

ORDINANCE NO. 1284

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SNOQUALMIE,
WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING RATES FOR THE CITY'S
COMBINED UTILITY FOR THE YEAR 2024, AMENDING
SNOQUALMIE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 13.08.010,
13.08.090, 13.10.050 AND 13.12.010; AND PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Snoqualmie operates a combined water, wastewater and stormwater utility pursuant to RCW 35A.80.010 and Chapters 35.67 and 35.92 RCW; and

WHEREAS, water, sewer, and storm water services provided by the combined utility of the City of Snoqualmie are critical to the health and welfare of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City produces Class A reclaimed water as a by-product of its wastewater treatment process and delivers it to a reservoir (Eagle Lake) for use by the City's bulk rate customers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Ch. 36.70A RCW, the City has adopted a GMA Comprehensive Plan, entitled Snoqualmie 2032, which describes the city that residents wish to leave to future generations, expresses goals and policies to guide that vision, provides a generalized land use plan for the city and its urban growth area providing for the existing population as well as the population and employment growth anticipated to occur through the year 2032, establishes the foundation for implementing programs and regulations, and provides a guide for city budgeting; and

WHEREAS, as required by law, Snoqualmie 2032 also includes a Capital Facilities and Utilities Elements, which (a) identify the general location, proposed location, and capacity of the City's existing and proposed water, sewer and stormwater utility facilities; (b) set forth a forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities; (c) show the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities; and (d) provide at least a six-year plan that will finance such

capital facilities within projected funding capacities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the utility planning set forth in Snoqualmie 2032, the City is updating its General Sewer Plan, Water System Plan and Stormwater Management Plan, which among other things itemize and describe those capital improvements to the City's sewer, water and stormwater infrastructure that are necessary to maintain the City's combined utility system and provide sufficient capacity to serve the population and employment growth anticipated in the City's GMA Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP") constitutes the six-year plan called for by the GMA's Capital Facilities Element requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized by RCW 35A.80.010, RCW 35.67.020 and RCW 35.92.020 to fix, alter, regulate, maintain and control the rates and charges for services and facilities provided by its utilities; and

WHEREAS, the City monitors revenues and expenditures periodically to ensure that revenues exceed expenditures, and to determine whether additional adjustments to utility rates are required in order to ensure that revenues will continue to exceed expenditures; and

WHEREAS, rate and charge adjustments are necessary from time to time to ensure that sufficient revenue exists to properly maintain the City's combined utility and provide adequate services to customers of the combined utility; and

WHEREAS, a 2024 fiscal utility health review was conducted by Financial Consulting Solutions (FCS) Group that developed proposed rates and general facilities charges for each utility for the period from 2024 through 2026; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 fiscal health review concluded that water, sewer and stormwater rate and charge increases in the amounts set forth herein are required in order to pay the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining the City's combined utility and to pay the capital

costs of those necessary improvements to the City’s water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure set forth in the City’s adopted 2023-2028 CIP; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held on December 11, 2023, regarding the rates and charges established herein;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Snoqualmie, Washington, as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.08.010 Amended. Section 13.08.010 of the Snoqualmie Municipal Code is hereby amended and adopted to read as follows (amendments shown in strikethrough/underline format for ease of reference):

13.08.010 Residential Rates and charges.

The following monthly sewer rates and charges are hereby imposed on residential and multifamily customers:

A. Residential: This customer class includes each separately metered single-family residence, trailer or mobile home in a trailer court or mobile home park, and each separately metered townhome or duplex residential unit.

Residential Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	\$78.99	\$80.57	\$82.16	\$83.76 <u>\$84.62</u>	\$85.37	\$86.99

B. Multifamily: This customer class includes apartment, condominium, multiplex, and duplex structures that are served by a single, master water meter rather than individual residential unit meters.

Multifamily Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	\$62.87	\$62.13	\$61.35	\$60.53 <u>\$63.19</u>	\$59.67	\$58.76

C. Rates for residential sewer service outside the corporate limits shall be 1.5 times the rates within the City limits.

D. A “low-income residential customer” means an individual:

1. Who owns or rents and resides in the residence where the discounted rate(s) are being requested;
2. Whose residence has a separate water meter;
3. Whose total household annual income meets the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Income Limits for Very Low Income in King County, Washington.
Household annual income shall include income of a spouse or any co-resident(s), where “annual income” is defined as Adjusted Gross Income as indicated in the most recent Federal Income Tax return. In the absence of a Federal Income Tax return, the Finance Director may consider other documentation of household annual income; and
4. Who is not nor is any other adult member of the household claimed as a dependent on another federal income tax return; and
5. Who is named customer on the City’s utility bill or can prove that he or she is the named tenant in a lease or rental agreement for that residence.

