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Water/Sewer Rates &
Utility Billing

ORDINANCE NO. 1682

ORIGINAL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTERS 13.04, 13.08, 13.11, 13.16, 13.18 AND 13.28 OF THE REDMOND MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES AND ENFORCEMENT; AND CREATING NEW CHAPTERS 13.02 AND 13.17 CONCERNING UTILITY RATES, SERVICES AND ENFORCEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Redmond City Council finds that various sections of the Redmond Municipal Code located within Chapters 13.04, 13.08, 13.11, 13.16, 13.18 and 13.28 should be amended and Chapters 13.02 and 13.17 should be created to clarify, organize and make more efficient the City's services for water, sewer and utility rates and connections, as well as their enforcement, and

WHEREAS, the Redmond City Council finds that this ordinance is in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare, NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter 13.02 is hereby added to the Redmond Municipal Code to read as follows:

CHAPTER 13.02

WATER AND SEWER SERVICE FUNDS

13.02.010 Fund Created. There is created and established in the office of the City Treasurer a special fund to be known and

designated as the "City of Redmond Water and Sewer Revenue Fund."

13.02.020 Separate Accounts for Funds. The City Treasurer shall maintain separate accounts for the "City of Redmond Water and Sewer Revenue Bond Fund, 1957," and "Water Revenue Bond Fund, 1951," and the "City of Redmond Water and Sewer Revenue Fund" and shall account separately for all monies received from consumers according to the rate schedules herein provided.

Section 2. A new Section 13.04.041 is hereby added to the Redmond Municipal Code to read as follows:

13.04.041 Connection required - When - How made - Warrant to Fund. The Director of Public Works is empowered to compel the owners or the occupants of any lot or parcel of real property, the property line of which is located within two hundred (200) feet of a public sanitary sewer, to cause to be connected to such public sanitary sewer a sufficient sewer or drain pipe from all buildings and structures located thereon used for human occupancy or for use for any other purposes. It is intended to discontinue the use of septic tanks throughout the City in the interests of the public health and safety, and to carry out such purpose, all buildings on property situated within two hundred (200) feet of a public sanitary sewer shall be required to connect to the same within one year from January 1, 1973. No storm or drainage water shall be connected to the sanitary sewer; provided, further, that the Director of Public Works is empowered to compel the owners or occupants of any lot or parcel of real property, upon which pools, ditches, watercourses or waste water pipes are located, which are used as a receptacle or for drainage purposes, the property line of which is located within two hundred (200) feet of a separate storm sewer, to cause to be connected a sufficient sewer or drain pipe from said pools, ditches, watercourses or waste water pipes to the storm sewer. It is unlawful for any person or persons or corporation to make

or attempt to make more than one connection to any "Y" or to make more than two such connections at any one standpipe, and no "Y" or standpipe which already has one or two such connections, as the case may be, shall be considered as an accessible point in such sewer as the term is herein used. It is unlawful for any person to connect any basement with a City sewer without installing a back water sewage valve at the outlet.

Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be guilty of a violation of this chapter and be subject to a civil infraction in an amount not to exceed \$500 per violation.

If any connection shall not be made within thirty (30) days after written notice to the occupant or owner of such lot or parcel of property, building or structure by the City, the Director of Public Works is authorized to cause the connection to be made and to file a statement of the cost thereof with the City Clerk. Thereupon a warrant in the amount of such cost, payable to the Water and Sewer Department, shall be issued by the City Treasurer under the direction of the City Council and against the "City of Redmond Water and Sewer Revenue Fund." The amount of such warrant, plus interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per year upon the total amount of such cost and penalty, shall be assessed against the property upon which the building or structure is situated, and shall become a lien thereon as herein provided. The total amount when collected shall be paid into the "City of Redmond Water and Sewer Revenue Fund."

Section 3. A new Section 13.08.040 is hereby added to

the Redmond Municipal Code to read as follows:

13.08.040 Exempt meters. Privately owned meters which are proposed to be installed downstream of a city owned meter to measure water which is not subject to sewer charges shall be purchased from the City. The location of the privately owned meter shall be approved by the

City and the materials used for the meter assembly shall be approved by the City. The charge for the City to provide and install the meter device shall be the same as the installation charge for drop-in meters of the same size.

