

RESOLUTION NO. 2594

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERIM UTILITY RATE INCREASES.

THE TROUTDALE CITY COUNCIL FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the water utility service provides key infrastructure vital and necessary to the livability and prosperity of the community by ensuring public health and safety, through the reliable delivery of clean, safe drinking water.
2. That the sanitary sewer utility service provides key infrastructure vital and necessary to the livability and prosperity of the community by ensuring public health and safety and protection of the environment, through the safe and reliability collection and treatment of sanitary sewer wastewater.
3. That the storm sewer utility service provides key infrastructure vital and necessary to the livability and prosperity of the community by ensuring public health and safety and protection of the environment, through flood protection of private property, drainage of storm water from street surfaces, surface and ground water quality protection and monitoring, and natural habitat improvement.
4. That the City operated Water, Sewer, and Stormwater utility services provide the most essential services needed for life, health, safety, livability, and prosperity of the community.
5. That the reliability and dependability of the utility services are of primary importance to the residents and which require proper funding to avoid deferred maintenance and inadequate supplies which undermine service reliability.
6. That utility user fees are the primary revenue source for providing these vital services which are necessary for the ongoing daily operating costs and reinvestment and replacement costs of critical capital infrastructure assets, and necessary to and provide a predictable source of funding for the needed capital projects associated with the system infrastructure reinvestment.
7. Avoiding necessary user rate increases, which results in underfunding threatening service reliability and potentially public health and safety, is not in the best interests of the community.
8. That costs for maintenance, upgrade, and replacement of utility services system infrastructure continues to increase along with compliance costs with State Health Authority Drinking Water Program, State Department of Environmental Quality and

Federal regulatory requirements, including the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for surface water.

9. That significantly higher inflation during the past 24 months since the last utility rate change has increased operating costs for labor, materials and supplies, and capital maintenance costs.

10. That U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics, Western Region, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) West Size Class A has increased 11.3% through March 2023 since rates were last increased July 1, 2021.

11. That City utility services were established in the Troutdale Municipal Code (TMC) by Ordinance which authorizes the City Council to adjust the amount of the fees by Resolution; TMC 12.03.030 Water System, TMC 12.04.030 Sanitary Sewer System, and TMC 12.06.030 Storm Sewer System.

12. That these utility rate increases are needed to meet the increased costs of operations and maintenance, increased regulatory requirements and required infrastructure replacement and improvements are estimated to cost \$7.98 per month for the average Troutdale household in support of service reliability, and which will serve a valuable, necessary and authorized public purpose, and that doing so is in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TROUTDALE:

WATER

Section 1. The water commodity charge user fee shall be increased to support system reliability, State Health Authority Drinking Water Program and State Department of Environmental Quality permit compliance costs, operating cost recovery and necessary system infrastructure reinvestment.

Section 2. The monthly water commodity charge user fee shall be per thousand gallons used the charge per thousand gallons shall be \$5.50 effective July 1, 2023.

Section 3. Other monthly water user fees are as follows:

A. Water Meter Installation Charge:

1. For a 3/4" meter: \$344
2. For a 1" meter: \$418

3. For meters larger than 1": Installed by owner.
- B. Stand Pipe Charge: \$67 (3/4" only). This is for single family home construction only. The rate is for up to 90 days. For each additional 90-day period or fraction thereof, there is an additional charge of \$67.
- C. Hydrant Meter Rental Charge: A refundable deposit of \$2,750 is required. There is a minimum rental charge of \$109 plus metered water usage at the water commodity charge per thousand gallons. The monthly rental for the meter will be \$109.
- D. Monthly Standby Fire Service with a detector check meter:
- | Meter Size | |
|------------|----------|
| 1 1/2" | \$10.48 |
| 2" | \$16.84 |
| 3" | \$31.78 |
| 4" | \$53.06 |
| 6" | \$107.38 |
| 8" | \$169.34 |
| 10" | \$237.65 |
- E. Monthly Standby Fire Service without a detector check meter shall be twice the rate given in Paragraph D above.

