

CITY OF STANWOOD
Stanwood, Washington

ORDINANCE 1353

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STANWOOD, WASHINGTON,
ADJUSTING RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR SEWER UTILITY
SERVICES AND AMENDING SECTION 12.04.020 OF THE STANWOOD
MUNICIPAL CODE.**

WHEREAS, the city council of the City of Stanwood has the authority to establish utility rates by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the city needs to adequately provide for future replacement of sewer infrastructure on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, the city's utilities are expected to be financially self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the city, by and through a qualified consultant, FCS Group, conducted a study and analysis of the city's rates and charges and the anticipated needs of the sewer utility; and

WHEREAS, city staff has updated the FCS study with actual, current financial activity (revenues and expenditures) for the sewer utility since the study was performed in December 2010; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive analysis of sewer rates has been presented to city council for consideration and discussion at a city council workshop on January 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a further revised, comprehensive analysis of sewer rates has been presented to city council for consideration and discussion at a city council workshop on June 20, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the city's finance committee, based on its review of sewer rates, recommends future adjustments to ensure the financial self-sufficiency of the sewer utility.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STANWOOD, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. SMC Section 12.04.020 Sewer rates is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.04.020 Sewer rates.

For the furnishing of service to the users and potential users of the city sanitary sewage system, the rates and charges per month are established for the classifications indicated below:

(1) Definitions.

(a) "Base monthly charge" means the minimum charge to a user per month. For those users whose sewer charge is calculated based on water use, the base monthly charge includes water use up to the base monthly allowance.

(b) "Units" means the number of dwelling units in a multifamily residence such as a duplex, apartment or condominium; or the number of separate rooms or living units in a nursing home, congregate care or assisted living facility; each having separate bathroom and/or kitchen facilities.

(c) "Incremental rate" means the dollar amount charged per 100 cubic feet of water use above the base monthly allowance and applies to those users whose sewer fee is calculated based on water use.

(d) "Sewer charge" means the dollar amount a user is charged for sewer service, calculated based on the sewer rates.

(e) "Sewer rate" means the dollar amount a user is charged for sewer service per unit of measure. For example, a sewer rate may be in terms of dollars per 100 cubic feet of water used, dollars per student, or other units.

(f) "Customer" means the legal property owner at time of meter reading.

(g) "Account" means customer.

(h) "Low-income household" means a household in which the total annual income is below the very low-income level for the Seattle/Everett area as established and amended by survey from time to time by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(i) "Senior citizen" means a person of 62 years of age or older.

(j) "Disabled person" means a person who qualifies for special parking privileges under RCW 46.16.381(1)(a) through (f), or a blind person as defined in RCW 74.18.020, or a person who qualifies for supplemental Social Security benefits due to a disability.

(2) Rates and Charges.

(a) Basis of Rates and Charges. Sewer charges shall be based on the monthly water use as recorded by the city water meters unless indicated otherwise in this section. The charge for residential uses for the summer months, defined herein as June, July, August and September for accounts in utility meter books 01, 02, 06, 07 and 09, and July, August, September and October for accounts in utility meter books 03, 04, 05 and 08, shall be based on the lesser of the water use for the billing period or the average monthly water use for the preceding October through May, or November through June, period, respectively. If data for the full October through May, or November through June, period are not available, the data will be averaged over the period for which data are available. For new

accounts that begin in the defined summer months, the month's charge shall be based on the water use for that month. The charge for nonresidential uses for the months of June, July, August and September shall be based on the water use for that month unless indicated otherwise in this section. A user may elect, at his/her own expense, to install a separate water meter to measure water used for irrigation. An irrigation-only account will then be established and billed separately by the city.

(b) Rate Schedule. Effective January 1, ~~2014~~2014.

Classification	Base	
	Monthly Charge	Incremental Rate
Residential:		
Individually metered	\$37.15 35.89	\$5.19 5.04/100 cubic feet
Master metered	\$37.15 35.89	\$5.19 5.04/100 times the number of units cubic feet
Commercial:		
Light commercial	\$37.15 35.89	\$5.19 5.04/100 cubic feet
Heavy commercial	\$42.23 40.80	\$6.03 5.83/100 cubic feet
General industrial	\$47.31 45.74	\$6.88 6.65/100 cubic feet

Rate Schedule. Effective January 1, 2015.

Classification	Base	
	Monthly Charge	Incremental Rate
Residential:		
Individually metered	<u>\$38.45</u>	<u>\$5.37/100</u> cubic feet
Master metered	<u>\$38.45</u>	<u>\$5.37/100</u> times the number of units cubic feet

Commercial:

<u>Light commercial</u>	<u>\$38.45</u>	<u>\$5.37/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Heavy commercial</u>	<u>\$43.71</u>	<u>\$6.25/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>General industrial</u>	<u>\$48.97</u>	<u>\$7.12/100 cubic feet</u>

Rate Schedule. Effective January 1, 2016.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Base Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Incremental Rate</u>
<u>Residential:</u>		
<u>Individually metered</u>	<u>\$39.79</u>	<u>\$5.55/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Master metered</u>	<u>\$39.79</u>	<u>\$5.55/100 times the number of units</u>
<u>Commercial:</u>		
<u>Light commercial</u>	<u>\$39.79</u>	<u>\$5.55/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Heavy commercial</u>	<u>\$45.24</u>	<u>\$6.46/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>General industrial</u>	<u>\$50.68</u>	<u>\$7.37/100 cubic feet</u>

Rate Schedule. Effective January 1, 2017.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Base Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Incremental Rate</u>
<u>Residential:</u>		
<u>Individually metered</u>	<u>\$41.18</u>	<u>\$5.75/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Master</u>	<u>\$41.18</u>	<u>\$5.75/100</u>

metered times the cubic feet
number of
units

<u>Commercial:</u>	-	-
<u>Light commercial</u>	<u>\$41.18</u>	<u>\$5.75/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Heavy commercial</u>	<u>\$46.82</u>	<u>\$6.69/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>General industrial</u>	<u>\$52.45</u>	<u>\$7.63/100 cubic feet</u>

Rate Schedule. Effective January 1, 2018.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Base Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Incremental Rate</u>
<u>Residential:</u>	-	-
<u>Individually metered</u>	<u>\$42.63</u>	<u>\$5.95/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Master metered</u>	<u>\$42.63</u>	<u>\$5.95/100 times the cubic feet number of units</u>
<u>Commercial:</u>	-	-
<u>Light commercial</u>	<u>\$42.63</u>	<u>\$5.95/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Heavy commercial</u>	<u>\$48.46</u>	<u>\$6.92/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>General industrial</u>	<u>\$54.29</u>	<u>\$7.90/100 cubic feet</u>

Rate Schedule. Effective January 1, 2019.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Base Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Incremental Rate</u>
<u>Residential:</u>	-	-
<u>Individually metered</u>	<u>\$44.12</u>	<u>\$6.16/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Master</u>	<u>\$44.12</u>	<u>\$6.16/100</u>

metered times the cubic feet
number of
units

Commercial:	-	-
<u>Light commercial</u>	<u>\$44.12</u>	<u>\$6.16/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>Heavy commercial</u>	<u>\$50.15</u>	<u>\$7.17/100 cubic feet</u>
<u>General industrial</u>	<u>\$56.19</u>	<u>\$8.17/100 cubic feet</u>

(c) Sewer Service Outside the City Limits. Rates for services outside of the city limits of Stanwood shall be city rates as adopted, plus 45 percent.

(3) Base Monthly Allowances. The base monthly allowance shall be as follows:

Classification	Base Allowance	Monthly
Residential:		
Individually metered	600 cubic feet per month	
Master metered	600 cubic feet per month times the number of units	
Commercial:		
Light commercial	600 cubic feet per month	
Heavy commercial	600 cubic feet per month	
General industrial	600 cubic feet per month	

(4) Classification Descriptions.

(a) Residential – Individually Metered. This classification includes buildings for residential uses that are individually metered.

(b) Residential – Master Metered. This classification includes structures containing more than one residence that are metered through one master meter.

