

WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SEWER RATES

• Sewer Rates and Charges •

Sec. 62-181. City's right to determine billing method.

The city reserves the right to bill residential, commercial and industrial users for their wastewater discharge on the basis of their actual wastewater flow volumes, as opposed to sewage rates based on water usage. This method of assessment, if employed, will be equivalent to the existing sewage rate structure.

(Code 1985, § 50.080; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-182. Applicability of fees and sewer charges.

For the use of and the service rendered by the sewage disposal works, rates and charges shall be collected from the owners of each and every lot, parcel of real estate, or building that is connected with the city's sanitary sewerage system or otherwise discharges sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, water or other liquids either directly or indirectly into the sanitary sewerage system of the city. The rates and charges shall be payable as hereinafter provided and shall be in an amount determinable as provided in this article.

(Code 1985, § 50.081; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-183. Rates based on water usage, strength of discharge.

(a) The sewage rates and charges shall be based on the quantity of water used on or in the property or premises subject to the rates and charges, as the same is measured by the water meter there in use, except as herein otherwise provided. Water meters and/or remote read heads shall be read once each month (or a period equaling one month), and sewage service bills shall be rendered once each month (or a period equaling one month).

(b) In order that the rates and charges may be justly and equitably adjusted to the service rendered, the city shall have the right to base its charges not only on volume but also on the strength and character of the wastewater which it is required to treat and wastes it is required to dispose of. The city shall have the right to measure and determine the strength and content of all wastewater discharged, either directly or indirectly, into the POTW, in such manner and by such method as it may deem practicable in the light of the conditions and attending circumstances of the case, in order to determine the proper charge.

(c) If the character of the wastewater of any user as determined by the superintendent shall be such as to impose a burden upon the POTW, then an additional charge or surcharge as determined by the authority shall be charged such user over and above the regular service charge, or the superintendent shall require that such wastewater be treated by the user responsible before being emptied into the system. If necessary to protect the system, or any part thereof, the superintendent shall deny the right of the user to empty such wastewater into the system. (Surcharges required by this section shall be computed as the prorated share of the annual cost of the operation and maintenance, including replacement attributable to treating a substance multiplied by the ratio of the weight of the surchargeable excess of the discharged substances to the total weight of such substances that is treated in that year).

(d) The surcharges to be charged for the treatment of extra strength sewage shall be determined by the following table. The surcharge shall become effective should the concentration of Carbonaceous BOD5 (biochemical oxygen demand), TSS (total suspend solids), P (phosphorus) or N-NH3 (ammonia nitrogen) exceed the concentrations listed in section 62-147(10). The surcharge shall be charged for each pound of the particular pollutant in excess of these concentrations:

TABLE INSET:

Pollutant	Surcharge Dollars/Pound Excess	
	Prior to 7/1/2006	7/1/2006 and Thereafter
CBOD5	\$0.302	\$0.371
TSS	0.259	0.319
P	1.814	8.924
N-NH	0.878	1.080

(e) To determine the strength of the wastewater, grab or composite sampling and analysis may be made by the authority; billing adjustments with respect to the corresponding surcharges will then also be made.

(f) The determination of suspended solids, five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, phosphorus and ammonia nitrogen contained in the wastewater shall be in accordance with the procedure set forth in 40 CFR 136 Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants.

(Code 1985, § 50.082; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995; Ord. No. 4857, § 1(50.082), 7-6-2004)

Sec. 62-184. Schedule of rates, city wastewater utility.

(a) Every person whose premises are served by the Wastewater Utility shall be charged for the service provided. Notwithstanding the provisions of 62-181, the sewage rates and charges shall be based on the quantity of water used on or in the property or premises subject to such rates and charges as the same is measured by the water meter there in use plus a customer charge, and plus a base charge based on the size of water meter installed as adjusted by the Meter Equivalency Factor, except as herein otherwise provided. For the purpose of billing and collecting the charges for sewage service, the water meters shall be read monthly and the users shall be billed each month (or period equaling a month). If for any reason the monthly meter reading is not available, a bill will be prepared, based on the estimated usage, and a correction will be made when meter readings are available. The water usage schedule on which the amount of said rates and charges shall be determined is as follows:

- (1) Flow rate effective upon passage of the amending rate ordinance - \$1.484 per 100 cubic feet
- (2) Customer charge effective upon passage of the amending rate ordinance - \$1.66 per bill per month
- (3) Base charges – Phase I effective upon passage of the amending rate ordinance; Phase II effective January 1, 2010; Phase III effective January 1, 2011; in the Amounts as follows:

Meter Size	Equivalency Factors	Phase One (\$)	Phase Two (\$)	Phase Three (\$)
Residential	1.0	26.89	32.69	38.44
5/8"	1.0	26.89	32.69	38.44
1"	2.5	67.23	81.73	96.10
1 1/4"	4.0	107.56	130.76	153.76
1 1/2"	5.8	155.96	189.60	222.95
2"	10.0	268.90	326.90	384.40
3"	23.0	618.47	751.87	884.12
4"	41.0	1,102.49	1,340.29	1,576.04
6"	92.0	2,473.88	3,007.48	3,536.48
8"	164.0	4,409.96	5,361.16	6,304.16
10"	256.0	6,883.84	8,368.64	9,840.64

(b) Single family residential properties served by a water meter smaller than 1 1/4" shall be billed based on a Meter Equivalency Factor of 1.

