

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING SECTIONS 7-4-1 and 7-3-81 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

**Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia:**

**That Sections 7-4-1 and 7-3-81 be amended as shown:**

**Sec. 7-4-1. - Schedule of rates and charges generally.**

The rates for water and sewer services, or specific sewer metering applications as approved by the director, to be applied to one hundred (100) percent of the water meter readings, shall be as follows:

(a) Water rates, per month:

(1) City water rates, per month:

a. First zero (0) gallons to two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at three dollars and ~~seventyninety~~ ninety-nine cents (\$3.~~799~~ 999) per one thousand (1,000) gallons;

b. All over two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at three dollars and ~~fortysixty~~ sixty-nine cents (\$3.~~469~~ 669) per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(2) Rural water rates, per month:

a. First zero (0) gallons to two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at ~~fivesix~~ six dollars and ~~eighty~~ eight-six cents (\$~~56.806~~ 66.806) per one thousand (1,000) gallons;

b. All over two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at ~~fourfive~~ five dollars and ~~ninety~~ nine-~~twetwelve~~ twelve cents (\$~~45.912~~ 65.912) per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(3) In addition to the city and rural water rates as set forth above, there shall be added to all water bills generated in the months of July, August, September, October, and November of each year a seasonal water rate charge of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(4) Minimum water charges per month by meter: (Three thousand (3,000) gallons for 5/8 meter; AWWA equivalent multiplier for larger sizes):

Meter Size (inches)	AWWA Multiplier	City Minimum (per month)	Rural Minimum (per month)
5/8 or 3/4	1.0	\$11. <del>397</del> <u>397</u>	\$178. <del>518</del> <u>518</u>
1	2.5	\$289. <del>4393</del> <u>4393</u>	\$435. <del>945</del> <u>945</u>

1½	5.0	\$ <del>569</del> .85	\$ <del>8790</del> .90
2	8.0	\$ <del>905</del> .976	\$ <del>1405</del> .644
3	16.0	\$ <del>1891</del> .952	\$ <del>28190</del> .288
4	25.0	\$ <del>28499</del> .25	\$ <del>43954</del> .50
6	50.0	\$ <del>5698</del> .50	\$ <del>87909</del> .00
8	80.0	\$ <del>90957</del> .60	\$ <del>1,40654</del> .40
10	210.0	\$ <del>2,273399</del> .70	\$ <del>3,334460</del> .60

(5) Rockingham County Water Agreement of 1995 (north and east areas): Rates shall conform to the contract or any amendments to the same.

(6) When using storm water or surface water for "green water" purposes as set forth in section 7-3-81 of this Code, water shall be billed at the city and county water rates; as published in section 7-4-1; however, less the operating component of the rate. The operating component of the rate is calculated as follows: [annual pumping, storage and monitoring costs, plus annual transmission and distribution costs, plus annual water treatment costs; the sum divided by total annual consumption per one thousand (1,000) gallons].

(b) Sewer plus authority rates, per month:

(1) City sewer plus authority rates, per month (includes two dollars and ~~twenty~~fifty-six cents (\$~~2.256~~) per one thousand (1,000) gallons for each of the following rate groups for sewer charge):

a. First zero (0) gallons to two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at ~~five~~six dollars and ~~eighty-nineteen~~ cents (\$~~56.8919~~) per one thousand (1,000) gallons;

b. All over two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at five dollars and ~~sixty~~ninety-nine cents (\$~~5.699~~) per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(2) Rural sewer plus authority rates, per month (includes two dollars and ~~twenty~~fifty-six cents (\$~~2.256~~) per one thousand (1,000) gallons for each of the following rate groups for the sewer charge):

a. First zero (0) gallons to two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at ~~eight~~nine dollars ~~and seventy cents~~ (\$~~89.700~~) per one thousand (1,000) gallons;

b. All over two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) gallons at eight dollars and ~~twenty~~fifty-eight cents (\$~~8.258~~) per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(3) Minimum sewer charges, per month by meter: (Three thousand (3,000) gallons for 5/8; meter; AWWA equivalent multiplier for larger sizes):

Meter Size (inches)	AWWA Multiplier	City Minimum (per month)	Rural Minimum (per month)
5/8 or 3/4	1.0	\$178.657	\$267.100
1	2.5	\$446.1843	\$657.2550
1 1/2	5.0	\$8892.385	\$1305.500
2	8.0	\$1418.356	\$20816.800
3	16.0	\$28297.712	\$41732.600
4	25.0	\$44164.725	\$65275.500
6	50.0	\$883928.50	\$1,30550.00
8	80.0	\$1,41385.60	\$2,088160.00
10	210.00	\$3,634823.70	\$5,321510.40

All minimum charges for both city and rural include authority O & M and debt charge. There shall be a separate minimum charge for each meter

(4) Rockingham County Water Agreement of 1995 (north and east areas): Rates shall conform to the contract or any amendments to the same.

