



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

CB 119356

Record No.: CB 119356

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 1

Ord. no: Ord 125685

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 08/17/2018

Final Action: 10/10/2018

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; amending Sections 21.28.040, 21.28.080, and 21.76.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code to adjust wastewater rates.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Herbold

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: bob.hennessey@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

### History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	08/28/2018	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
1	City Clerk	08/28/2018	sent for review	Council President's Office			
<b>Action Text:</b> The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office							
<b>Notes:</b>							
1	Council President's Office	08/28/2018	sent for review	Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee			
<b>Action Text:</b> The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee							
<b>Notes:</b>							

Legislative Summary Continued (CB 119356)

---

- 1 City Council 09/10/2018 referred Civil Rights,  
Utilities,  
Economic  
Development, and  
Arts Committee
- 1 Civil Rights, Utilities, 09/11/2018 discussed  
Economic Development,  
and Arts Committee  
**Action Text:** The Council Bill (CB) was discussed.
- 1 Civil Rights, Utilities, 09/21/2018 pass Pass  
Economic Development,  
and Arts Committee  
**Action Text:** The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).  
**Notes:**  
In Favor: 2 Chair Herbold, Member O'Brien  
Opposed: 0
- 1 City Council 10/01/2018 passed Pass  
**Action Text:** The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Bill:  
In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council  
President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson,  
Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember  
O'Brien  
Opposed: 0  
Absent(NV): 1 Councilmember Sawant
- 1 City Clerk 10/03/2018 submitted for Mayor  
Mayor's signature
- 1 Mayor 10/05/2018 Signed
- 1 Mayor 10/10/2018 returned City Clerk
- 1 City Clerk 10/10/2018 attested by City Clerk  
**Action Text:** The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.  
**Notes:**
-

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE** 125685

**COUNCIL BILL** 119357e

AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; amending Sections 21.28.040, 21.28.080, and 21.76.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code to adjust wastewater rates.

WHEREAS, Seattle City Council Resolution 31760, adopted on November 13, 2017, adopted a 2018-2023 Strategic Business Plan Update for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), which guides utility investments, service levels, and rate paths through 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Business Plan Update included increases in the capital and operating requirements of the Drainage and Wastewater Fund in response to federal and state regulatory requirements, as well as environmental and infrastructure concerns, with a resulting increase in revenue requirements; and

WHEREAS, SPU has identified wastewater and drainage infrastructure needs requiring additional capital funding; and

WHEREAS, wastewater credits for qualified low-income customers, not billed directly by Seattle Public Utilities whose credits are based on typical residential bills, need to be revised to reflect the changes in wastewater rates; and

WHEREAS, under certain circumstances the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of SPU may use an assumed volume to calculate residential wastewater charges based on average residential usage that has been updated; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subsection 21.28.040.B of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last amended by Ordinance 125443, is amended as follows:

**21.28.040 Wastewater volume charge**

\* \* \*

1  
2 B. The wastewater volume rate shall be the sum of the treatment rate and the system rate,  
3 as follows:

4 1. Treatment rate. The “treatment rate” shall be the rate required to pay the  
5 wastewater share of “treatment cost,” which is the cost of wastewater treatment, interception and  
6 disposal services, and any associated costs required to meet Drainage and Wastewater Fund  
7 financial policies. The treatment rate shall be the amount obtained when (a) the projected  
8 wastewater treatment cost is divided by (b) the projected billed wastewater consumption, each  
9 for the next calendar year, and the result is multiplied by (~~118.0 percent in 2018~~) 118.7 percent  
10 in 2019 and thereafter to cover the costs of taxes and low-income rate assistance. The projected  
11 treatment cost shall be the treatment cost anticipated for the upcoming calendar year, which may  
12 include an adjustment to reflect the difference, whether positive or negative, between the total  
13 expected treatment cost for the current year and the total wastewater volume charge revenues  
14 attributable to the treatment rate expected for the current year. The treatment rate is designed to  
15 pass through cost changes driven by King County and may be adjusted by ordinance at any time  
16 in response to such charges.

