

ORDINANCE 1707

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BEND, WASHINGTON, UPDATING WATER UTILITY RATES AND AMENDING THE TAXES, RATES, AND FEES SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1475 on December 12, 2012, which amended water rates for the years 2013 through 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Taxes, Rates, and Fees Schedule, which includes water rates, was last amended by Ordinance 1689, effective July 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, water rates were last adjusted in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the cost of operating the City's water system has increased at a rate equal to or higher than inflation; and

WHEREAS, the City has not yet had the opportunity to conduct a water rate study to evaluate whether the current water utility rates are sufficient to meet its obligations and ensure that the water utility has stable operating reserves; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it appropriate to amend Taxes, Rates and Fees Schedule to reflect increased costs associated with providing water services as well as water public facilities and infrastructure by adding an automatic annual adjustment, not to exceed 5% annually, until such time as a water rate study is conducted;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BEND, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Water Rates. The Taxes, Rates, and Fees Schedule as adopted by Ordinance 1084, and last amended effective July 3, 2019, is amended in part by adding the following language to Subsections 13.12.130(A) – 13.12.130(I):

*The rates in this table will be automatically increased/decreased each year on January 1st, compared to the prior year, based on the percentage reflected in the CPI-W Index for Seattle/Tacoma area (August to August comparison) for each subsequent year beginning January 1, 2020, in an amount not to exceed five percent (5%).

Section 2. Severability: Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or pre-

emption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 3. Effective Date: This ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City and shall take effect and be in full force on January 1, 2020.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BEND, WASHINGTON, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF, THIS 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.

CITY OF NORTH BEND:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kenneth G. Hearing, Mayor

Eileen M. Keiffer, City Attorney

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Published: November 29, 2019
Effective: January 1, 2020

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk