RESOLUTION NO. 14 - 26

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES, REGULATIONS, RATE CHARGES AND CONDITIONS FOR SEWER SERVICE

WHEREAS, the City of Astoria provides a valuable public service by providing a sewer system inside the City limits. These sewer facilities constitute a public utility owned and operated by the City of Astoria. The utility exists for the benefit of persons within the City who wants to have the system available for disposing of sewage.

WHEREAS, users of the sewer system should be charged rates that reflect the operation of this system as a public utility in the City, persons who do not use the sewer utility should not be required to pay monthly utility rates. Use of the sewer system occurs when the water service to improved property is requested to provide water for the property, because water is the medium for carrying sewage through the system.

WHEREAS, the rate structure of the sewer utility should be based upon a fee for service consistent with the above findings. Although this rate structure is intended to constitute a service charge, even if it is viewed as a charge against property or against a property as a direct consequence of ownership of that property, the utility's rate structure should, nonetheless, endeavor to allow the owner the ability to control the amount of the charge. Similarly, the utility's rate structure should reflect the full actual direct and indirect costs of providing the service.

WHEREAS, under Section 3.040 of the Astoria Code, the City Manager is authorized to enforce sewer rules and regulations and the City Council hereby approves the following rules and regulations and sets the sewer rates.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASTORIA, THAT THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE:

SEWER REGULATIONS

Section 1.01. Definitions.

(1) "City" shall mean City of Astoria, or its authorized designee or representative.

(2) "BOD" (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees C, expressed in milligrams per liter.

(3) "Building Drain" shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five (5) feet (1.5 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.

(4) "Building Sewer" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.

(5) "Combined Sewer" shall mean a sewer that is designed as a sanitary sewer and a storm sewer.

(6) "Customer" shall mean a person, corporation, association or agency who has requested and is receiving water and sewer service.

(7) "Garbage" shall mean solid waste from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage and sale of produce.

(8) "Industrial Waste" shall mean the liquid waste from industrial manufacturing processes, trade, or business as distinct from domestic-type sewage.

(9) "Natural Outlet" shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake or other body of surface or ground water.

(10) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation or group.

(11) "pH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.

(12) "Properly Shredded Garbage" shall mean the waste from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half (1/2) inch (1.27 centimeters) in any dimension.

(13) "Public Sewer" shall mean a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and is controlled by public authority.

(14) "Sanitary Sewer" shall mean a conduit intended to carry liquid and water-carried waste from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions together with minor quantities of ground, storm and surface water that are not intentionally admitted.

(15) "Sewage" shall mean a combination of the water-carried waste from residences, business buildings, institutions and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface and storm water as may be present.

(16) "Sewage Treatment Plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.

(17) "Collection Systems" shall mean all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating and disposing of sewage.

(18) "Sewer" shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.

(19) "Shall" is mandatory; "may" is permissive.

(20) "Slug" shall mean any discharge of water, sewage or industrial waste which in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than fifteen (15) minutes more than five (5) times the average twenty-four (24) hour concentration or flows during normal operation.

(21) "Storm Sewer" (sometimes termed "storm drain") shall mean a sewer designed to carry only storm water, surface run-off, street wash water and drainage.

(22) "Suspended Solids" shall mean solids that are either floating on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids and which are removable by laboratory filtering.

(23) "Watercourse" shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs either continuously or intermittently.

Section 1.02. Use of Public Sewer Required.

(1) No person shall deposit or permit to be deposited in an unsanitary manner any human or animal excrement, garbage or other objectionable waste upon public or private property within the City of Astoria, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said City.

(2) No person shall discharge any sanitary sewage, industrial waste, or other polluted waters to any natural outlet within the City of Astoria, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said City.

(3) The owners of residences, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, within the City and abutting any street, alley or right-of-way in which a public sanitary or combined sewer of the City, is located or may be located in the future, are hereby required to install suitable toilet facilities therein, at their own expense, and to connect such facilities directly to the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of these rules and regulations within 90 days from the date of official notice to do so, provided that said public sewer is within 500 feet of the property line. If the owner fails to connect to the sewer as required, or fails to pay the connection and tapping charge when due, the City may discontinue water service until the connection is made and the charge is paid.

(5) Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

Section 1.03. Building Sewers and Connections.

(1) No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the City.

(2) There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits: (1) for residential and commercial services, and (2) for service to establishments producing industrial waste. In either case, the owner or his agent shall make application for service on a special form provided by the City. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the City. Fees are set forth in Section 1.08.

(3) All costs and expenses incidental to the installation and connection of a building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage incurred, directly or indirectly by the installation of the building sewer.

