

CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-XXXX

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE SEWER SYSTEM FURNISHED BY
THE CITY OF STEVENSON**

AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1190

WHEREAS, it is necessary to revise the user charge system in the City of Stevenson to provide funds sufficient to meet all expenses associated with the City's wastewater treatment system; and

WHEREAS, the City must pay all expenses associated with said treatment works and collection system and charge users of said system accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stevenson Wastewater Treatment Plant is in need of major construction to meet new Department of Ecology standards and increased loading on the plant; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Ecology has identified several capital facilities improvements that are in the process of being completed in the next two years and the City will need to accrue sufficient funds to address these improvements and associated debt repayments; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted a rate study in 2023 to evaluate recent operational changes, asset needs and secured funding packages on the future rate needs; and

WHEREAS, the City held Public Hearings on January 18, February 15 and March 21, 2024 regarding these rate changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, the city council of the city of Stevenson do ordain as follows:

SECTION I

It is determined and declared to be necessary and conducive to the protection of the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience of the City to collect charges from all users who contribute wastewater to the City's treatment works. The proceeds of such charges so derived will be used for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and retiring the debt for such public wastewater treatment works.

SECTION II

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this ordinance shall be as follows:

BOD: (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20°C, expressed in milligrams per liter (mg/l).

“Residential” shall mean any contributor to the City’s treatment works whose real estate or building is used for domestic dwelling purposes only.

SECTION III

1. The user charge system shall generate adequate annual revenues to pay the costs of annual operation and maintenance including replacement and cost associated with debt retirement of bonded capital associated with financing the treatment works which the City may by ordinance designate to be paid by the user charge system.
2. The total user charge collected shall be deposited to the water/sewer fund and will be kept in two primary accounts:
 - a. User charges shall be collected and deposited in the water/sewer operating cash account; and,
 - b. The City may designate deposits to the Replacement Account/ Sewer from the water/sewer operating cash account to ensure replacement needs over the life of the treatment plant at the direction of the City Council.

SECTION IV

Each user shall pay for the services provided by the City based on their use of the treatment works as determined by water meter(s) acceptable to the City as outlined in Exhibit A.

SECTION V

The City shall review the user charge system annually and revise user charge rates as necessary to ensure that the system generates adequate revenues to pay the costs of operation and maintenance including replacement and that the system continues to provide for the proportional distribution of operation and maintenance including replacement costs among users and user classes.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Ordinance 2022-1190 and all other Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The effective date of this Ordinance shall be the April 2024 billing cycle.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Stevenson at its regular meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor of the City of Stevenson

ATTEST:

Leana Kinley, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert C. Muth, City Attorney

Exhibit A

Rates Effective for 2024

Class of Service	Base Fee
Residential	
Single ¾" Residential	\$128.11
Multifamily-per dwelling unit	\$128.11
Non-Residential	
Transient quarters	\$34.06
Other Commercial	
¾" water service	\$128.11
1" water service	\$266.26
1.5" water service	\$396.72
2" water service	\$600.09
3" water service	\$860.99
4" water service	\$1,121.89
6" water service	\$1,852.43
Mobile Home Sites	
With or without individual connections-per dwelling unit/space	\$128.11
Special Services-Public and Private	
Meeting halls and churches	Same as applicable commercial rate
Schools	Same as applicable commercial rate
Convalescent homes, nursing homes and detention facilities	Same as applicable commercial rate
Hospitals and clinics	Same as applicable commercial rate
Industrial	
Dry industrial	Same as applicable commercial rate
Wet industrial	Same as applicable commercial rate
Downspout/Sump Pump Connection¹	\$10.00

Usage² Rates for Non-Residential/Commercial	
Flow Surcharge	\$0.065
BOD Surcharge³	
Low	\$0.000
Medium	\$0.025
High	\$0.052
Very High	\$0.101

- 1- The charge for connections to downspouts or sump pumps will be removed upon city verification that the rain catchment system, or any rain or groundwater collected in the structure, is not transferred to the sewer system.
- 2- Flow based on water consumption charged per cubic foot over 400 cu/ft. Industrial users will be charged based on a consumption factor as determined by the City.
- 3- BOD Surcharge applies to commercial customers based on the following classification:

Strength Category	BOD Strength	Types of Typical Users
Low	<300mg/L	Public Facilities, Hotel/Motel w/o Restaurant, General Retail, Office Space, Industrial w/o Process Discharge
Medium	301-600 mg/L	Hotel/Motel w/Restaurant, School w/Cafeteria, Laundromat, Nursing Home, Hospital
High	600-2,000 mg/L	Grocery Store, Bakery, Restaurant, Coffee Shop
Very High	>2,000 mg/L	Food Production, Brewery, Distillery, Cider Production, Dairy, Industrial w/Process Discharge

Additional fees for BOD₅ testing at the request of the customer will be billed at actual rates for staff time, materials and testing services used plus 17% overhead.

Rates for 2025 and beyond shall increase 5% per year.