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MEMO

TO: Chairperson Wetzel and Commission Members

FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E.

DATE: September 5, 2023

RE: Public Works Commission Meeting of September 12, 2023

Agenda Item:

Review and take possible action: Stormwater Utility Rate charges for duplexes and update to Chapter 453, Stormwater Management Utility

BACKGROUND:

A recent review of the monthly storm water utility charges for duplex residential units has revealed some inconsistencies in how the charges have been calculated for duplexes vs. how the charges are described as being calculated in Chapter 453 Article 1, Stormwater Management Utility. The current monthly Stormwater Utility charges for a duplex unit is \$7.33; according to Section 453-8(B), the monthly stormwater utility charge for a duplex unit should be \$9.72. The overall impact of this is a loss in revenue of about \$2,600 monthly, or \$31,200 annually, to the City's Stormwater Utility Budget.

This came to light when Chapter 453 was revised earlier this year to eliminate inconsistencies in the ordinance regarding Stormwater Utility Charges and was investigated in further detail during the summer of 2023.

City staff is seeking direction on whether to charge duplex customers as described in Section 453-8(B) or modify Chapter 453 to reflect how duplex customers are currently billed. If the former option is direction given by the Commission, Chapter 453-6(1)(B)(1) needs to be modified to a separate line to the table describing the Service Charge Rates for Duplex Residential Units, to be consistent with the rest of Chapter 453-6:

Monthly Admin. Monthly Volume Monthly Pollutant

Charge Charge per ERU Charge per ERU

Duplex Residential Units \$2.13 \$2.81 \$4.78

Enclosed: Section 453-6, City of Watertown Municipal Code of Ordinances

Section 453-8, City of Watertown Municipal Code of Ordinances