(4) A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for each residential unit within a condominium and for each residential building. Each commercial or industrial building shall have a separate and independent building sewer.

(5) An old building sewer may be used in connection with new buildings only when it, upon examination and testing by the City, to meet all requirements of this resolution.

(6) The connection of the building sewer to the public sewer shall be made at a "Y" branch or "T" if such fitting is available at a suitable location. If no fitting is available, a tap will be made using an approved tapping saddle. Where no properly located "Y" branch or "T" is available, the tap will be made by the City for a tapping charge as given in Section 1.08 or by a State licensed plumbing contractor. If the connection is made by a contractor, the contractor shall have the connection inspected by the City prior to backfilling.

(7) All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the City within a reasonable time.

(8) The user/owner of any private or building sewer shall be responsible for maintenance to the point of connection with the public sewer.

(9) The size, slope, alignment, materials or construction of a building sewer, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of pipe, jointing, testing, and trench backfilling, shall conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the City. In the absence of code provisions or in amplification thereof, the material and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Manual of Practice No. 9 shall apply.

(10) Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such building drain shall be lifted by an approved means and discharged to the building sewer.

(11) The connection of the building sewer to the public sewer shall conform to requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the City, or the procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the ASTM and the WPCF Manual of Practice No. 9. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the City prior to installation.

(12) The applicant for a building sewer permit shall notify the Public Works Engineering office when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. Connections made by a contractor must be inspected by the City prior to backfilling.

Section 1.04. Use of Public Sewers.

(1) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water or unpolluted industrial process water to any sanitary sewer where there is a storm sewer system available. New construction or extensive remodeling in areas where separate City sewers are not available will be piped separately to the street right-of-way line, and joined into a combined sewer line to the City main.

(2) Storm water and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers specifically designated as combined sewers or storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the City. Upon approval by the City, industrial cooling water or unpolluted process water may be discharged to a storm sewer, combined sewer, or natural outlet.

(3) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described water or waste to any public sewers:

(a) Gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.

(b) Water or waste containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other waste that may injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving water of the sewage treatment plant, including but not limited to cyanides in excess of two (2) mg/1 as cyanide ion in the waste as discharged to the public sewer.

(c) Water or waste having a pH lower than 6.2 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment and personnel of the collection systems.

(d) Solid or viscous substances in quantities or size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation of the collection systems such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar,

plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc., either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

(4) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, water or waste if it appears likely in the opinion of the City that such waste can harm either the sewers, sewage treatment process, or equipment, have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, or can otherwise endanger life, limb, public property, or constitute a nuisance. In forming an opinion as to the acceptability of these waste, the City will consider such factors as to quantities of subject waste in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, construction materials of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, capacity of the sewage treatment plant, degree of treatability of waste in the sewage treatment plant and other pertinent factors. The substances prohibited are:

(a) Liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than 150 degrees F (65 degree C).

(b) Water or waste containing fats, wax, grease or oils, whether emulsified or not, in excess of 100 mg/L or containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between 32 degrees and 150 degrees F (0 and 65 degrees C).

(c) Garbage that has not been properly shredded. The installation and operation of any garbage grinder equipped with a motor of three-fourths (3/4) horsepower (0.76 hp metric) or greater shall be subject to the review and approval by the City.

(d) Water or waste containing strong acid iron pickling waste, or concentrated plating solutions whether neutralized or not.

(e) Water or waste containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc and similar objectionable or toxic substances; or waste exerting an excessive chlorine requirement, to such degree that any such material received in the composite sewage at the sewage treatment works exceeds the limits established by the City for such materials.

(f) Water or waste containing phenols or other taste-or-odor-producing substances, in such concentrations exceeding limits which may be established by the City as necessary, after treatment of the composite sewage, to meet the requirements of the State, Federal, or other public agencies of jurisdiction for such discharge to the receiving water.

(g) Radioactive waste or isotopes of such half-life or concentration that may exceed limits established by the City in compliance with applicable State or Federal regulations.

(h) Water or waste having a pH less than 6.2 or greater than 8.5.

(i) Materials which exert or cause:

1. Unusual concentrations of inert suspended solids (such as, but not limited to, Fullers earth, lime slurries, and lime residues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride and sodium sulfate).

2. Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye waste and vegetable tanning solutions).

3. Unusual BOD, chemical oxygen demand, or chlorine requirements in such quantities as to constitute a significant load on the sewage treatment works.

4. Unusual volume of low or concentration of waste constituting "slugs" as defined herein.

(j) Water or waste containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the sewage treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the sewage treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving water.