(c) Light Commercial. This classification includes commercial uses not otherwise classified. It incorporates simple domestic waste generators such as offices,

small retail trade establishments, schools without kitchens/gyms, hotels without restaurants, and churches/meeting halls.

(d) Heavy Commercial. This classification includes commercial uses that have higher potential for problem wastes (high strength, problem constituents or large volume) than the light commercial classification. The heavy commercial classification includes laundries, dry cleaners, restaurants, cafes, grocery stores, medical clinics, funeral homes, photo development, veterinary clinics, dental clinics, schools with kitchens/gyms, hotels with restaurants, etc.

(e) General Industrial. This classification includes uses that generate large volumes of wastewater or have high strength or problem wastewater. This classification includes manufacturing and processing facilities, etc.

(5) Users with State Waste Discharge Permits, NPDES Permits or Pretreatment Agreements with the City. This classification includes businesses with a state waste discharge permit, NPDES permit or pretreatment agreement with the city. The monthly charge shall be based on the maximum amount of wastewater allowed by the permit or agreement unless a city-approved meter indicates a smaller amount was actually sent to the city's wastewater facilities. For businesses that do not yet have a permit or agreement, calculation of their charge shall be based on the most appropriate classification above.

(6) Users with High Strength Waste. The city shall have the right to charge an additional monthly sewer service charge for a high strength waste, which is defined herein as one with pollutant concentrations in excess of typical domestic wastewater. A surcharge is appropriate for waste strength conditions including, but not limited to, a total five-day biochemical oxygen demand and/or suspended solids concentration in excess of 300 milligrams per liter. The public works director will recommend to the city council an appropriate monthly surcharge.

(7) Users with Multiple Classifications. In the event that any user of the city's sanitary sewage system, by the nature of its business, may fall within two or more of the above classifications, the rate for such user shall be the highest rate established for any such classification.

(8) Contract Rates. Rates for any user may be set by contract at the discretion of the city council. Users having their rates set by contract shall fall under this classification only during the duration of the contract term. Upon termination of said contract, the user will be charged under the other most applicable classification as determined by the finance director.

(9) Inactive Rates. An inactive rate is available to accounts where water consumption falls below 100 cubic feet per month for one continuous billing period or more. Inactive rates will only be available upon prior notice to the city. Inactive rates for all classifications shall be 50 percent of the minimum base monthly charge per classification.

(10) Low-Income Senior Citizen and Low-Income Disabled Rates.

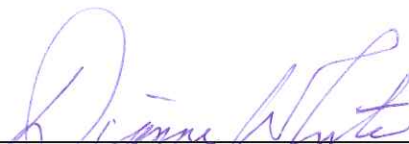
(a) Low-income senior citizens or low-income disabled persons who are customers of the utility shall be eligible to apply for sewer service at 70 percent of the monthly minimum charge, and full charge for all overage consumption.

(b) Low-income households in which the principal financial resources are provided by a senior citizen or a disabled person, as defined in this chapter, may apply for these reduced rates. The city may require a customer who is receiving service at a reduced rate to provide information annually to confirm their continued eligibility for the reduced rate.


(c) The reduced rate provided by this subsection shall apply only to single-family residential services. (Ord. 1290 § 1, 2011; Ord. 1259 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1235 § 1, 2008; Ord. 1189 § 1, 2006; Ord. 1127 § 1, 2002; Ord. 1102 § 1, 2000; Ord. 1086 § 1, 1999; Ord. 938 § 1, 1995; Ord. 850 § 1, 1992; Ord. 770 § 1, 1989; Ord. 757 § 1, 1988; Ord. 673 § 1, 1985; Ord. 605, 1982; Ord. 577 § 1, 1981; Ord. 557 § 1, 1980; Ord. 470, 1977; Ord. 355 § 7, 1971; Ord. 241 § 2, 1962).

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 14th day of November, 2013.

CITY OF STANWOOD

By 
Dianne White, Mayor

Attest:

By 
Greg Thramer, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

By 
Grant Weed, City Attorney

Published on 11-19-2013