Section 4. A new Section 13.08.050 is hereby added to the Redmond Municipal code to read as follows:

13.08.050 Unauthorized connections. Any person connecting to the City water system other than under the supervision and approval of the Public Works Department, and any person reconnecting (turning on) water service after service shall have been discontinued pursuant to RMC 13.17.080 shall be guilty of a violation of this chapter and be subject to a civil infraction in an amount not to exceed \$500 for each violation.

Section 5. A new Section 13.11.140 is hereby added to the Redmond Municipal Code to read as follows:

13.11.140 Failure to pay connection charges. Any person connecting to the City water system or City sewer system shall pay all appropriate connection charges. In the event that a connection is made to the City water or sewer system without payment of all appropriate connection charges through (1) mistake by the City in calculating the appropriate charges, (2) the City calculating the charge using incorrect information given by the applicant, or (3) by a person connecting to the system without payment of any fees because of not obtaining proper approvals or permits, the difference between the amount paid and the appropriate connection charges shall be due and payable immediately upon notice from the City to the property owner that connection charges are owing. Any connection fees not paid within thirty (30) days after the date of the notice shall be considered delinquent. Delinquent connection charges shall be processed in accordance with RMC 13.17.080.

Section 6. Chapter 13.16 of the Redmond Municipal Code entitled "Water and Sewer Service Rates", is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.16.010 Definitions

A. Use Classifications

1. Single-Family Residential

Single-Family Residential shall include:

- a. One single-family dwelling served by a single meter, or,
- b. One single-family dwelling which includes an accessory dwelling unit within the dwelling, served by a single meter, or,
- c. One common wall single-family unit served by a single meter.

Accessory single-family structures including but not limited to, garages, greenhouses, cabanas, workshops with plumbing, etc., shall be incidental uses to single-family residential and shall not cause a change in classification to multi-family residential or commercial.

2. Multi-Family Residential

Multi-Family Residential shall include:

- a. A duplex, triplex, four-plex, or multi-unit apartment or condominium building, or,
- b. Two or more single-family dwellings or common wall single-family residential units served through a single meter, or,
- c. One or more units in a mobile home park served through a single meter or,
- d. Laundry buildings and recreation buildings in multi-family residential developments including associated pools and spas.
- e. Boarding homes, group homes, and retirement homes not including convalescent centers or nursing homes.

3. Commercial

Commercial shall include all uses not classified as single-family residential, multi-family residential, or irrigation, and shall include, but not be limited to, structures used for retail sales, offices, manufacturing, schools, convalescent centers and nursing homes.

4. Irrigation

Irrigation shall include meters installed which serve primarily landscape irrigation systems and include city owned meters which directly connect to the city water system (water only) or privately owned meters located downstream of a city owned meter (Exempt meters). Meters which serve park properties shall be classified as irrigation except for meters which serve only non-irrigation uses. Exempt meters which serve uses other than landscape irrigation systems shall also be considered irrigation and shall not be considered commercial.

5. Hydrant Use

- a. Type "A" Hydrant Use shall include the connection to a hydrant with hose or piping 1-inch and smaller in size for short term construction and demolition activities.
- b. Type "B" Hydrant Use shall include the connection to a hydrant to fill water carrying trucks used for construction, street cleaning, parking lot cleaning, landscape spraying and other similar uses.

- c. Type "C" Hydrant Use shall include the connection of hose or piping larger than 1-inch and any other uses not classified Type "A" or Type "B". Type "C" hydrant uses shall be metered.

B. Chargeable Wastewater

Chargeable wastewater for calculation of sewer rates and charges shall be the quantity of water metered through a primary meter less the quantity of water metered through an exempt meter if an exempt meter exists. An exempt meter may be installed where the use of water is such that a portion of, or all of the water used does not enter the city sewage system, but is lost by evaporation, used for irrigation, or consumed in a manufactured product, and the user provides proof of these conditions.

C. Residential Equivalent

1. Redmond. One residential equivalent for City of Redmond Sewer charges shall be 750 cubic feet per month.
2. METRO One residential equivalent for METRO sewer charges shall be as established by contract with METRO.

