



*Where Life is Sweet*

Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**STAFF REPORT**  
For the Meeting of May 11, 2026

**Title/Subject**

Ordinance 2382- Amending Chapter 51 Sewer

**Summary**

This ordinance will amend the City's Sewer Code to establish an Industrial Pretreatment Program, and make clarifications to the fines and fees for the Fats, Oils, and Greases program.

**Background**

The City has a strong public interest in protecting the sewer system from discharges which can harm the systems, infrastructure, treatment works, or staff, as well as those which place an overly large cost on the system to clean to a point where the City's ultimate discharge remains within its own permit limits with state and federal regulators.

The City has long had an extensive code which regulates many types of uses; typically by simply not allowing them. However, due to an increasingly diverse and complex local economy, Hermiston has reached a point where it is beneficial to add an Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP). An IPP still protects the city's systems as well as a ban on certain discharges, but it does so in a way that still allows for local economic growth by regulating, rather than banning. Specifically, an IPP program requires certain dischargers to get permitted with the city through the IPP process, which will require those dischargers to implement various "pretreatment" processes.

A pretreatment process is exactly what it sounds like. It's a requirement that in order for industrial sewer users to discharge to our system, they have to engage in some type of treatment on their own property prior to that discharge coming to the City's system. That pretreatment would be intended to mitigate whatever the contaminant of concern is prior to entering the City's system to the point that the discharge is within the acceptable range when it enters the public system.

**FOG**

This ordinance also takes the opportunity to add clarity to the Fats, Oils, and Greases program with respect to enforcement actions. The proposed fines/fees/actions are not a deviation from

what the Council approved last year, but rather providing specificity to aid in the enforcement process for that program.

### **Tie-In to Council Goals**

Fiscal: Maintain service levels, strengthen internal operations to support sustainability, accountability, and transparency

### **Fiscal Information**

This action includes some detail with regard to fines/fees/enforcement action, but the intention of the FOG program is to generate compliance rather than generate revenue. It would be staff's preference that revenue from FOG fines/fees/etc. remain at \$0 per year if that means full compliance.

Relative to the IPP program, this ordinance establishes the code requirements but does not establish fees. If this ordinance is approved, it is staff's intention to bring a proposed fee schedule to the upcoming Council meeting, where a fee schedule will be presented to have the IPP permittees cover the cost of the program (Staff & Materials at \$40,000/yr), with the largest industrial users, who will require the most oversight, covering a proportional amount of the cost.

### **Alternatives and Recommendation**

#### **Alternatives**

1. Approve Ordinance 2382
2. Reject Ordinance 2382
3. Table Ordinance 2382

#### **Recommended Action/Motion**

Approve Ordinance 2382

#### **Submitted By:**

Mark Morgan