

Responses to Stormwater Utility Fee Fund questions

- *Why have` drainage costs been removed from the General Fund and Mill Rate?*
 - The requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit have promulgated actions to improve the water quality from storm water. The City Council wants to insure that funds are available to implement the requirements of the NPDES permit.
 - The decision was made during the 2009 Budget deliberations with the City Council address the funding needs by creating the Stormwater Utility Fee Fund as a dedicated fund that restricts the use of the funds to storm water activities
 - Based on the experience of other Johnson County cities and other municipalities nationwide, the basis of the fee is generally not the value of the building and properties, but the amount of impervious area, which is considered to be more equitable
 - Contrary to the application of the mill rate, the Stormwater Utility Fee will be applied against all properties. There will be no exemptions.

- *Why are private streets included in the calculation of impervious area when the City streets are not?*
 - The City does not spend funds to operate, maintain, repair or construct storm water systems on private property
 - The storm water on private streets is eventually discharged into a City storm water drainage system
 - The collection of storm water generally begins with the collection of storm water on street surfaces and flows along the curb gutter into drain inlets. Therefore, the City street curb gutter, drain inlets and piping are operated, maintained, repaired or constructed by Public Works using City funds.

- *Are there any properties that are exempt from the Stormwater Utility Fee?*
 - All properties listed by the Johnson County Tax Assessor will have a Stormwater Utility Fee
 - Places of worship, schools, Johnson County properties and City of Prairie Village properties, which are exempt from the mill rate assessment, will pay a Stormwater Utility Fee

- *Will there an opportunity to receive a credit for efforts to minimize or improve the water quality of storm water from private property?*
 - The Municipal Code has a provision for the City Council to permit credits for minimizing the volume or improving the water quality of storm water from private property
 - The City of Prairie Village has adopted as part of it Manual of Infrastructure the Manual of Best Management Practices For Stormwater Quality authored by Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA and by MARC
 - The process and types of credits will be developed, reviewed and approved by Council prior to fee assessment in January 2009

- *Will the Stormwater Utility Fee Fund be used to correct private property drainage issues?*
 - Yes, if the storm water source is from City owned property or City streets.
 - No, if the storm water is from other private property, as this is a private civil matter to be resolved between the property owners

- *Can I contest the Stormwater Utility Fee calculation?*
 - Property owners have the ability to appeal the calculation of the impervious surface estimated for their property. Owners will not be able to appeal paying the fee.
 - The first step is to contact Public Works and request an appointment