

## HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY MANAGE YOUR BUDGET BILLING CYCLE

Just like with any budget, starting out is a guessing game. The information we use to set our budget is based on past payment history. That being said, we never know how things will be in the future, so staying diligent and flexible should get us pretty close to a balanced budget by the end of the year. Here are a few examples of how your Budget Billing may look throughout the year.

### *Example 1*

Based on the chart provided on the Budget Billing portion of the City's website, we are going to set our Budget Billing amount at \$172.00 a month.

Month	Carry-Over Amount	Amount Billed	Total Amount Due	Budget Billing Amount	Total on Account
January	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$172.00	<b>\$94.00</b>
February	\$94.00	\$330.00	\$424.00	\$172.00	<b>\$252.00</b>
March	\$252.00	\$201.00	\$453.00	\$172.00	<b>\$281.00</b>
April	\$281.00	\$132.00	\$413.00	\$172.00	<b>\$241.00</b>
May	\$241.00	\$111.00	\$352.00	\$172.00	<b>\$180.00</b>
June	\$180.00	\$109.00	\$289.00	\$172.00	<b>\$117.00</b>
July	\$117.00	\$133.00	\$250.00	\$172.00	<b>\$78.00</b>
August	\$78.00	\$168.00	\$246.00	\$172.00	<b>\$74.00</b>
September	\$74.00	\$145.00	\$219.00	\$172.00	<b>\$47.00</b>
November	\$47.00	\$176.00	\$223.00	\$172.00	<b>\$51.00</b>
December	\$51.00	\$200.00	\$251.00	\$172.00	<b>\$79.00</b>

As you can see, if we were to leave the amount at \$172.00 for the entire year, the amount would leave you \$79.00 short for the year. That amount would have to be paid, in order to bring your account to a zero balance before the next Budget Billing cycle. But why don't we think about this option...

Let's say that in the first few months your outstanding balance isn't looking so great. If that's the case, simply reach out to staff in the Utility Department and have them raise your payment a few dollars a month. By doing this, you can see the difference it makes.

Month	Carry-Over Amount	Amount Billed	Total Amount Due	Budget Billing Amount	Total on Account
January	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$172.00	<b>\$94.00</b>
February	\$94.00	\$330.00	\$424.00	\$172.00	<b>\$252.00</b>
March	\$252.00	\$201.00	\$453.00	\$185.00	<b>\$268.00</b>
April	\$268.00	\$132.00	\$400.00	\$185.00	<b>\$215.00</b>
May	\$215.00	\$111.00	\$326.00	\$185.00	<b>\$141.00</b>
June	\$141.00	\$109.00	\$250.00	\$185.00	<b>\$65.00</b>
July	\$65.00	\$133.00	\$198.00	\$185.00	<b>\$13.00</b>
August	\$13.00	\$168.00	\$181.00	\$185.00	<b>\$4.00</b>
September	<b>\$4.00</b>	\$145.00	\$141.00	\$185.00	<b>\$44.00</b>
November	<b>\$44.00</b>	\$176.00	\$132.00	\$185.00	<b>\$53.00</b>
December	<b>\$53.00</b>	\$200.00	\$147.00	\$185.00	<b>\$38.00</b>

We go from a negative amount at the end of the year to a credit of \$38.00. Not bad! Good news is, if you still want a little more in your bank account on a monthly basis, you can set your monthly Budget Billing amount a little lower than the example above:

Month	Carry-Over Amount	Amount Billed	Total Amount Due	Budget Billing Amount	Total on Account
January	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$172.00	<b>\$94.00</b>
February	\$94.00	\$330.00	\$424.00	\$172.00	<b>\$252.00</b>
March	\$252.00	\$201.00	\$453.00	\$181.00	<b>\$272.00</b>
April	\$272.00	\$132.00	\$404.00	\$181.00	<b>\$223.00</b>
May	\$223.00	\$111.00	\$334.00	\$181.00	<b>\$153.00</b>
June	\$153.00	\$109.00	\$262.00	\$181.00	<b>\$81.00</b>
July	\$81.00	\$133.00	\$214.00	\$181.00	<b>\$33.00</b>
August	\$33.00	\$168.00	\$201.00	\$181.00	<b>\$20.00</b>
September	\$20.00	\$145.00	\$165.00	\$181.00	<b>\$16.00</b>
November	<b>\$16.00</b>	\$176.00	\$160.00	\$181.00	<b>\$21.00</b>
December	<b>\$21.00</b>	\$200.00	\$179.00	\$181.00	<b>\$2.00</b>



As you can see, amending your budget amount can really pay off. At \$181.00 a month and \$2.00 to the good for the year, we are probably as close as we are going to get to a balanced budget!! Nice Job!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact staff in the Utility Department. We are always eager to hear your questions and help you find the answers!

