

**CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON  
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-649**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON,  
WASHINGTON, ADOPTING A POLICY SHIFT AND ESTABLISHING A  
MORATORIUM ON ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES AND CERTAIN FEES RELATED  
TO SEWER CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING SEPTIC-SERVED  
RESIDENCES WHERE SEWER IS AVAILABLE**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Stevenson Municipal Code requires owners of property served by an on-site septic system to connect to the public sewer system where sewer is “available” as defined in SMC Chapter 13.08;
2. SMC and the City’s adopted fee and penalty frameworks authorize imposition of connection-related fees, monthly charges for failure to connect, and related liens; and
3. From 2023 through 2025, the City has engaged in a public process to revise sewer connection policies and address concerns about financial burdens, equity, and implementation of mandatory connection requirements;
4. The election of a new mayor reflects a mandate for a policy shift toward greater consideration of community impacts, financial hardship relief, and phased or alternative approaches to enforcing sewer connection requirements;
5. The City Council finds that a moratorium on the imposition and collection of certain penalties and fees associated with failure to connect for existing septic-served residences will provide needed time to complete policy review, consider permanent amendments to SMC, and align enforcement with community objectives; and
6. The Council intends that this moratorium be part of a policy shift that culminates in revised code and Council action, not a repeal of the City’s authority to require connections where appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON:**

**Section 1. Policy Declaration.**

The City Council hereby declares its intent to shift sewer connection enforcement policy for existing residential properties currently served by on-site septic systems but deemed sewer-available. This policy shift prioritizes:

- A. Fair and equitable treatment of long-term residents;
- B. Consideration of financial hardship and affordability;
- C. Alignment of sewer connection requirements with community goals and infrastructure planning; and
- D. Revisions to the Stevenson Municipal Code and related administrative policies.

**Section 2. Moratorium on Enforcement Penalties and Certain Fees.**

A temporary moratorium is established on:

- A. The imposition and collection of monthly penalties, surcharge fees, or interest for failure to connect to the public sewer system under current code;

- B. The recording of new liens solely on account of failure to connect during the moratorium period; and
- C. Enforcement actions or administrative collection measures tied to penalties for failure to connect for existing residences served by septic when sewer is available.

This moratorium **does not**:

- 1. Abrogate the underlying requirement to connect where sewer is available;
- 2. Apply to new development or property for which sewer was not available as of the effective date;
- 3. Affect system development charges or standard connection fees for properties electing to connect;
- 4. Relieve any property owner of any obligation to connect once permanent policy is adopted.

**Section 3. Duration.**

This moratorium shall take effect upon adoption and shall remain in effect until the earlier of:

- A. Adoption of amendments to the Stevenson Municipal Code addressing sewer connection enforcement and penalty structures; or
- B. \_\_\_\_\_, 2027.

**Section 4. Direction to Staff and Council.**

During the moratorium period, the Council directs the Public Works Director and City Attorney to:

- A. Present recommended revisions to SMC Chapter 13.08 and related administrative procedures to align with adopted policy;
- B. Provide a fiscal analysis of impacts to the sewer utility fund;
- C. Propose equitable hardship standards and implementation frameworks for connection requirements; and
- D. Return to the Council with proposed ordinances and policy guidance no later than \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Section 5. Severability.**

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is held to be invalid, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Jennifer Taylor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney