

**CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE 2024-12XX**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON, WA AMENDING CHAPTER 13.10
WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CHARGES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY;
AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Stevenson City Council conducted a rate study for the water and wastewater utilities; and

WHEREAS, the Council held multiple public hearings on January 18th, February 15th, March 21st, March 25th and April 18th on the changes recommended in the rate study; and

WHEREAS, the City annually reviews and updates an analysis of the capital demands of the water system and recognizes the needs for capital outlays for replacement/repair of existing facility; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to increase the ability for low-moderate income customers to receive a discount on their utility bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Stevenson do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.10 of the Stevenson Municipal Code Amended. The chapter of the Stevenson Municipal Code entitled "Water and Sewer Service Charges," codified as Stevenson Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 13.10, is hereby amended to read as set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein:

Key: ~~Strikethrough~~ means repealed. **Bold** means new.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective for the ____ 2024 billing cycle.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Stevenson and approved by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor of the City of Stevenson

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the City of Stevenson

Attorney for the City of Stevenson

Exhibit A

Chapter 13.10 WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

13.10.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

- A. "Customer" means the person responsible for paying any water and/or sewer service charges established pursuant to the provisions of this chapter as shown on the records of the city water department.
- B. "Equivalent dwelling unit" or "EDU" means any residential or nonresidential use which has been reasonably found by the director of public works to place a demand on the city's sewage system approximately equal to the demands thereon by a single-family dwelling.
- C. "Metered service charges" means charges for delivery of an amount of water in excess of that included in minimum monthly service.
- D. "Minimum monthly service charge" means a minimum monthly charge for sewer and/or water services which shall be paid for any period of time during which the premises served are connected to sewer and/or water facilities of the city, irrespective of whether the premises are occupied. The minimum monthly service charge will include the charge for delivery of a set number of cubic feet of water as established by the city council from time to time as it deems necessary or appropriate.
- E. "Person" means and includes individuals, partnerships, corporations, governmental units and any other natural or legal entity competent, as matter of law, to enter into contractual relations.

13.10.020 Minimum monthly service charges.

- A. Minimum monthly service charges in such amounts as shall from time to time be determined necessary or appropriate by the city council shall be paid by all customers for water and sewer services furnished by the city. Such charges shall be paid for any period of time during which the premises served are connected to water or sewer facilities of the city.
- B. Minimum monthly service charges may vary among different classes of service. Classes of service shall be defined by the city council [by resolution](#) from time to time as the council deems necessary or appropriate.

13.10.030 Metered service charges.

- A. Metered service charges for such volumes and at such rates as shall from time to time be determined necessary or appropriate by the city council shall be paid by all customers for water service in excess of that included in minimum monthly service.
- B. Metered service charges may vary among different classes of service. Classes of service shall be defined by the city council from time to time as the council deems necessary or appropriate.

13.10.070 Water connection fees.

- A. Water connection and new service fees for all services except multifamily or mixed commercial/residential units shall be assessed according to the fee schedule as adopted by Resolution. The fees are fully due and payable prior to the installation.
- B. The city will not accept a connection fee unless it is accompanied by a valid building permit, unless it is a connection fee associated with an existing permanent structure.
- C. Connections to the system shall be made within six months of the time the permit to connect is issued. If connection to the system is not made within six months, the permit shall be void and the connection fee

shall be forfeited to the city except that one six-month extension may be granted by the city council due to circumstances judged to be beyond the applicant's control.

- D. Each dwelling unit within a multi-family, which includes single-family residences with accessory dwelling units (ADUs), or mixed commercial/residential structure shall be charged ~~fifty-seven percent (57%) of the connection fee (or system development charge) for a single-family dwelling (3/4" or 5/8") based on the meter capacity as determined by number of fixture units~~ or the cost of the size of meter, whichever is greater. ~~Using this calculation, an ADU added on to an existing residence will be charged fourteen percent (14%) of the connection fee for a single-family dwelling (3/4" or 5/8").~~

In the case of an existing water service where there is an intended change in use, or an increase in intensity of use, then an additional system development charge shall be paid by calculating the change from the existing use to the new use based on the meter capacity as determined by the number of fixture units, or the cost of the size of the meter, whichever is greater. This section does not apply if a service decreases meter size or intensity of use.
- E. Detached ADUs do not require a separate utility connection from the main. A separate connection can be installed at the request of the property owner. If it is determined that a larger meter will be required, the owner is responsible for the difference in the connection fee between the current meter and the larger size in addition to the installation costs billed at time and expense.
- F. The property owner shall be responsible for the cost to install the service lateral from the water main trunk line to the premises, which are billed on a time and expense basis.
- G. The city does not install services larger than two-inch (2"). For larger services, the customer is responsible for submitting drawings for city approval and for installation of the service.
- H. After the water service connection is approved and the water turned on, the property owner will be charged the minimum monthly rate as applicable to the lot, type of development and/or zoning.

13.10.080 Wastewater connection fees.

- A. The sewer connection fee (or system development charge) shall be calculated based upon the equivalent ~~dwelling-residential~~ unit (EDUERU) of the use of premise that is being served. The ~~EDU-ERU~~ rate will be set according to the fee schedule adopted by resolution. The fees are fully due and payable prior to the installation.

In the case of an existing sanitary sewer service where there is an intended change in use, or an increase in the intensity of use, then additional system development charges shall be paid based on the increase by calculating the change from the existing use to the new use on the current fee schedule. This section does not apply if a service decreases intensity of use.
- B. All new sanitary sewer service installations will be completed by the customer subject to city inspection and/or testing. Inspection fees will be charged according to the fee schedule adopted by resolution.
- C. Connections to the system shall be made within six months of the time the permit to connect is issued. If connection to the system is not made within six months, the permit shall be void and the connection fee shall be forfeited to the city except that one six-month extension may be granted by the city council due to circumstances judged to be beyond the applicant's control.