(c) The Base Charge shall be based on a meter size of not more than one size smaller than the service line in which the meter is installed.

(d) The monthly sewer bill for any service where the user is not a metered water customer shall be estimated and determined by means and methods satisfactory to the Authority.

Sec. 62-186. Nonrecurring charges.

Nonrecurring charges are as follows:

(1) Dishonored negotiable instrument charge, \$20.00.

(2) Late payment penalty, ten percent of current month balance.

(3) Credit agreement fee, ten percent of arrears amount, or \$20.00, whichever is less.

(4) Deposit (sewer-only customers), two months' normal bill, per service location.

(5) New account service charges (sewer-only customers), one-time charge of \$20.00 (nonrefundable).

(Code 1985, § 50.085; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995; Ord. No. 4072, 7-15-1996; Ord. No. 4581, 4-17-2001; Ord. No. 4857, § 1(50.085), 7-6-2004)

Sec. 62-187. Exemption for lawn sprinkling.

(a) In order that there is no charge to residential water customers for water used in lawn sprinkling during the peak watering months of May, June, July, August, September and October, the customer's average water meter readings for the months of January, February, March, and April of each year shall be substituted for the readings for the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of the same year for purposes of calculating the wastewater charges.

This summer rule shall not apply to customers who meter their lawn sprinkling water separately.

(b) If a customer's water bill is adjusted as the result of a faulty water meter or a slowed or stopped remote reading head, the authority shall adjust the customer's wastewater bill due accordingly. Unless the authority or the customer can determine the exact time period covered by faulty meters or remote reading heads, the assumption shall be that half the customer's water has been consumed during "summer rule" periods as described in this section. As such, in the event an adjusted consumption amount is added to the customer's water bill, then half that consumption volume shall be adjusted on the customer's wastewater bill, after first considering any subminimum consumption methods. This methodology shall be used consistently, regardless of the time of year when the discrepancy is discovered.

(Code 1985, § 50.086; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-188. Adjustments for fire protection use.

Where a metered water supply is used for fire protection as well as for other uses, the authority may, in its discretion, make adjustments in the minimum charge and in the use charge as may be equitable.

(Code 1985, § 50.087; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-189. Charges in absence of meter; installation of meter.

In the event a lot, parcel of real estate, or building discharging sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, water, or other liquids into the city's sanitary sewage system, either directly or indirectly:

(1) Is not a user of water supplied by the city's water works, and the water used thereon or therein is not measured by a water meter;

(2) Is measured by a water meter not acceptable to the city; or

(3) Is a user of water supplied by the city's water works and in addition, uses water from another source which is not measured by a water meter or is measured by a water meter not acceptable to the authority, then the water used shall be otherwise measured or determined by the authority, in order to ascertain the rates and charges provided in this division. Or, the owner or other interested party, at his expense, may install and maintain a meter acceptable to the authority for that purpose.

(Code 1985, § 50.088; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-190. Portion of water not entering sewage system.

(a) In the event a lot, parcel of real estate, or building discharging sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, water or liquids into the city's sanitary sewage system, either directly or indirectly, uses water in excess of 1,000 cubic feet per month, and it can be shown, to the satisfaction of the authority, that a portion of the water as measured by the water meter does not and cannot enter the sanitary sewage system, the authority may determine in such manner and by such method as it may deem practicable, the percentage of metered water entering the sanitary sewage system. The percentage, when so determined, shall then constitute the basis of sewage service (wastewater) charge.

(b) The authority may, at its discretion, require or permit the installation of additional meters at the expense of the owner or other interested party in such a manner as to determine the quantity of water actually entering the sewage system, in which case the quantity of water used to determine the sewage service charge shall be the quantity of water actually entering the sanitary sewage system as so determined.

(c) Plans for installation of additional meters pursuant to subsection (b) of this section including meter types, must be approved by the authority in advance of installation. The authority shall charge \$50.00 per meter to inspect the metering system prior to initial activation. Additionally, the authority shall charge a monthly service fee of \$35.00 per meter during each month of activation. The charge to reinstate meter activation shall be \$50.00 per meter.

