

RESOLUTION 2023-05

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED WASTEWATER SERVICE RATE

WHEREAS, Ordinance 223 provides the City Council with authority to set rates for the construction and operation of the Coburg Wastewater Systems; and

WHEREAS, it is the general policy of the Coburg City Council that enterprise funds supporting the operation of such infrastructure systems like the wastewater system should operate on a self-sustaining basis; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to update the wastewater service rates to insure a fiscally sound operating wastewater system, including maintaining required debt reserves and constructing a prudent equipment replacement reserve; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a work session on January 24, 2023, and received and discussed the results and recommendation for wastewater utility rate adjustments.

WHEREAS, City Council discussed utility rates and possible rate scenarios in March, April and June City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing May 9, 2023 giving the public the opportunity to comment as required by ORS 294.160

THE CITY OF COBURG RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. Effective July 1, 2023, the Wastewater service rate will be set at \$88.43 per month per Equivalent Dwelling Unit "EDU". Establishing a rate per EDU user does not preclude or limit the City's authority to establish other rates for special circumstances or classes of users of the wastewater system.
2. Rates for wastewater services set by prior Resolutions on wastewater service rates shall no longer be effective.
3. Definitions

For purposes of administration of this Resolution, the following terms shall be defined as set forth in this section.

- A. **Average Winter Water Use.** Water use, as recorded by a water meter for the months October through April, divided by the number of months of actual use during that time.

- B. **EDU.** Equivalent Dwelling Unit, calculated based on 846 cubic feet of water use, expressed in a whole number, where any fraction of use greater than 0.10 is rounded to the next highest whole number.
 - C. **Wastewater Meter Reading.** The reading of monthly wastewater volume from a meter measuring fluid output from a property's wastewater system.
 - D. **Water User.** Any person or entity within the City limits of Coburg who has requested and received water from the City of Coburg, or who has otherwise had a water meter attached to plumbing on the person's property.
4. For purposes of calculating the amount any wastewater system user owes pursuant to the rates established by this resolution, usage shall be calculated based on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs). Each water meter providing service to a single family residential structure shall be considered one (1) EDU. Other water meter use, for non-single family residence use, shall be expressed as a whole number, calculated by taking an average of winter water use and dividing it by 846 cubic feet per month, where any fraction of use greater than 0.10 is rounded to the next highest whole number.
 5. In the event that the City or the wastewater contributing property has installed a wastewater meter, the equivalent dwelling unit charge shall be based on the actual wastewater meter flow reading for each previous month, divided by 846 cubic feet per month, and rounding as set forth above. In the event that the City determines that the meter is not reading accurately for any month, the EDU use shall be based on the previous month's EDU.
 6. Average Winter Water Use for each user shall be recalculated as soon after a new period of winter use has elapsed as is practical. The previous average winter water use shall be used until a new average is calculated. A delay in recalculation shall not invalidate the existing charges.
 7. Winter averaging is done to reduce the impact of changes for seasonal or other variations in water use that do not affect flows to the wastewater system. Where, because of change of use or other circumstances, a user can show hardship from the continuation of charges based on a previously calculated winter average use, the City Administrator may establish an alternate means of calculating water use, if the City Administrator determines that such an adjustment would be consistent with the policies expressed in this Resolution and Ordinance A-223. The City Administrator may also adjust the EDU attributed to a property upwards without waiting for a new winter average, where a user's usage increases significantly due to changes in circumstance. A new user, or a user with a change of use such that no appropriate winter average exists, shall have a preliminary EDU rate established by use of the Wastewater SDC methodology. This assigned usage shall continue in effect until a winter average can be calculated, or wastewater meter readings are established.

8. The wastewater service rate may be adjusted for any residential user, based on the user's income in the prior year. The method of adjustment shall be established by separate action.
9. To the extent that they are inconsistent with or superseded by any provision of this resolution all prior resolutions on wastewater service rates shall no longer be effective.

Adopted by the **City Council** of the **City of Coburg**, Oregon, by a vote of 4 for and 0 against, this 9, day of May, 2023.



Nancy Bell, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Sammy L. Egbert, City Recorder