water service if sewer bills are unpaid or in arrears for at least 30 days. The City must also properly notify the customer of the delinquent amount and the intent to terminate water service. This agreement establishes the fee to the City for the Water Company to shut-off water service at $94.00 per termination and restoration attempt.

FUNDING SOURCE
This does not apply to this item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of this council bill on an emergency basis to continue the service with the water company.