17 2. System rate. The “system rate” shall be the rate required to pay the cost of  
18 carrying and discharging all wastewater and any wastewater-funded share of stormwater into the  
19 City sewerage system, as presently maintained and operated and as may be added to, improved,  
20 and extended.

21 3. The wastewater volume rate per CCF shall be in accordance with the following  
22 schedule:  
23

	<u>Effective</u> <u>Jan. 1, 2018</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Jan. 1, 2019</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Jan. 1, 2020</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Jan. 1, 2021</u>
<u>Treatment Rate</u>	\$8.34	\$8.84	\$8.84	\$8.84
<u>System Rate</u>	\$5.12	\$5.64	\$6.71	\$7.42
<u>Wastewater Volume Rate</u>	\$13.46	\$14.48	\$15.55	\$16.26

1 \* \* \*

2 Section 2. Subsection 21.28.080.B of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last  
3 amended by Ordinance 121665, is amended as follows:

4 **21.28.080 Calculation of residential wastewater volume charge.**

5 B. The ~~((Director))~~ General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Seattle Public  
6 Utilities may use an assumed volume of ~~((five and two tenths (5.2)))~~ 4.3 CCF per household, or  
7 prior water consumption records if those records are more representative of expected usage, to  
8 calculate residential wastewater charges under the following circumstances:

- 9 1. When the water meter has been determined to be malfunctioning;
- 10 2. When customers have insufficient water consumption history to calculate  
11 average winter water consumption;
- 12 3. When water use in the period used to calculate average winter water  
13 consumption is not representative of expected water use, such as rental property that is vacant  
14 between tenants or in the case of seasonal customers; and
- 15 4. When customers are not served by a publicly owned water supply system.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 3. Subsection 21.76.040.A of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last  
18 amended by Ordinance 125444, is amended as follows:

**21.76.040 Rate discounts**

A. Drainage, wastewater, and water. Certified low-income residential utility customers (“Certified customers”) will receive rate discounts (or credits) in the following amounts:

1. Wastewater. Certified customers billed directly for Seattle Public Utilities wastewater services will receive a rate discount equal to 0.5 times the total current wastewater volume charge. Certified customers who pay for wastewater services indirectly through rent shall receive the following rate credits based on dwelling type and consistent with Section 21.76.050:

<del>Effective date</del>	<del>Single-family and duplex dwellings</del>	<del>Multifamily dwellings</del>
January 1, 2017	\$27.80 per month	\$19.40 per month
January 1, 2018	\$28.94 per month	\$20.20 per month

<u>Effective date</u>	<u>Single-family and duplex dwellings</u>	<u>Multifamily dwellings</u>
<u>January 1, 2018</u>	<u>\$28.94 per month</u>	<u>\$20.20 per month</u>
<u>January 1, 2019</u>	<u>\$31.13 per month</u>	<u>\$21.72 per month</u>
<u>January 1, 2020</u>	<u>\$33.43 per month</u>	<u>\$23.32 per month</u>
<u>January 1, 2021</u>	<u>\$34.96 per month</u>	<u>\$24.39 per month</u>

At the time of a change to the wastewater volume charge described in Section 21.28.040, the Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall calculate new credits for certified customers who pay for wastewater services indirectly through rent. The rate credit for single-family and duplex customers shall be 0.5 times the wastewater volume charge multiplied by 430 cubic feet (4.3 CCF), which is typical single-family residential sewer billed consumption. The rate credit for multifamily dwelling customers shall be 0.5 times the wastewater volume charge multiplied by 3.0 CCF, which is typical multifamily sewer billed consumption.

2. Drainage. Certified customers residing inside The City of Seattle shall receive the following rate credits for drainage services based on dwelling type:



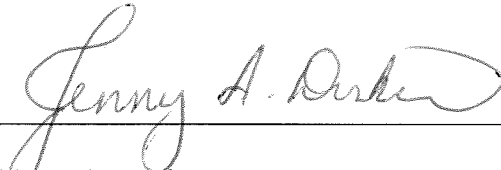
1 Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2018,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 1<sup>st</sup> day of  
6 October, 2018.

7 

8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9 Approved by me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018

10 

11 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2018.

13 

14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)