

**ORDINANCE NO. 1586**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO CHARGES FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF RUSTON, AMENDING SECTION 21.02.010 OF THE RUSTON MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCREASE SANITARY SEWER FLOW CHARGES PER 100 CCFS FOR 2025 AND 2026 SETTING THE UPDATED RATES AS FOLLOWS: FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL \$6.27 FOR 2025 AND \$6.34 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 1 \$8.73 FOR 2025 AND \$9.17 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 2 \$9.78 FOR 2025 AND \$10.52 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 3 \$12.03 FOR 2025 AND \$12.82 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 4 \$14.13 FOR 2025 AND \$15.05 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 5 \$14.96 FOR 2025 AND \$16.09 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 6 \$16.91 FOR 2025 AND \$18.10 FOR 2026, FOR CATEGORY 7 \$19.11 FOR 2025 AND \$20.45 FOR 2026, AND FOR CATEGORY 8 \$19.87 FOR 2025 AND \$21.27 FOR 2026, FOR UNCATEGORIZED COMMERCIAL \$6.27 FOR 2025 AND \$6.34 FOR 2026, SUCH INCREASES ARE IMPOSED FOR THE PURPOSES OF PASSING THROUGH INCREASES FOR SEWER SERVICES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CORRECTIONS, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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**WHEREAS**, in accordance with RCW 35A.11.020, 35A.21.150, and Chapter 35.67 RCW, the City is authorized to provide sanitary sewer services to properties within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with RCW 35.67.020, the City has the authority to establish charges for the sanitary sewer facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with RCW 35.67.190, the City has the authority to fix the rates for sanitary sewer services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is charged for sanitary sewer services from the City of Tacoma; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruston has not increased its sewer rates since 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tacoma raised its sanitary sewer rates since Ruston last updated its sewer rates in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the City generally matches the flow charges with Tacoma's current rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed new flow charges are the same as are charged by Tacoma for 2025 with a second step increase effective in 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2024, the City Council held the first reading of this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 19, 2024, the City Council adopted this Ordinance at Second Reading during its regular meeting; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Section 21.02.010 of the Ruston Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**21.02.010 - Rate schedule.**

Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 35.67.190, charges shall be made for the discharge of and the availability of the discharge of all sanitary sewage into the Ruston Municipal Sanitary Sewer System. Unless otherwise determined by the City, no allowances will be made for vacancies or remodeling. Sewer charges shall be based upon highest class of sanitary sewer use when there is more than one type of user per premises. The charges shall be as follows:

- (a) Each single-family residence (including those instances where more than one family residence is served through one water meter) shall be charged a monthly charge computed as follows:

- (1) Effective Date: Effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025, a fixed charge of \$67.67 plus a flow charge calculated at ~~\$5.65~~ \$6.27 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) of water consumption and effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026, a fixed charge of \$67.67 plus a flow charge calculated at ~~\$6.05~~ \$6.34 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) of water consumption.

The water consumption for the flow charge shall be the average monthly use as measured during the most recent months of December, January, February, and March. If the average consumption results in a fractional part of a ccf, the number used for calculating the flow charge shall be the next highest whole number.

- (b) Multiple-family residences (two or more units) served through one water meter shall pay a monthly charge per living unit as above, except that the water consumed during the winter months shall be divided by the total number of living units served by the account

to determine the per living unit flow volume. If the average consumption per unit results in a fraction, the number used for calculating the flow charge shall be the next highest whole number.

It shall be the duty of every person in possession, charge, or control of the entire premises consisting of two or more units, served by the sanitary sewer system, or to which such service is available, to be accountable for payment of each unit.

Where units in multiple-unit residences are separately metered, each unit shall be charged the appropriate single-family residence rate as set forth in subsection (a) of this section. Rate for user generating most sanitary sewage will be used for billing purposes.

(c) In all cases other than residential charges hereinabove set forth, the sewer charge shall be computed and paid as follows:

(1) Metered Water Supply. When charges and fees are based upon the water usage, such charges and fees shall be applied against the total amount of water used from all sources unless, in the opinion of the Director of the City of Tacoma Public Works, significant portions of water received are not discharged to a sanitary sewer. The total amount of water used from public and private sources will be determined by means of public meters or private meters, installed, and maintained at the expense of the user and approved by the Director of the City of Tacoma Public Works. Where more than one commercial/industrial facility is served by one water meter, the user group shall be determined by the activities of the largest water consumption used.

(d) The charge for commercial/industrial sanitary sewer user groups shall be as follows:

(1) Effective Date: Effective March 21, 2021, a fixed charge of \$55.60.

Each commercial/industrial user shall be placed in a user group and shall pay the appropriate flow rate per 100 cubic feet (ccf) as listed below.

Category I: ~~\$7.84~~ \$8.73/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$8.47~~ \$9.17/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026). (BOD 0-250 mg/l) (SS 0-150)

User Group Names:

- Nursing Homes
- Photo Finish Laboratories
- Taverns - No Food Preparation
- Commercial Printers
- Business Form Printers
- Laundromats
- Photo Studios
- Car Washes

- Lime Manufacturers

Category II: ~~\$8.46~~ \$9.78/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$9.14~~ \$10.52/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 200-300 mg/l) (SS 150-400)

User Group Names:

- Hotels and Motels - No Restaurant
- Hospitals
- Auto Dealers
- Top and Body Repair Shops
- Repair and Paint Shops
- Auto Repair Shops
- Asphalt Felts and Coating
- Domestic Strength
- Chemical Processors
- Coating and Engraving
- Concrete Ready Mix Suppliers
- Funeral Services - No Embalming
- Manufacturers
- Meat Distributors
- Meat and Fish Markets
- Paint Manufacturers
- Platers
- Soft Drink Beverage
- Vehicle Parts Manufacturers

Category III: ~~\$10.65~~ \$12.03/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$11.51~~ \$12.82/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 301-500 mg/l) (SS 0-400)

User Group Names:

- Canned and Cured Fish
- Fresh or Frozen Fish
- Grocery Stores - Others
- Bowling Alleys - No Restaurant

Category IV: ~~\$12.51~~ \$14.13/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$13.52~~ \$15.05/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 301-500 mg/l) (SS 450 mg/l)

User Group Names:

- Hotels and Motels - With Restaurant

Category V: ~~\$12.70~~ \$14.96/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$13.72~~ \$16.09/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 501-700 mg/l)

User Group Names:

- Commercial Laundries
- Bakeries (Manufacturers)

Category VI: ~~\$14.56~~ \$16.91/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$15.73~~ \$18.10/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 701-900 mg/l) (SS 400 mg/l)

User Group Names:

- Bakery Stores - On-Site Baking
- Restaurants (Category I)
- Taverns - With Food Preparation (Category I)
- Bowling Alleys - With Restaurant (Category I)

Category VII: ~~\$16.45~~ \$19.11/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$17.77~~ \$20.45/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 701-900 mg/l) (SS 700 mg/l)

User Group Names:

- Grocery Stores - Full Service
- Funeral Services - With Embalming

Category VIII: ~~\$17.02~~ \$19.87/ccf (effective ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025) and ~~\$18.39~~ \$21.27/ccf (effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026)

(BOD 901+ mg/l)

User Group Names:

- Restaurants (Category II)
- Taverns - With Food Preparation (Category II)
- Bowling Alleys - With Food Preparation (Category II)

Commercial/industrial users not identified above will be billed at domestic strength.

- (e) Every premises to which sanitary sewerage is furnished by sanitary sewers, and every premises to which there is availability for such service shall be charged for such service in accordance with the rates and charges herein placed in effect; provided, however, that in no event shall any such charge be less than as provided below:
- (1) Effective Date: ~~March 21, 2023~~ January 21, 2025 a fixed charge of \$66.96 plus a flow charge calculated at ~~\$5.65~~ \$6.27 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) of water consumption and effective ~~January 21, 2024~~ January 21, 2026, a fixed charge of \$67.67 plus a flow charge calculated at ~~\$6.05~~ \$6.34 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) of water consumption.
- (f) The City will not charge for sanitary sewer for property in the City that is vacant or unimproved when such land is not connected to the sanitary sewer system.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

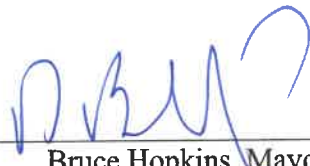
**Section 3. Publication.** This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

**Section 4. Corrections.** Upon the approval of the city attorney, the city clerk, and/or the code publisher is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective five days after publication as provided by law. The rates adopted herein shall be effective as stated in Section 1 of this Ordinance.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Ruston and attested by the City Clerk in authentication of such passage on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

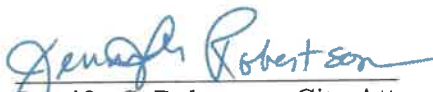
**APPROVED** by the Mayor this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

  
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Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Grams, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: \_\_\_\_\_  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLISHED: \_\_\_\_\_  
EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORDINANCE NO: 1586