



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/31/2025

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Jordan Skiff, Wastewater Superintendent

SUBJECT: Ordinance 29-25-26 – An Ordinance amending Sections 54-397; 54-398; and 54-399 of the Municipal Code relating to sewers and sewerage disposal so as to make changes to service charges.

ISSUE

Should the Public Works Committee recommend approval of proposed 2026 sewer rates for Sheboygan and outside contributors?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the November 10th Public Works Committee and November 17th Common Council meetings, I am requesting approval of 2026 service charges for wastewater treatment. Rates are reviewed each autumn, considering expenses from the past year, the volume and characteristics of wastewater we treated this year, and budget elements for the following year. Adopting the 2026 rates involves an ordinance amendment, necessitating Council approval. The proposed 2026 rates reflect a **6% increase** in charges for an average residential customer.

The table below breaks down various categories of charges and shows volume rates for City ratepayers and those of our satellite communities, and surcharges for customers whose wastewater is higher than domestic waste levels (i.e. that found in a typical household) for biological oxygen demand (BOD), phosphorus, nitrogen, and suspended solids. Average annual increases range from 0% to 6.1%.

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (Proposed)
Fixed Charge (per month)	\$15.33	\$16.67	\$17.33	\$19.00	\$20.83
City Volume (per 100 ft ³)	\$ 2.16	\$ 2.16	\$ 2.16	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.34
Contrib. Volume (per 100 ft ³)	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.58
BOD (per pound)	\$0.398	\$0.344	\$0.344	\$0.3613	\$0.3721
Susp. Solids (per pound)	\$0.195	\$0.203	\$0.203	\$0.2130	\$0.2194
Phosphorus (per pound)	\$5.024	\$4.847	\$5.148	\$5.3538	\$5.5144

FUNDING IMPACT

These rates are projected to cover Sheboygan's wastewater expenses for 2026. Wastewater expenses include the wastewater treatment plant and the sewer collection system with proportionate charges to City residents, haulers and satellite communities. Expenses include operation & maintenance (O&M) expenses, as well as capital projects and debt service as appropriate.

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

IF APPROVED, NEXT STEPS

We have provided an update on these proposed rates to septic haulers and the satellite communities we serve, including the Village of Kohler, the City of Sheboygan Falls, and the Towns of Wilson and Sheboygan. Once the 2026 rates are approved, the Water Utility and Finance will incorporate them into City and contributor 2026 bills, respectively.