

Order 250-14/15

Amended to add Emergency enactor: 9-0

Final Passage: 9-0 on 6/24/2015

Effective 7/5/2015

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)  
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)  
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JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)  
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)  
JON HINCK (A/L)  
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 24 SEWERS  
ARTICLE IV. SEWER USE CHARGES  
RE: SEWER USER CHARGES**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND,  
MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:**

*1. That Chapter 24, Section 24-72 of the Portland City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:*

**Sec. 24-72. Sewer user charges.**

(a) *Applicability.* There are levied upon all parcels of land charges for cost of treatment of wastewater and for the operation and maintenance of the wastewater system.

(b) *Billing.* Bills for all charges under this article may be sent to the record owner, or to the person requesting water service. Bills shall be sent to each such owner or person every month, except that persons billed quarterly or seasonally by the Portland Water District for water service may be billed quarterly or seasonally for all charges under this article. All payments shall be credited against the oldest outstanding bill sent to such owner or person. Any payments made to the Portland Water District or its agents, which do not indicate to which account they are to be applied, shall be applied as provided by contract between the city and the Portland Water District.

Bills shall contain an amount for sewer user charges, and if delinquent as provided in section 1-16 of this Code, shall include charges for interest to be computed in the same manner as provided for real estate taxes.

(c) *Computation.* The user charges shall be computed in accordance with the following schedule, as from time to time amended, which shall be sufficient to meet costs of the eligible purposes for which such charges may be used. ~~For user charges under this section for both dwelling units and commercial units, billed for water used after July 1, 2013 the foregoing rate~~

shall be ~~eight-nine~~ dollars and ~~eighty-one-seventy~~ cents (\$~~8.81~~9.70) per hundred cubic feet of volume for connected parcels of land. Beginning January 1, 2016, user charges under this section for both dwelling units and commercial units shall be eight dollars and twenty cents (\$8.20) per hundred cubic feet of volume for connected parcels of land. The user charge for developed but unconnected parcels of land shall be one dollar and seventy-one cents (\$1.71) per hundred cubic feet of volume. Each metered billing unit shall have a minimum charge of at least one hundred (100) cubic feet per month.

(d) *Purposes for which charges may be used.* Charges and assessments made under this article shall be used consistently with 33 U.S.C.A. § 1281 et seq., and applicable federal regulations for the following purposes:

- (1) To defray the current expenses of operating and maintaining the wastewater system, including any assessment made by the Portland Water District;
- (2) To pay the interest and repay the principal on any outstanding or future indebtedness of the city for construction of sewers heretofore or hereafter constructed within the city;
- (3) To reimburse the city for the cost of computation, billing and enforcement of such charges.

(e) *Collection.* Charges assessed pursuant to this section shall be enforceable pursuant to section 1-16 of this Code.

(f) *Disconnection for nonpayment of charges.* The Portland Water District shall disconnect sewer users with unpaid sewer use charges according to the same terms and procedures used to disconnect water users with unpaid water use charges.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** that this amendment is enacted as an Emergency, pursuant to Article II, Section 11 of the Portland City Charter, in order to make it effective on July 5, 2015.