(d) Any costs associated with maintenance, adjustment, repair or replacement of such metering devices shall be the responsibility of the customer. As it is in the best interest of both the customer and the authority to ensure continued accuracy of such metering devices, an annual inspection shall be conducted on each meter by an independent testing firm selected by the authority. The costs for such annual inspections and any subsequent maintenance, adjustment, repair or replacement of such metering devices shall be the responsibility of the customer. (Code 1985, § 50.089; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-191. City subject to prevailing rates.

For services rendered to the city, the city shall be subject to the same rates and charges herein provided, or to rates and charges established in harmony therewith. (Code 1985, § 50.090; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-192. Tenants, owners responsible for payment.

(a) Rates and charges may be billed to a tenant occupying the properties served, unless otherwise requested in writing by the owner, but such billings shall in no way relieve the owner from liability in the event payment is not made as herein required.

(b) The owner of tenant-occupied properties shall have the right to examine the collection records of the city for the purpose of determining whether the rates and charges have been paid by the tenants, provided that such examination shall be made at the office at which the records are kept and during the hours the office is open for business. (Code 1985, § 50.091; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-194. When rates become effective.

Except as herein otherwise provided, the rates and charges fixed by this division shall become effective at the time sewage is first directed to the sewage plant for treatment from the user. These rates and charges shall be extended to and cover any additional premises thereafter served, without the necessity of any hearing or notice. If a sewer user is discovered to have existed for more than one year prior to the date of discovery by the authority, the user shall be billed the appropriate monthly minimum for an amount up to the equivalent of one year's minimum. (Code 1985, § 50.093; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-195. Collection of rates.

(a) The rates and charges made to the city pursuant to this article shall be computed and billed by the authority, and shall be collected in the manner provided by law and ordinance. The first billing may be for a period of more or less than one full month in order to make the monthly

collection period correspond with the water meter readings of the authority.

(b) The rates and charges established by this article shall be collected by the authority. The authority shall make and enforce such by laws and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the safe, economical, and efficient management of the city's sewage system, regulator chambers, pumping stations, and sewage treatment works, for the construction and use of house sewers and connections to the sewage system, and for the regulation, collection, rebating, and refunding of related rates and charges.

(c) The authority shall require a service deposit from sewer-only customers to guarantee payment of bills from the customer at any time prior to or after the commencement of service. Such initial service deposit shall normally be an amount equal to one-sixth of the expected annual billings for the customer at the address at which sewer service is rendered. The authority may provide the customer with two monthly billing cycles (approximately 60 days) in which to pay any sewer-only deposit which exceeds \$70.00.

(d) The deposit, less any amount owed to the authority for service, will be refunded when service is discontinued.

(Code 1985, § 50.094; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995; Ord. No. 4581, 4-17-2001)

Sec. 62-196. Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT).

The utility board is hereby authorized to transfer the amount of money sufficient to compensate the municipality for the property taxes that would be paid on the sewage works if the sewage works were privately owned, such amount to be determined by said utility board. The utility board may transfer payments in lieu of taxes to the general fund of the city.

(Code 1985, § 50.095; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Sec. 62-197. Revocation of discharge permits.

The city reserves the right to revoke discharge permits and to disconnect service to any user whenever wastewater treatment bills become delinquent. All amounts charged under this article continue to be due hereunder, whether or not said sewer is disconnected until the city is paid in full for all amounts due it, and in addition, there shall be paid to the city a deposit equal to an estimated amount of such charge for the next succeeding year. Such a deposit shall be held by the city in escrow, and will be returned upon satisfactory payment of all bills for a period of two years.

(Code 1985, § 50.096; Ord. No. 4007, 12-18-1995)

Secs. 62-198--62-217. Reserved.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SEWER RATES

• TIF Credit•

62-362 TIF CREDIT

(A) Wastewater Utility customers whose premises are served by the utility and are located within the City limits shall receive a credit applied towards their monthly sewer bill in recognition of the portion of the principal and interest on Wastewater Utility bonds paid by the City from TIF revenues.

(B) The monthly credit shall be as follows:

- (1) Flow Rate Credit - \$.232 per 100 cubic feet
- (2) Base Rate Credit

Meter Size	Equivalency Factors	(\$)
Residential	1.0	\$ 10.00
5/8"	1.0	10.00
1"	2.5	25.00
1 1/4"	4.0	40.00
1 1/2"	5.8	58.00
2"	10.0	100.00
3"	23.0	230.00
4"	41.0	410.00
6"	92.0	920.00
8"	164.0	1,640.00
10"	256.0	2,560.00

(C) Single family residential properties serviced by a water meter smaller than 1 1/4" shall receive a Base Charge TIF Credit based on a Meter Equivalency Factor of 1.

(D) The TIF Credit shall be in effect upon passage of the amending rate ordinance.