

City of St. Helens  
**RESOLUTION NO. 1581**

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH WATER, SEWER AND  
STORM DRAINAGE UTILITY RATES

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to St. Helens Municipal Code Title 13, Water, Sewer and Storm Drainage Utility rates and charges are to be established by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 16, 2011, a public forum was held by the City Council to provide information about the proposed schedule for utility rate increases; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council deliberated on December 7, 2011.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF ST. HELENS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The water, sewer and storm drainage utility rates and charges set forth in Exhibits 1, 2 and 3, attached hereto and made a part thereof by this reference, are hereby adopted.

**Section 2.** This Resolution implements increases effective for the first full billing cycle on or after December 8, 2011.

**Section 3.** This Resolution supersedes Resolution Nos. 1557, 1555 and any previous resolution setting forth water, sewer and storm drainage utility rates and charges.

**Approved and adopted** by the City Council on December 7, 2011, by the following vote:

Ayes: Morten, Locke, Martyn, Peterson

Nays: None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Peterson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

**City of St. Helens  
Water Utility Rates and Charges**

Billings for customers include two components: Fixed rate and a volume charge for the amount consumed. The two components are added together to compute an invoice for each customer. Fixed rates are based on costs associated with maintaining/reading meters and the costs associated with billing and are charged per connection to the water system. Volume rates are based on the customer class for each 100 cubic feet (ccf) of water. The following table lists rates for customers within the City of St. Helens, retail customers outside the City of St. Helens, and wholesale customers.

City of St. Helens rates and charges are effective for billing cycles starting on or after dates shown below. Rates and charges shall be applied to all accounts on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Certain designated accounts that may be deemed "Large Volume" accounts are billed monthly.

	Effective Date:	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Inside City of St. Helens</td></tr> <tr><td>12/15/2011</td></tr> </table>	Inside City of St. Helens	12/15/2011	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Outside City of St. Helens<sup>4</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>12/15/2011</td></tr> </table>	Outside City of St. Helens <sup>4</sup>	12/15/2011
Inside City of St. Helens							
12/15/2011							
Outside City of St. Helens <sup>4</sup>							
12/15/2011							
<b><u>Water Utility Rate Components</u></b>							
<b>1 Fixed Rate</b>							
Monthly billings	\$	8.28	\$ 16.56				
Bi-monthly billings		16.56	33.12				
<b>2 Volume Rate (by Customer Class per 100 Cu.ft.)</b>							
Residential		4.11	8.22				
Multifamily:							
Duplex		3.97	7.94				
Apartments		3.89	7.78				
Commercial/Industrial		3.33	6.66				
Wholesale							
Columbia City			2.78				

**3 Deposits**

A deposit of \$30 will be required of consumers within the City limits, and a deposit of \$40 will be required of consumers outside the City limits of the City of St. Helens before water service will be provided.

**4 Outside the City limits of the City of St. Helens**

- a Except as indicated in the Enterprise Zone Ordinance No. 2500, all properties outside the City limits shall be charged rates identified above.
- b Application for new service connection outside the City limits for surplus City water shall be reviewed by the Public Works Director and the City Council for facilities planning. Such application shall not be approved by the City Council unless the necessary size of main is extended to serve anticipated growth in the relevant area of the City's Urban Growth Boundary.
- c No Connection for new service outside the City limits for City water shall be installed unless a consent to annex is submitted to the Planning Department and an outside City water user agreement are signed and received by the City Administrator.

#### 5 Senior Citizen Subsidy

The water service subsidy shall be up to a maximum of 1,362 cubic feet per two-month billing cycle for a home within the City limits that is occupied and either owned or rented by an individual who is 65 years of age or older. An applicant for such a subsidy shall apply to the City Administrator or designee and provide proof of age. The City Administrator may grant the application only if the water bill is in the name of the senior citizen making the application and only for the home in which the senior citizen both owns and resides or both rents and resides.

#### 6 Restoration Charge

A customer shall pay for restoration of water service when service has been discontinued under the provisions of this resolution. The customer shall pay the following service fee for restoration:

Between Hours of:

8 AM to 4 PM	\$ 20.00	or actual cost of labor and materials
4 PM to 8 AM	\$ 100.00	or actual cost of labor and materials

These charges shall not apply to new water service applications.

#### 7 Delinquent Accounts

Upon failure to pay water charges due within the first ten days of a month, by the 15th day of the month the account shall be delinquent and a late charge of \$5 shall be added, and by the 25th day of the month the account shall be assessed a \$20 delinquent fee and water service to the customer may be turned off.

#### 8 Hydrant Meter

Any customer who receives a permit for a hydrant meter shall pay a deposit of \$200, and shall pay Commercial/Industrial rates for such water usage. Such customer shall also pay a monthly rental fee for the meter of \$25 per month, or portion thereof. Meters must be returned every 12 months for assessment of condition, meter reading and billing of usage.

#### 9 Water Testing Charges

Upon request by a City water customer, the City will provide testing for total coliform and fecal coliform. The City shall charge the customer \$35 for such test. This charge also applies to construction requests for the same test on new pipelines.

**City of St. Helens  
Sewer Utility Rates and Charges**

Billings for customers include two components: Fixed rate and a volume charge for the amount consumed. The two components are added together to compute an invoice for each customer. Fixed rates are based on costs associated with maintaining/reading meters and the costs associated with billing and are charged per connection to the sewer system. Volume rates are based on the customer class for each 100 cubic feet (ccf) of water or a fixed amount if no measurable consumption is available. The following table lists rates for customers within the City of St. Helens, retail customers outside the City of St. Helens, and wholesale customers.

City of St. Helens rates and charges are effective for billing cycles starting on or after dates shown below. Rates and charges shall be applied to all accounts on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Certain designated accounts that may be deemed "Large Volume" accounts are billed monthly.

	<b>Inside City of St. Helens</b>	<b>Outside City of St. Helens<sup>7</sup></b>
Effective Date:	<b>12/15/2011</b>	<b>12/15/2011</b>
<b><u>Sewer Utility Rate Components</u></b>		
<b>1 Fixed Rate</b>		
Monthly billings	\$ 12.96	\$ 16.20
Bi-monthly billings	25.92	32.40
Residential without measurable consumption <sup>3</sup>		
Monthly billings	40.39	50.49
Bi-monthly billings	80.78	100.97
<b>2 Volume Rate (by Customer Class per 100 Cu.ft.)</b>		
Residential (Single Family)		
With measurable water consumption <sup>4</sup>	4.96	6.20
Multifamily		
Two residential sewers	5.50	6.88
Duplex	3.96	4.95
Apartments	3.81	4.76
Commercial <sup>5</sup>		
Low Strength	4.46	5.58
Medium Strength	5.64	7.05
High Strength	7.86	9.83
Special Strength <sup>10</sup>	Varies	Varies
Wholesale		
Columbia City		1.57

### 3 Without Measurable Water Consumption

- a **Residential customer** accounts are considered to be "without measurable water consumption" when potable water is obtained from a well or where the customer has no personal water consumption history established during the winter averaging period within the service area. New customer accounts without history are set based on 5.53 ccf (monthly) until measurable consumption is recorded and used to establish a new rate. Customers receiving only sewer service who obtain potable water from a well or another water provider are set based on 5.53 ccf (monthly). Adjustments may be made based on actual usage during the winter averaging months of January through April if the customer can provide sufficient documentation.
- b **Multifamily customer** accounts are considered to be "without measurable water consumption" when potable water is obtained from a well or where the customer has no personal water consumption history established during the winter averaging period within the service area. New customer accounts without history are set based on 5.53 ccf (monthly) per unit until measurable consumption is recorded and used to establish a new rate. Customers receiving only sewer service who obtain potable water from a well or another water provider are set based on 5.53 ccf (monthly) per unit. Adjustments may be made based on actual usage during the winter averaging months of January through April if the customer can provide sufficient documentation.
- c **Commercial customer** accounts are considered to be "without measurable water consumption" when potable water is obtained from a well or where the customer has no personal water consumption history established during the winter averaging period within the service area. The sewer volume charge for new customer accounts will be calculated as follows:
  - i Strengths will be defined by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code (i.e. restaurants defined as high) or the customer may elect to have a qualified laboratory regularly monitor and provide measurements of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and other particulates (i.e. fats, oils, and grease) to the City.
  - ii Volumes will be from certification of meter readings provided at the source (well or 3rd party provider). It will be the customer's responsibility to obtain and forward meter readings to the City on a regular bases. In absence of actual meter readings, the City will utilize average usage patterns from similar commercial customers with measurable usage. This method is to be an interim step until such time as a system to measure water usage can be implemented and/or received.

### 4 Residential Sewer Accounts - Winter Averaging

- a Volume will be based on 4-month winter averaging of water consumption. The winter average period will be defined as the 4-month period starting with the first full billing cycle starting on or after December 15th of each year.
- b Accounts with an average usage of less than 1 ccf of water consumption are automatically assessed at the 5.53 ccf average.
- c Customers may request in writing to have the sewer based on actual usage if the property is vacant (transition between tenants, foreclosure, etc) or consistently average below 1 ccf per billing cycle over a 12-month period.
- d The assigned average for water consumption may be appealed to the City Administrator, or his/her designee, and could be modified pending a review of the account and findings thereof.

5 Table utilized to define commercial strengths

Strength Classification	BOD (mg/l)	TSS (mg/l)
Low	0-250	0-300
Medium	251-500	301-600
High	501-1,000	601-1,200
Special <sup>10</sup>	1,001+	1,201+

The responsible person for paying the sewer charge may appeal the strength classification made by the City. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the City Administrator. The person appealing must provide sufficient information as to the strength of the sewer discharge created by their use so that the City Administrator or designee may evaluate the evidence and determine the proper strength of the waste generated.

6 Deposits

All new sewer only connections accounts will require a deposit of \$30 for customers within the City limits, and a deposit of \$40 for customers outside the City limits of the City of St. Helens before sewer service will be provided.

7 Outside the City limits of the City of St. Helens

- a Except as indicated in the Enterprise Zone Ordinance No. 2500, all properties outside the City limits shall be charged rates identified above.
- b Application for new service connection outside the City limits for surplus City water shall be reviewed by the Public Works Director and the City Council for facilities planning. Such application shall not be approved by the City Council unless the necessary size of main is extended to serve anticipated growth in the relevant area of the City's Urban Growth Boundary.
- c No Connection for new service outside the City limits for City sewer shall be installed unless a consent to annex is submitted to the Planning Department and an outside City sewer user agreement are signed and received by the Water Department.

8 Dormant Sewer Lines

Testing of a dormant existing sewer line connected to an old building or to be reused for a new building will be at a cost of time and materials.

9 Sewage Dumping Charges

- a The rates to be charged all persons, firms or corporations for septic or sewage materials derived from the pumping out or cleaning of on-site sewage disposal systems shall be \$ 0.09 per gallon. This rate shall be determined from the signed source and quantity record to be provided by all sewage disposal service providers.
- b The rate for domestic sewage from sources other than septic tanks and chemical toilets that is not concentrated by such pretreatment shall be \$0.07 per gallon, with a minimum fee of one month residential sewer rate (with monthly winter average of 5.5 ccf). To qualify for this rate, sewage disposal service providers shall request a review of the sources proposed for delivery as domestic sewage by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. Only material from sources approved as domestic sewage by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent shall receive a domestic sewage rate. Sources and quantity records must demonstrate that only material from approved domestic sewage sources are contained in sewage disposal vehicles dumped at this rate.
- c A surcharge of \$0.01 per gallon shall be charged for any waste generated and accepted from outside of Columbia County.
- d Wastewater discharge permit rates may be modified at the discretion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent based on loading and/or available plant capacity.

10 Surcharges - Special Strength

- a All surcharges shall be based on total metered water supply into the premises for flow and customers will provide to the City regular testing results of samples. A sewer flow meter and alternative sampling or re-sampling at customer expense may be approved by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. The concentration of each pollutant in excess of the above limits shall be used to determine the monthly surcharge for the period throughout the time interval between sample periods. The concentration shall be the average value of five consecutive daily tests taken over a period of five days, except when another period is specified by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. Samples shall be taken at an approved manhole or other location determined by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent to be suitable so that samples will be representative.
- b Surcharges - Special Strength charges are highlight in the following table

BOD (mg/l)	TSS (mg/l)	Rate per ccf of usage
1,001-2,000	1,201-2,400	\$ 10.90
2,001-4,000	2,401-4,800	16.90
4,001-8,000	4,801-9,600	27.90
8,001-16,000	9,601-19,200	48.80
16,001-32,000	19,201-38,400	90.25

Acceptance and pricing for loads in excess of table will be at the discretion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent.

The responsible person for paying the sewer charge may appeal the strength classification made by the City. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the City Administrator. The person appealing must provide sufficient information as to the strength of the sewer discharge created by their use so that the City Administrator or designee may evaluate the evidence and determine the proper strength of the waste generated.

11 Billings and Payments

Sewer service charges shall be billed monthly or bimonthly, and payment shall be made as provided by Ordinance No. 2570, as amended. Payments made by a water service customer on the combined water and sewer account shall be applied to payment of the balance then due on all sewer service charges.

12 Disposition of Payments

Payments made on sewer service charges shall be credited and paid to the sewer fund.

**City of St Helens**  
**Storm Drainage Utility Rates and Charges**

Billings for customers are based on amount of impervious surface for a property. The measurements are broken down into components of single family units or equivalent residential units.

City of St. Helens rates and charges are effective for billing cycles starting on or after dates shown below. Rates and charges shall be applied to all accounts on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Certain designated accounts that may be deemed "Large Volume" accounts are billed monthly.

	Effective Date:	
	Monthly	Bi-monthly
	<b>12/15/2011</b>	<b>12/15/2011</b>
<b><u>Storm Drainage Utility Rates</u></b>		
1 Residential	\$ 9.14	\$ 18.28
2 Commercial	9.14	18.28
3 Industrial	9.14	18.28
4 All other uses As defined	9.14	18.28