

ORDINANCE 1741

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BEND, WASHINGTON, INCREASING SEWER UTILITY RATES AND SEWER GENERAL FACILITY CHARGES AND AMENDING THE TAXES, RATES, AND FEES SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the City of North Bend (“City”) owns and operates a municipal sewer utility as authorized by Chapter 35.67 RCW; and

WHEREAS, the City has developed a Wastewater System Facilities Plan (“Plan”) which describes improvements necessary for the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (“WWTP”) and in the sewer collection system, in order to increase reliability and redundancy for the utility and address the growth that recently occurred within the City; and

WHEREAS, general facilities charges (“GFCs”) are collected by the City for each new Equivalent Residential Unit added to the sewer utility, and those GFCs are designated to pay for a proportionate share of the existing sewer infrastructure as well as a proportionate share of future capital projects over a five-year period; and

WHEREAS, the City’s existing sewer customers are responsible for paying for operations, maintenance and repairs for the sewer utility and to existing infrastructure within the sewer system, and for stricter environmental requirements imposed by Washington State Department of Ecology; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1084, the Taxes, Rates and Fees Schedule, effective November 2, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Taxes, Rates and Fees Schedule, which includes sewer rates and GFCs, was last amended by Ordinance 1734, effective January 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the sewer GFC was last updated in January 2019 and has been automatically increased each year since then on January 1st by the percentage reflected in the Seattle ENR Construction Cost Index (CCI); and

WHEREAS, the City last studied sewer rates in 2016 and revised the sewer rate structure to encourage water conservation practices by lowering the base fixed fee and raising the variable usage fee, adopted a rate schedule for the years 2016 – 2020, and included an automatic annual CPI adjustment beginning January 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City has been working with Trane, through a contract with the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services, for the WWTP High Priority Improvements Project Phase II (“Phase II”) design; and

WHEREAS, WWTP High Priority Improvements Phase II is projected to include approximately \$24 million worth of capital improvement projects at the WWTP; and

WHEREAS, WWTP High Priority Improvements Project Phase I is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, the City contracted with FCS Group to update the Sewer Rate Study to recalculate the City’s sewer rates and GFCs to recover costs necessary to fund Phase II Improvements, existing debt repayment for Phase I Improvements, and ongoing operations and maintenance of the municipal sewer utility; and

WHEREAS, the City held a public hearing on the proposed changes to the sewer rates and GFCs at the February 16, 2021 City Council meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it appropriate to the amend Taxes, Rates and Fees Schedule to reflect costs associated with providing sewer services as well as sewer public facilities and infrastructure;

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

Section 1. Sewer Rates. The Taxes, Rates, and Fees Schedule as adopted by Ordinance 1084 and last amended by Ordinance 1734, is amended to read as follows:

13.24 Sewer Rates

	DESCRIPTION	TAX, RATE, OR FEE	TAX, RATE, OR FEE	TAX, RATE, OR FEE	TAX, RATE, OR FEE
		Effective 1/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2023	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2025
13.24.020(A)	Single-family Residential Units (inside City limits) including duplexes, triplexes, apartment houses, condominiums, trailer courts & other multifamily, provided each unit is supplied with a separate water meter	\$ 83.01	\$ 85.09	\$ 87.22	\$ 89.40
	PLUS				

13.24.020(B)	per cubic meter of water usage over the first ten CM	\$ 8.28	\$ 8.49	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.92
	Senior/Low Income Rate	\$ 38.07	\$ 39.02	\$ 40.00	\$ 41.00
		Effective 1/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2023	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2025
	Multi-family Residential: single family, duplexes, triplexes, apartment houses, condominiums, trailer courts & other multi-family dwellings (inside City limits) served jointly by one water meter, <i>per unit</i>	\$ 83.01	\$ 85.09	\$ 87.22	\$ 89.40
	PLUS				
13.24.020(C)	per cubic meter of water usage over the first ten CM	\$ 8.28	\$ 8.49	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.92
		Effective 1/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2023	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2025
	Mixed Use (residential/commercial) (inside City limits) served by one water meter.				
	One Commercial Base Charge	\$ 83.01	\$ 85.09	\$ 87.22	\$ 89.40
	PLUS				
	MultiFamily Charge (<i>per each Residential unit</i>)	\$ 83.01	\$ 85.09	\$ 87.22	\$ 89.40
	PLUS				
13.24.020(D)	per cubic meter of water usage (at Commercial Rate) over the first twenty CM	\$ 8.28	\$ 8.49	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.92
		Effective 1/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2023	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2025

13.24.020(E)	Commercial and All Other Users (inside City limits)		\$ 83.01	\$ 85.09	\$ 87.22	\$ 89.40
	PLUS					
	per cubic meter of water usage over the first ten CM		\$ 8.28	\$ 8.49	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.92
			Effective 1/1/2022	Effective 1/1/2023	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2025
	Commercial and All Other Users (outside City limits)		\$ 124.51	\$ 127.62	\$ 130.81	\$ 134.08
	PLUS					
	per cubic meter of water usage over the first ten CM		\$ 12.45	\$ 12.77	\$ 13.08	\$ 13.41

*The rates published are effective as of the dates noted; provided, that the last-effective published rates will be automatically increased/decreased based on CPI-W Index for Seattle/Tacoma area (August to August comparison) for each subsequent year beginning January 1, 2026. For the months of April through October, consumption amounts for sewer services will be based on the average water consumption during the months of November through March, so as not to penalize sewer customers using water for lawn and garden irrigation and other summer activities.

Section 2. General Facilities Charges: The Taxes, Rates and Fees Schedule as adopted by Ordinance 1084 and last amended by Ordinance 1734, is amended to read as follows:

		Effective 04/01/2021*				
13.20.080	Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) Based on water meter size:	ERUs	Charge Non-ULID #6	Charge ULID #6	Commercial Non-ULID #6	Commercial ULID #6
	5/8" or 3/4"	1	\$ 16,024.00	\$ 14,144.00	\$ 12,730.00	\$ 9,900.00
	1"	2.5	\$ 40,059.00	\$ 35,359.00	\$ 31,785.00	\$ 24,750.00
	1-1/2"	5	\$ 80,118.00	\$ 70,718.00	\$ 63,570.00	\$ 49,500.00
	2"	8	\$ 128,189.00	\$ 113,150.00	\$ 101,680.00	\$ 79,205.00
	3"	16	\$ 256,377.00	\$ 226,299.00	\$ 203,350.00	\$158,410.00
	4"	25	\$ 400,589.00	\$ 353,592.00	\$ 317,750.00	\$247,515.00

*The charges in this table will be automatically increased each year on January 1st, compared to the prior year, by the percentage reflected in the Seattle ENR Construction Cost Index (CCI).

Section 3. 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 4. Effective Date: This ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City and shall take effect and be in full force on April 1, 2021.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BEND, WASHINGTON, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF, THIS 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

CITY OF NORTH BEND:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Rob McFarland, Mayor

Michael R. Kenyon, City Attorney

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Published: March 12, 2021
Effective: April 1, 2021

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk