



## Stormwater Utility

The City of Kingsport is implementing a stormwater utility. The Federal Clean Water Act requires cities with more than 10,000 residents to implement a stormwater program to control and monitor polluted stormwater runoff. This federal requirement is unfunded, meaning that each city must find a way to pay for the program. In addition, the City wishes to address long-standing stormwater flooding issues that affect local citizens. Many cities in Tennessee, including Johnson City, have already implemented stormwater programs. Included in this flier are answers to some frequently asked questions about the new stormwater utility:

### **What is stormwater?**

Stormwater is runoff from rain or snow. City landscapes cause water to accumulate above the surface instead of slowly filtering into the ground. As that water runs off, it picks up pollutants and debris from roadways, parking lots, etc., before entering our streams or the Holston River.

### **What is the purpose of a stormwater utility?**

The utility will address stormwater contamination and flooding issues in Kingsport. With dedicated funding, it will allow the City to reduce runoff contaminants while prioritizing and initiating select flood mitigation projects.



## **Who decided a stormwater utility was the best way to manage the process?**

A group of 12 Kingsport citizens, representing commercial, retail, industrial, nonprofit and residential interests, have studied the issue as part of an advisory committee that was formed in 2009. After much research, the committee has recommended a stormwater utility as the best solution.

## **How will the utility be funded?**

The stormwater utility will be funded with a fee on customers' water/sewer bills. For residential customers, the committee is recommending that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen consider a fee that will average \$3.50 per month. For non-residential customers, the fee would be based on the measured impervious area for the property and would be charged in direct proportion to the average residential customer.

## **When will the fee be implemented?**

If approved at the December meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the fee will likely be implemented on water/sewer bills in February.

## **Who is the point of contact for questions?**

More information about the program will be included in your next water/sewer statement. In the interim, any questions regarding the Kingsport Stormwater Utility should be directed to Dan Wankel (423.224.2727 or [danwankel@kingsporttn.gov](mailto:danwankel@kingsporttn.gov)) or Steve Robbins (423.245.2167 or [steverobbins@kingsporttn.gov](mailto:steverobbins@kingsporttn.gov)). You can also obtain information online at <http://publicworks.kingsporttn.gov>.

