

CHAPTER 8 PUBLIC UTILITIES

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ORDINANCE 810 SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

Section 810.01: SEWER SERVICE CHARGES. The charges for sewer usage shall be determined by the City Council pursuant to the provisions of this Section, and shall be set forth in the Schedule of Fees, Chapter 215.

Section 810.02: BASIS FOR SEWER SERVICE CHARGES. The sewer service charges for the use of, and for service supplied by, the City's sewer facilities shall consist of a base rate (minimum) charge, a usage charge, a sewer access charge, and a surcharge.

Section 810.03: BASE RATE (MINIMUM) CHARGE. A base rate (minimum) charge shall be applied to all users, regardless of the volume of sewer or water use. The amount of the base rate (minimum) charge shall be determined by the Council from time to time. All properties connected to the sewer system shall pay the base rate (minimum) charges regardless of whether the service is used or not.

Section 810.04: BASIC USER CHARGE. The base rate (minimum) charge for the use of, and for service supplied by, the City sanitary sewer facilities shall be set in an amount sufficient to cover the City's cost of providing service, plus replacement cost. The adequacy of the base rate (minimum) charge shall be determined by the City Council and reviewed by the City Auditor in its annual audit report. The base rate (minimum) charge shall be revised periodically to reflect changes in debt service or in operation and maintenance costs, including replacement costs.

The usage charge shall be based on usage. Users who have no sewage meters shall be charged according to water usage as recorded by water meters. Users who have sewage meters shall be charged according to sewer usage as recorded by sewer meters. The usage charge shall be charged for wastes having normal concentrations. For purposes of this Section, the phrase "wastes having normal concentrations" shall mean wastes which have a five-day, 20 degree Centigrade biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of not more than 300 ppm, and a suspended solids (SS) content of not more than 300 ppm.

The usage charge shall be added to the base rate (minimum) sewer charge for persons whose sewer use exceeds the volume set by the Council for the base rate (minimum) sewer charge.

Section 810.05: SURCHARGE. A surcharge shall be charged to all users whose sewer discharge exceeds the normal concentrations for BOD (300 ppm) and SS (300 ppm). The surcharge shall be based on usage as recorded by water or sewer meters. The rates of surcharges for BOD and SS shall be applied on a unit basis equal to the cost of transporting and treatment of the sewer. The concentration of waste used for computing surcharges shall be established by waste sampling. Waste sampling shall be performed as often as may be deemed necessary by the City and shall be binding as a basis for surcharges.

Section 810.06: SEWER ACCESS CHARGE. The sewer access charge shall be set by the Council in an amount sufficient to defray the cost of inspection, processing, applications, and other costs associated with providing new access to sewer services.

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Section 810.07: REVENUES. All revenues and monies derived from the operation of the sewer system, and all revenues and monies received from other City funds or from any other source and designated for sewer use, shall be deposited in the Sewer Fund. All such revenues and moneys shall be held by the City Clerk separate and apart from all other funds of the City. The Clerk shall administer such fund in every respect in the manner provided by statute.

Section 810.08: SEWER REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED. A Sewer Replacement Account is established for the purpose of a sinking fund for future sewer capital outlay. A portion of the basic user charge, in an amount to be determined by the Council, shall be deposited into this account.

Section 810.09: ACCOUNTS. The City Clerk shall establish a proper system of accounts and shall keep proper books, records and accounts in which complete and correct entries shall be made of all transactions relative to the sewer system. The City Clerk shall cause to be made an annual audit by an independent auditing concern of the books to show the receipts and disbursements of the sewer system.

In addition to the customary operating statements, the annual audit report shall also reflect the revenues and operating expenses of the sewer facilities, including a replacement cost, to indicate that sewer service charges under the waste cost recovery system and capital amounts required to be recovered under the industrial cost recovery system do in fact meet these regulations. In this regard, the financial information to be shown in the audit report shall include the following:

- (a) Flow data showing total gallons received at the sewer plant for the current fiscal year;
- (b) Billing data to show total number of gallons billed;
- (c) Debt service for the next succeeding fiscal year;
- (d) Number of users connected to the system;
- (e) Number of non-metered users; and,
- (f) A list of users discharging non-domestic wastes (industrial users) and volume of waste discharged.

Section 810.10: ACCESS TO RECORDS. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or its authorized representative shall have access to any City books, documents, papers or records which are applicable to the City system of user charges or industrial cost recovery for the purpose of making audit examination, excerpts and transcriptions thereof to insure compliance with the terms of the Special and General Conditions.