(5) If any water or waste is discharged or are proposed to be discharged to the public sewers, which water contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this section, or which in the judgment of the City may have a deleterious effect upon the collection systems, processes, equipment, or receiving water, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the City may:

(a) Reject the waste;

(b) Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers;

(c) Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge; and/or

(d) Require payment according to Section 1.09.

If the City permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to review and approval by the City and subject to the requirements of all applicable codes, ordinances and laws.

(6) Grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be installed and maintained by the customer when, in the opinion of the City, interceptors are necessary for the proper handling of liquid waste containing grease in excessive amounts, or any flammable waste, sand or other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not normally be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the City and shall be placed in a location that is readily accessible for cleaning and inspection.

(7) Where preliminary treatment or flow-equalizing facilities are provided for any water or waste, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner at his expense.

(8) When required by the City, the owner of any property serviced by a building sewer carrying industrial waste shall install a suitable control manhole together with such necessary meters and other appurtenances in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling, and measurement of the waste. Such manhole, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the City. The manhole shall be installed by the owner at his expense, and shall be maintained by the owner so as to be safe and accessible at all times.

(9) All measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of water and waste to which reference is made in this resolution shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater", published by the American Public Health Association, and shall be determined at the control manhole provided, or upon suitable samples taken at said control manhole. In the event that no special manhole has been required, the control manhole shall be considered to be the nearest downstream manhole in the public sewer to the point at which the building sewer is connected. Sampling shall be carried out by customarily accepted methods to reflect the effect of constituents upon the collection systems and to determine the existence of hazards to life, limb, and property. (The particular analyses involved will determine whether a 24-hour composite of all outfalls of a premise is appropriate or whether a grab sample or samples should be taken. Normally, but not always, BOD and suspended solids analyses are obtained from 24-hour composites of all outfalls whereas pHs are determined from periodic grab samples or continuous pH recorder.)

Section 1.05. Protection from Damage.

No person shall maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is a part of the municipal collection systems. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest. The utility shall be reimbursed by the offender for any such damage promptly, upon presentation of a bill, along with any other compensation due.

Section 1.06. Powers and Authority of Inspectors.

Duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter upon all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing, in accordance with the provisions of these rules and regulations.

Section 1.07. Penalties.

(1) Any person found in violation of any provisions of these rules and regulations, excluding Section 1.05 shall be served by the City with written notice stating the nature of the violation and a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.

(2) Any person who continues any violation beyond the time limit provided for in Section 1.07, subsection (1), shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day in which any such violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

(3) Any person violating any of the provisions of these rules and regulations shall become liable to the City for any expense, loss or damage occasioned the City by reason of such violation.

Section 1.08. Connection and Tapping Charges.

(1) Each permit application shall be accompanied by the payment in full of the connection deposit determined according to the schedule below. The amount of the connection deposit is determined on a basis of the water meter size required to meet the occupancy requirements.

(2) The connection deposit shall be as follows:

Size of Water Meter	Connection Charge
5/8" or 3/4"	$ 738.40
1"	1,470.37
1-1/2"	2,098.47
2"	3,367.82
3"	6,936.35
4"	9,663.23
6"	19,222.57
8"	33,911.55
10"	43,937.10

Connection charges for meters larger than 10" shall be determined by the City Council. A final billing for connection charges is based upon the actual cost of labor, materials and administration.

(3) Actual taps of the City sewer will be performed by the City or an authorized contractor. The tapping charges are based upon the actual cost of labor, materials, and administration.

An estimate of the tapping charge shall be paid as a deposit prior to the issuance of a permit.

(4) The applicant shall make the excavation, with proper shoring, to the City sewer. The City will inspect the excavation prior to the City or contractor performing the actual tap.

(5) Storm Water Connection Fee. The service fee for storm water connection to property that is of average lot size (5,000 square feet) is $500. Fees for property larger than 5,000 square feet and commercial properties will be calculated at $0.10 per square foot.

Section 1.09. Sewer Service Charge.

(1) The owner, lessee, or agent of any premises connected to the City sewer system, except those producing waste as described in Section 1.04, shall pay a sewer service charge as follows:

(a) The bi-monthly minimum sewer service charge for dwelling units shall be $39.11 effective November 1, 2014.

(b) For bi-monthly water use in excess of 4,000 gallons for each installed meter, the sewer service charges shall be the bi-monthly minimum sewer service charge plus $4.36 per each thousand gallons in excess of 4,000 gallons, effective November 1, 2014. In any case, the charge shall not be less than the minimum sewer service charge.

(2) Those premises producing waste as described in Section 1.04, which the City is willing to accept, shall pay the rates set forth in subsection (1) above, plus any added costs of handling and treating the waste not covered by existing sewer charges.