(c) Utility tax: A twenty (20) percent utility tax is added to the total water bills of city and rural users, maximum two dollars (\$2.00) residential, twenty dollars (\$20.00) commercial.

(d) Regulations: All unpaid accounts are subject to discontinuance of service one (1) month and five (5) days after past due. There shall be an administrative charge of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) added to the utility bill of any account that requires adjustment due to a returned payment by the bank on which it is drawn, for any reason. After three (3) returned payments, utility accounts may be removed from automatic draft per the discretion of the director, or their assigned. Should the account have a reduced deposit due to automatic draft set up during initialization the remainder deposit due will be billed to the utility account due in the next billing cycle. Utility accounts will be eligible to re-establish automatic bank draft after twelve (12) months. Accounts sixty (60) days or more past due shall be forwarded to a collection agency. Administrative charges incurred from the collection of past due accounts shall be charged to the account holder.

(e) Other charges:

Administrative / Field call - next business day	\$25.00
Administrative / Field call - same day service before cutoff time	\$75.00

Administrative / Field call - after business hours	\$175.00
Re-connection - next business day	\$35.00
Re-connection - same day service before cutoff time	\$75.00
Re-connection - after business hours	\$175.00
Tapping order per meter $\geq$ 72 hours' notice	\$25.00
Tapping order per meter $<$ 72 hours' notice	\$75.00
Tapping order per meter - after business hours	\$175.00
Meter test $<$ 2" in size	\$150.00
Meter test $\geq$ 2" in size	\$350.00
Site visit fee	\$25.00

(f) (1) Field call charge for turning on the water service, transferring account ownership or turn on or off of meter for repairs that are not constituted as an emergency which charges shall be included on the next monthly statement submitted after service is provided;

(2) There is no charge for turning service off;

(3) Cost shall be as defined in [section 7-4-23](#) of this Code;

(4) Re-connection charge applies to any person, firm, or corporation whose utility service has been discontinued for nonpayment of account, or who fail to comply with delinquent payment cutoff time, and shall, before the service is re-established, pay all delinquent and current bills.

(5) When a date and time to establish a connection has been agreed to between the customer and the city public utilities department and the customer fails to be present at such date and time then the customer shall be charged a site visit fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(6) Installation of meters will be assessed a twenty-five-dollar (\$25.00) fee per meter when scheduled seventy-two (72) hours in advance; if less than seventy-two (72) hours a one hundred seventy-five dollar (\$175.00) fee will be assessed per meter. There will be no additional connection fee subject to [section 7-4-1](#).

(g) [Exemptions.] The director is authorized on application, to exempt the payment of all charges imposed by this section, those citizens, or spouse of those, who qualify for active military service deployment on foreign soils.

(h) [Changes to fees.] Subsequent to July 1, 2012, any changes to the fees and rates as set forth in this section shall be made by the city council and published in the annual appropriation ordinance.

**Sec. 7-3-81. - Stormwater, surface water, etc.—Discharge into sanitary sewer prohibited.**



No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, ground-water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. Any violation of this section shall be corrected within thirty (30) days of written notification from the director of public utilities and failure to correct the violation shall result in a monthly surcharge not to exceed the greater of ~~twelve~~fifty dollars (~~\$1250.00~~) monthly charges. The director of public utilities is hereby authorized to grant an exception to the above prohibition where such water cannot be directly discharged into the environment due to its quality. Such exception shall be granted subject to the following conditions: (1) The quality of the water to be placed into the sanitary sewer shall meet all of the requirements of this article and other ordinances of the city; (2) the water shall be released into the sanitary sewer at a time and rate acceptable to the capacity of the receiving sanitary sewer line; and (3) the water shall be metered and the customer shall be billed both sewer and authority rates pursuant to section 7-4-2. Any such exception shall be reviewed and approved by the director of public utilities and then implemented by the customer according to its approved plan. Failure to comply with such plan shall result in revoking the granted exception. The director of public utilities may grant an additional exception for environmental projects ("green water") intended to utilize stormwater and surface water for non-potable uses such as sanitary conveyance. Under arrangements where "green water" is used in conjunction with water supplied from the city system, all conditions and charges of this section shall apply but in addition the metered non-potable "green water" shall be billed at a specific water rate that has been determined to provide the city with sufficient revenue to fund typical fixed costs, but to also provide the customer with a reduced rate. The "green water rate" shall be as set forth in subsection 7-4-1(1)f. of this Code. Appropriate backflow prevention shall be required to prevent the cross connection of "green water" with potable city water.

This ordinance shall be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2023. Adopted and approved this 27 day of June, 2023.

  
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 MAYOR

ATTESTE:

  
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 CITY CLERK