E. The Finance Director shall create an application form and a renewal form for residential customers requesting the low-income residential customer discount.

1. Applications shall be available at City Hall or mailed to any City customer upon request.
2. The low-income residential customer seeking the low-income discount must complete an application renewal form annually in order to continue receiving the low-income residential customer discount.

3. A notice of renewal of application will be mailed annually by the City to low-income residential customers then receiving the discount. The completed renewal application form and required attachments must be returned to the City within 30 days or the discount will no longer apply.
 4. Discounts will commence on the next subsequent billing date following application.
 5. A low-income residential customer who applied for and received the discount in the prior year, but who has failed to submit the renewal form within the required 30 days and whose low-income customer discount was discontinued as a result, may request a one-time only retroactive application of the low-income discount for not more than 2 billing cycles or two months.
 6. A low-income residential customer is not eligible for the low-income discount if his or her annual water consumption is in excess of 100 cubic feet (ccf) per year on a calendar year basis. An applicant may appeal the criteria to the Finance Director and must provide a convincing justification for the excess usage.
- F. The sewer bill for a low-income residential customer whose application is determined by the Finance Director to meet the criteria of subsections D and E above will be discounted by 30 percent.

Section 2. Section 13.08.090 Amended. Section 13.08.090 of the Snoqualmie Municipal Code is hereby amended and adopted to read as follows:

13.08.090 Commercial Base and Volume Rate Structure

- A. The following monthly sewer rates and charges are hereby imposed on the commercial and industrial customer classifications. This customer class includes without limitation hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals, churches, lodges, intermittently used buildings, government uses, potable irrigation, and commercial or industrial uses. This customer class includes all

business/industrial types identified in section **13.08.080** as well as emerging business or industrial types of the City may classify in the future to protect the sewerage system and prevent cost of service inequities.

Commercial Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Base monthly unit charge, for water consumption up to 600 cubic feet						
Low Commercial	\$97.92	\$99.88	\$101.85	\$103.84 <u>\$104.91</u>	\$105.83	\$107.84
High Commercial	\$121.72	\$126.19	\$130.78	\$129.07 <u>\$134.70</u>	\$140.31	\$145.20
Volume charge, for each additional 100 cubic feet or portion thereof (above 600 cubic feet)						
Low Commercial	\$7.09	\$7.23	\$7.37	\$7.51 <u>\$7.59</u>	\$7.65	\$7.80
High Commercial	\$9.64	\$9.99	\$10.35	\$10.22 <u>\$10.66</u>	\$11.11	\$11.50

B. For commercial customers, the base monthly unit charge will be added to an estimated volumetric charge for the water used at the premises, based upon the average usage for the corresponding month of the preceding year, averaged over a three-month period including the preceding and following month. In the event there is no prior history for the preceding year, the charge shall be based upon the average water usage for the month for all customers of the municipal water supply system in the same service class.

Section 3. Section 13.12.010 Amended. Section 13.12.010 of the Snoqualmie

Municipal Code is hereby amended and adopted to read as follows:

13.12.10 Rates and charges.

The following rates and charges for all water are hereby imposed:

- A. Each ratepayer shall pay for water service based on the applicable meter size. Rates for water service shall consist of a monthly base service charge based on rate classification, plus a volume charge also based on rate class.
- B. Residential: This customer class includes each separately metered single-family residence, trailer or mobile home in a trailer court or mobile home park, and each separately metered residential unit in a townhome or duplex.
1. The base (minimum) service, according to meter size and location within or without the corporate limits of the city, for all residential water classifications, other than Class A reclaimed water, shall be as follows:

Base charge (Meter Size)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
3/4"	\$34.36	\$35.63	\$36.95	\$38.32 <u>\$39.17</u>	\$39.74	\$41.21
1"	\$43.14	\$44.74	\$46.40	\$48.12 <u>\$49.18</u>	\$49.90	\$51.75
1-1/2"	\$71.50	\$74.15	\$76.89	\$79.73 <u>\$81.50</u>	\$82.68	\$85.74
2"	\$119.30	\$123.71	\$128.29	\$133.04 <u>\$135.99</u>	\$137.96	\$143.06
3"	\$179.13	\$185.76	\$192.63	\$199.76 <u>\$204.19</u>	\$207.15	\$214.81
4"	\$238.81	\$247.65	\$256.81	\$266.31 <u>\$272.22</u>	\$276.16	\$286.38
6"	\$357.98	\$371.23	\$384.97	\$399.21 <u>\$408.07</u>	\$413.98	\$429.30
8"	\$477.35	\$495.01	\$513.33	\$532.32 <u>\$544.13</u>	\$552.02	\$572.44

