

**ORDINANCE TO  
AMEND SECTION 76-8(E) BUDGET SYSTEM AND REPEAL SECTION  
76-10 SERVICE CHARGE FOR TAX EXEMPT RESIDENCES OF THE  
CITY OF WATERTOWN GENERAL ORDINANCES**

**SPONSOR: MAYOR ROBERT STOCKS  
FROM: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §76-8(E) Budget system is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§ 76-8 Budget system.**

E. The City Clerk shall publish as a Class 1 notice, under Ch. 985, Wis. Stats., a budget summary in the form prescribed by the Mayor and by § 65.90(3)(b), Wis. Stats. The notice shall also indicate where the proposed budget in detail is available for public inspection and the time and place at which a public hearing on the proposed budget is to be conducted. The Common Council shall, not less than 15 days after publication of the budget summary, hold a public hearing on the proposed budget. ~~Following the public hearing, the proposed budget may be changed without the requirement of a two-thirds vote as provided under § 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.~~

SECTION 2. §76-10 Service charge for tax-exempt residences is hereby repealed.

~~**§ 76-10 Service charge for tax-exempt residences.**~~

~~A. — Statement of purpose. Within the City there are many fine institutions such as colleges, churches, nursing homes, private clubs, rest homes, old age homes, and homes for the mentally and/or physically handicapped. Most of these institutions own single or multiple-family residences for the benefit of their staffs. The City provides fire and police protection, snow removal, garbage collection and other services to these residences. These services are presently provided at no cost to these residences since they are exempt from real estate taxation, and therefore the cost of these services is paid by the non tax exempt property owners in the City. By the adoption of this section it is hereby declared to be the public policy of the City that the tax exempt residences referred to herein should pay a share of the cost of providing municipal services from which they benefit.~~

~~B. — Property subject to service charge. All tax exempt single family or multiple family residences and private clubs located within the City shall be subject to the service charge set forth in Subsection C. This service charge shall apply to all structures whose principal use is for residential housing, and structures for multiple usage incidental to the principal residential use and intended as housing shall be subject to the service charge. Residential housing which is partially exempt from taxation shall pay only a pro rata share of the service charge based upon the percentage of tax exemption.~~

~~C. — Amount of service charge. The annual service charge to be paid shall be \$400 per residence or club, effective January 1, 1991.~~

~~D. Payment of service charge. The City Treasurer shall mail a notice of the service charge to the owners of record of the property in question prior to June 1 of every year. After receipt of notice, payment shall be made in full to the City Treasurer on or before September 1 of any year, after which interest at 8% per annum will be charged.~~

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force the day after its passage and publication.

DATE:	March 17, 2026		April 6, 2026	
READING:	1ST		2ND	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
DAVIS				
LAMPE				
BERG				
BARTZ				
BLANKE				
SMITH				
ARNETT				
WETZEL				
MOLDENHAUER				
MAYOR STOCKS				
TOTAL				

ADOPTED April 6, 2026

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED April 6, 2026

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MAYOR