(3) All properties in the City of Astoria with a minimum of 500 square feet of space used for lawn and/or garden area are hereby given the privilege (option) of using City water for the purpose of irrigation. As meters are read on a two month cycle, the adjustment will be calculated according to the following schedule:

(a) Meter Reading Cycle 01
- April/May billed in June
- June/July billed in August
- August/September billed in October

(b) Meter Reading Cycle 02
- May/June billed in July
- July/August billed in September
- September/October billed in November

An application may be made to the City Utility Clerk to receive this adjustment. Once an application is accepted by the Finance Department, it will remain in effect until either the property owner requests to have the adjustment removed or the account is closed.

(4) Charges for irrigation water used shall be the same as other water; however, there will be no sewer fee assessed for the water used for irrigation.

(5) Water used for irrigation purposes shall be determined in the following manner: An average shall be taken of the amount of water used at the premises during the three bi-monthly billing periods preceding the irrigation period. Any water used during the irrigation period in excess of this average shall not be assessed a sewer fee.

(6) The bill shall be prorated equitably for less than a one-month period in case of occupancy change.

Section 1.10. Surcharge for Combined Sewer Overflow

(1) The Finance Director shall bill and collect a 86% surcharge on all sewer billings to be applied to the correction of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) in Astoria.

(2) The CSO surcharge shall be billed as part of the sewer item on the municipal water bill for every customer and it is due and collectable at the same time and in the same manner as the water bill. All monies collected as CSO surcharges will be placed in a CSO Fund and will be used exclusively for the correction of combined sewer overflows in Astoria.

(3) If a CSO surcharge is not paid when due, the City may shut off water service until all delinquent utility charges are fully paid. Procedures and fees for processing of delinquent accounts are as provided in the current resolution establishing rules and regulations for water service.

Section 1.11. Billing Procedures.

(1) Procedures and rules governing the billing, collection, credit extension and shut off for past due accounts are contained in the Water Resolution sections 1.01.

(2) The sewer service charge shall be billed as a separate item on the municipal water bill for the same customer and is due and collectible at the same time and in the same manner as the water bill. All funds collected as sewer charges will be placed in the sewer department of the Public Works Fund.

Section 1.12. Private Sewage Disposal.

(1) When a public sanitary sewer is not available under the provisions of Section 1.02, the building sewer shall be connected to a private sewage disposal system complying with the provisions of this resolution.

(2) Before commencement of construction of a private sewage disposal system, the owner shall first obtain a written permit from the Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality.

(3) At such time as a public sewer becomes available to a property served by a private sewage disposal system as provided in Section 1.02, a direct connection shall be made to the public sewer in compliance with this resolution, and any septic tanks, cesspools, and similar private sewage disposal facility shall be abandoned in accordance with State law at no expense to the City.

(4) The owner shall operate and maintain the private sewage disposal facilities in a sanitary manner at all times at no expense to the City.

(5) No statement contained in this resolution shall be construed to interfere with any additional requirements that may be imposed by the Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality.

Section 1.13. Nonuse of Sewer.

If a sewer which connects a building with the City sewer system is not to be used due to the fact that the water has been turned off at the premises, and the Finance Director has received a written notice that there will be no use of the sewer or water, the owner or occupant shall not be charged for sewer use during the period of discontinuance or until the water is turned on.

Section 1.14. Private Water Supply.

Where a private source of water is used and then discharged into the sewer system, the private source shall be metered and the sewer service charge determined as provided in Section 1.09.

Section 1.15. Penalties.

Any violation of these regulations may subject violator to water turn off, a $262.73 fine, or both, in addition to any other legal remedies available to the City.

Section 1.16. Review and Revision of Rates.

Sewer service charges established in Section 1.09 of this resolution shall, at a minimum, be reviewed annually and revised periodically to reflect actual costs of operation, maintenance, and replacement of the treatment works and to maintain the equitability of the user charge with respect to proportional distribution of the cost of operation and maintenance in proportion to each user's contribution to the total wastewater loading of the treatment works.

Section 1.17. Notification.

Each user will be notified, at least annually, in conjunction with a regular bill, of the rate and that portion of the user charges, which are attributable to wastewater treatment services.

Section 1.18. Repeal of Resolution.

Resolution No. 13-21, adopted by the City Council on June 17, 2013, is hereby repealed and superseded by this resolution.

Section 1.19. Effective Date.

The provisions of this resolution shall be effective November 1, 2014.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager

ROLL CALL ON ADOPTION	YEA	NAY	ABSENT
Councilor LaMear	X		
Herzig	X		
Mellin	X		
Warr	X		
Mayor Van Dusen	X		