~~D. Distribution of EDUs shall be as follows:~~

Type of Use	Unit	Per Unit
I. Residential		
1. Single family residential	each	1.00
2. Multifamily dwelling	each	1.00
3. Mobile home park	each space	1.00
4. Living Groups with Shared	each bed	.33

II. Nonresidential		
5. Hotel, Motel, Resort		
—— a. Without kitchen	room	.40
—— b. With kitchen	room	.60
6. Schools		
—— a. Day (nonresidential)		
———— i. Grades 9—12	12.5 students	1.00
———— ii. Grades K—8	12.5 students	1.00
7. Churches, lodges, clubhouses, theaters		
—— a. W/O kitchen facilities	100 seats	.90
—— b. W/kitchen facilities (added to amount calculated for seating)	each	.60
8. Institutions		
—— a. Convalescent/rest home	each bed	.30
9. Restaurant, lounge, tavern		
—— a. Full-service restaurant & card room (indoor seating)	every 6 seats	1.00
—— b. Fast food or tavern	every 12 seats	1.00
—— c. Fast food w/o seats		*(2)
10. Commercial and industrial		
—— a. Commercial and "dry" industry		*(2)
—— b. Special commercials		
———— i. Laundries (commercial)		*(3)
———— ii. Car wash		*(3)
———— iii. Laundromat (self-service)		*(3)
—— c. Service stations & garages		*(3)
—— d. "Wet" industry		*(3)
11. Irrigation meter		*(4)
12. Noncontact cooling water systems		*(4)
13. Determination of SDC for Other Uses: Other establishments not defined specifically in this chapter shall be determined on a specific use basis, consistent with the criteria of this section.		

***Notes to System Development Charge Schedule (SDC):**

1. — Restaurants, lounges or taverns located within a main commercial or industrial building shall be charged a separate SDC for the main building.
2. — Fast food restaurant (9b) and commercial and industrial uses (10a through 10c) shall be charged based upon water meter equivalent size (MES).
3. — System development charges for a "wet" industrial use (10d) shall be based on a separate engineering study by the director of public works. Such study shall assess the utility's actual costs to serve the specified use, but shall not be less than if calculated as a commercial or "dry" industrial use (10a).
4. — Irrigation meters (11) and noncontact cooling water (12) shall be charged system development charges for water only.

13.10.100 Low-income ~~senior~~ citizen and ~~low-income~~ moderate-income ~~disabled~~ citizen utility rate—Granted.

There is granted relief to low-income ~~senior~~ citizens who meet the qualifications and requirements of Section 13.10.110 ~~and low-income disabled citizens who meet the qualifications and requirements of Section 13.10.120~~ from any municipal utility charges of the city of 50% of the minimum service charge for base rate for municipally operated water, sewer, and/or storm sewer service. Such a reduced rate does not apply to excess water consumption or other charges beyond the base rate for the services provided. The discount will be effective with the next regular billing following the approval of an application.

There is granted relief to moderate-income citizens who meet the qualifications and requirements of Section 13.10.120 from any municipal utility charges of the city of 25% of the minimum service charge for base rate for municipally operated water, sewer, and/or storm sewer service. Such a reduced rate does not apply to excess water consumption or other charges beyond the base rate for the services provided. The discount will be effective with the next regular billing following the approval of an application.

13.10.110 Low income ~~senior~~ citizen utility rate—Requests and qualifications.

To qualify for the relief set forth in Section 13.10.100, a senior citizen shall:

- ~~A.~~ ~~Be sixty years of age or older at time of application.~~
- ~~BA.~~ Have an aggregate income, from all sources whatsoever, not to exceed 200 percent of the established federal poverty level as now or hereinafter amended.
- ~~CB.~~ Be a single occupant or the head of a household or the spouse of the head of household.
- ~~DC.~~ Reside in the dwelling unit as the applicant's primary residence and not rent the residence during the applicant's absence.
- ~~ED.~~ File an annual claim for relief with the clerk-treasurer of the city on forms provided by the clerk-treasurer. By filing a claim, the applicant authorizes the city to refer the applicant to the appropriate entity to process the application, such as Skamania County Senior Services or Washington Gorge Action Programs.

13.10.120 ~~Low-income disabled~~ Moderate-income citizen utility rate—Requests and qualifications.

To qualify for the relief set forth in Section 13.10.100, a disabled citizen shall:

- ~~A.~~ ~~Be legally disabled, handicapped or incapacitated as defined by any existing state or federal program, qualify for special parking as defined by RCW 46.19.010(1)(a) through 46.19.010(1)(g), be blind as defined by RCW 74.18.020(4), be developmental disabled as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(5), be gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder as defined by RCW 71.05.020(37), or qualify and receive social security benefits due to disability.~~
- ~~BA.~~ Have an aggregate income, from all sources whatsoever, not to exceed 200-400 percent of the established federal poverty level as now or hereinafter amended.
- ~~CB.~~ Be a single occupant or the head of a household or the spouse of the head of household.
- ~~DC.~~ Reside in the dwelling unit as the applicant's primary residence and not rent the residence during the applicant's absence.

| ED. File an annual claim for relief with the clerk-treasurer of the city on forms provided by the clerk-treasurer. By filing a claim, the applicant authorizes the city to refer the applicant to the appropriate entity to process the application, such as Skamania County Senior Services or Washington Gorge Action Programs.