2. The following residential volume consumption rates are imposed for each 100 cubic feet (CCF) of usage for all water other than Class A reclaimed water according to location within or outside the corporate limits of the city:

Consumption Rate (per 100 cubic feet)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
0-300 cf	\$2.26	\$2.34	\$2.43	\$2.52 <u>\$2.58</u>	\$2.61	\$2.71
301-800 cf	\$3.80	\$3.94	\$4.09	\$4.24 <u>\$4.34</u>	\$4.40	\$4.56
Over 801 cf	\$4.75	\$4.93	\$5.11	\$5.30 <u>\$5.42</u>	\$5.50	\$5.70

3. Rates for outside City residential customers shall be 1.5 times the inside the City rates for the base charge and the consumption rates.

C. Multifamily: This customer class includes apartment, condominium, multiplex, and duplex structures that are served by a single, master water meter rather than individual unit meters.

1. The base (minimum) service for each multifamily unit connected to the single master water meter other than Class A reclaimed water shall be as follows:

Base Charge	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Per unit	\$30.16	\$29.80	\$29.42	\$29.03 <u>\$31.19</u>	\$28.62	\$28.18

2. The following multifamily volume consumption rates are imposed for each 100 cubic feet (CCF) of usage for all water other than Class A reclaimed water according to location within or outside the corporate limits of the city:

Volume Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Per 100 cf	\$2.70	\$2.67	\$2.64	\$2.60 <u>\$2.80</u>	\$2.56	\$2.52

3. Rates for outside City multifamily customers shall be 1.5 times the inside the City rates for the base charge and the consumption rates.

D. Commercial: This customer class includes without limitation hotels, schools, hospitals, churches, lodges, intermittently used buildings, government uses, and commercial or industrial uses.

1. The base (minimum) service, according to meter size and location within or outside the corporate limits of the City, for all commercial_water classifications, other than Class A reclaimed water shall be as follows:

Meter Size	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
3/4"	\$41.56	\$43.66	\$45.80	\$46.34 <u>\$48.55</u>	\$50.16	\$52.38
1"	\$52.17	\$54.81	\$57.49	\$58.18 <u>\$60.94</u>	\$62.96	\$65.74
1-1/2"	\$86.46	\$90.84	\$95.28	\$96.42 <u>\$101.00</u>	\$104.35	\$108.96
2"	\$144.25	\$151.56	\$158.97	\$160.88 <u>\$168.51</u>	\$174.10	\$181.80
3"	\$216.59	\$227.55	\$238.68	\$241.53 <u>\$253.00</u>	\$261.40	\$272.96
4"	\$288.76	\$303.38	\$318.22	\$322.01 <u>\$337.31</u>	\$348.51	\$363.92
6"	\$432.86	\$454.76	\$477.01	\$482.70 <u>\$505.63</u>	\$522.42	\$545.52
8"	\$577.18	\$606.40	\$636.06	\$643.66 <u>\$674.22</u>	\$696.60	\$727.41

2. The following commercial volume rates are imposed for each 100 cubic feet of usage for all water other than Class A reclaimed water according to location within or without the corporate limits of the city:

Volume charge	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Per 100 cf	\$3.49	\$3.67	\$3.85	\$3.89 \$4.08	\$4.21	\$4.40

3. Rates for outside City commercial customers shall be 1.5 times the inside the City rates for the base charge and the consumption rates.

Section 4. Section 13.10.050 Amended. Section 13.10.050 of the Snoqualmie Municipal Code is hereby amended and adopted to read as follows:

13.10.050 Rates and charges.

The following monthly stormwater rates and charges are hereby imposed:

- A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, the following monthly storm water rates per equivalent service unit (ESU) are hereby imposed for all developed properties within the corporate limits of the city:

Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Per ESU	\$24.12	\$25.35	\$26.64	\$28.00 \$28.57	\$29.43	\$30.93

Section 4. Severability. If any section or provision of this Ordinance is later determined to be void, preempted, or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in its entirety or with respect to any person or class of persons, such determination shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the other provisions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect to the maximum extent permitted under law.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect five days after its passage and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Snoqualmie, Washington at a regular meeting thereof and

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Snoqualmie on this 11th day of December 2023.

Katherine Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deana Dean, City Clerk

David Linehan, Interim City Attorney