SANITARY SEWER

- Section 1. The sanitary sewer utility fee shall be increased to support system reliability, State Department of Environmental Quality NPDES permit compliance costs, operating cost recovery and necessary system infrastructure reinvestment.
- Section 2. The monthly sanitary sewer utility fee shall be per equivalent residential unit (ERU), and effective July 1, 2023 the charge per ERU shall be \$53.47.
- Section 3. The monthly additional surcharge on all sanitary sewer accounts that are connected to the sanitary sewer system through a Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) station that is operated and maintained by the City shall remain at \$1.00.
- Section 4. The monthly additional fee on all utility accounts that utilize recycled water from the City's wastewater treatment plant shall be based on actual consumption of recycled water at a rate equal to one-half the water commodity charge.
- Section 5. For the purposes of assessing the monthly sanitary sewer utility fee, an account holder will be charged for the number of equivalent residential units for which system development charges are or would be assessed unless

there is a documented, long-term change in wastewater discharge by that particular account.

Section 6. An equivalent residential unit (ERU) shall remain unchanged as an average flow of 180 gallons per day.

STORM SEWER

Section 1. The storm sewer utility fee shall be increased to support system reliability, State Department of Environmental Quality NPDES and UIC permit compliance costs, operating cost recovery and necessary system infrastructure reinvestment.

Section 2. The monthly storm sewer utility fee shall be per equivalent residential unit (ERU), and effective July 1, 2023 the charge per ERU shall be \$9.18.

Section 3. Section 12.06.050 B. of the Troutdale Municipal Code establishes a storm sewer utility ERU is set as 2,700 square feet of impervious surface. All residential users are deemed to have an assumed average of 2,700 square feet of impervious surface.

Section 4. The storm sewer utility fee shall not be imposed for the impervious surface of a public street, road, or highway nor upon the runways or taxiways of a public airport.

Section 5. Non-residential users shall be charged for their actual impervious surface at the ERU rate in Section 2 above.

Section 6. Section 12.06.050 C. of the Troutdale Municipal Code establishes that the storm sewer utility fee may be reduced by individual mitigation efforts, which are authorized as follows:

1. The responsible party must request, in writing, a reduction in the storm sewer utility fee based upon mitigation actions taken to reduce the effect of storm water flow from the property.
2. The request must include the following minimum information:
 - The calculated storm water run-off from the area in question prior to its development.
 - The calculated additional storm water run-off from the area in question after its development without mitigation.
 - The calculated additional storm water run-off from the area in question after its development with mitigation.

- Drawings or other suitable details of the mitigation method(s) employed.
3. In determining storm water run-off, a 25-year event of 24-hour intensity shall be used.
 4. Upon review and approval of the user's request, the Public Works Director may grant a reduction in the storm sewer utility fee equal to the percent reduction in additional storm water run-off achieved by the mitigation effort but in no event shall the reduction be more than 70% of the fee without mitigation.
 5. The full amount of the storm sewer utility fee shall be charged until a request for reduction is received and approved.
 6. The decision of the Public Works Director may be appealed to the City Manager. Such appeal must be in writing and submitted within 30 days after the decision is made by the Director. The appeal must state the particular matter in dispute, the reason(s) for differing with the Director, and the specific relief sought.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The City Manager Ray Young, and Finance Director Erich Mueller, (each an "City Official") are designated, or a designee of the City Official, to act on behalf of the City, and without further action by the City Council, the City Official is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to implement the intent of this resolution.

Section 2. The City Official is hereby authorized to execute, acknowledge and deliver any other supporting and implementing documents, and to take any other action as may be advisable, convenient, necessary, or appropriate to give full force and effect to the terms and intent of this resolution, and the execution thereof by any such City Official shall be conclusive as to such determination.

Section 3. Further, as applicable, to comply with State statutes, administrative rules or local ordinances, and to act in the best interest of the City, and without further action by the City Council, the City Officials are hereby authorized, directed, and responsible for fulfilling the ministerial, intergovernmental, technical, compliance, procedural or promotional functions as required for the effective administration and implementation of this resolution, and to take any other action as may be advisable, convenient, necessary, or appropriate, and the execution thereof by any such City Official shall be conclusive as to such determination.

Section 4. The Finance Director is authorized to disburse funds, subject to annual appropriations, as necessary to fulfill the obligations and the intent of this resolution and is further directed to implement all such actions necessary to ensure budgetary compliance.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, and all the above stated utility user rates shall be effective July 1, 2023.

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 1 Councilor White

ABSTAINED: 0



Randy Lauer, Mayor

Date: May 24, 2023



Sarah Skroch, City Recorder

Adopted: May 23, 2023