13.16.020 Water Service Rates and Charges.

A. Water service charges shall include a fixed monthly charge and a commodity charge. The fixed monthly charge shall apply to each meter. The commodity charge may vary with consumption depending upon use classification, and shall apply for each meter. The commodity charge rate shall be per one hundred cubic feet and shall be prorated for fractional parts of one hundred cubic feet. The charges shall be in accordance with the following rate schedules:

1. Single-Family Residential

Meter Size (inches)	Fixed Monthly Charges	Commodity Charges (100 CF)		
		0-8.99	9-11.99	12+over
5/8"x3/4" & 3/4"	\$ 7.20	\$0.94	\$1.44	\$1.94
1"	\$13.55	\$0.94	\$1.44	\$1.94
1½"	\$23.45	\$0.94	\$1.44	\$1.94
2"	\$37.15	\$0.94	\$1.44	\$1.94

2. Multi Family Residential

Meter Size (inches)	Fixed Monthly Charges	Monthly Commodity Charge
5/8"x3/4"&3/4"	\$ 7.90	\$ 1.28
1"	\$ 14.30	\$ 1.28
1½"	\$ 24.20	\$ 1.28
2"	\$ 37.90	\$ 1.28
3"	\$ 99.00	\$ 1.28
4"	\$130.00	\$ 1.28
6"	\$240.00	\$ 1.28
8"	\$365.00	\$ 1.28

3. Commercial

Meter Size (inches)	Fixed Monthly Charges	Monthly Commodity Charge
5/8"x3/4"&3/4"	\$ 7.90	\$ 1.28
1"	\$ 14.30	\$ 1.28

1-1/2"	\$ 24.20	\$ 1.28
2"	\$ 37.90	\$ 1.28
3"	\$ 99.00	\$ 1.28
4"	\$130.00	\$ 1.28
6"	\$240.00	\$ 1.28
8"	\$365.00	\$ 1.28

4. Irrigation

Meter Size	Fixed Monthly		Monthly Commodity Charge
	Primary Meter	Exempt Meter	
5/8"x3/4"&3/4"	\$ 7.90	\$0	\$ 1.94
1"	\$ 14.30	\$0	\$ 1.94
1 1/2"	\$ 24.20	\$0	\$ 1.94
2"	\$ 37.90	\$0	\$ 1.94
3"	\$ 99.00	\$0	\$ 1.94
4"	\$130.00	\$0	\$ 1.94

13.16.030 Hydrant Use Charges.

- A. Deposits shall be required for all hydrant use permits.
- B. Hydrant Use Permit charges include daily and monthly fees, and commodity charges when metered in accordance with the following schedule.

	<u>Type "A"</u>	<u>Type "B"</u>	<u>Type "C"</u>
Deposit	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00
Monthly Administrative Fee	\$25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Daily Fee	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.00
Commodity Charge (Per 100 CF)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2.00

13.16.040 Sewer Service Rates and Charges.

A. Single-Family Residential

Sewer rates and charges for single-family residential shall include two components, a Redmond collection component and a Metro sewage disposal component. The Redmond collection component shall be a monthly rate of \$6.30 per single-family residential connection. The Metro Sewage Disposal component shall be a monthly rate and shall be equal to the residential rate set by Metro.

B. Multi-Family Residential

Sewer rates and charges for multi-family residential shall include two components, a Redmond collection component and a Metro sewage disposal component. The Redmond Collection component shall include a basic charge of \$6.75 per month which shall include the first 750 cubic feet of chargeable wastewater, plus a commodity charge of \$0.78 per 100 cubic feet of chargeable wastewater over the first 750 cubic feet. The Metro sewage disposal component shall be the Metro rate for a residential equivalent converted to a commodity charge per 100 cubic feet of chargeable wastewater, except that the minimum Metro sewage disposal component shall be equal to the amount for a single-family equivalent per month per meter. Each meter within an account shall be subject to the minimum monthly charges.

C. Commercial

Sewer rates and charges for commercial shall include two components, a Redmond collection component and a Metro sewage disposal component. The Redmond collection component shall include a basic monthly charge of \$6.75 per month per meter which shall include the first 750 cubic feet of chargeable wastewater, plus, a commodity charge of \$0.78 per 100 cubic feet of chargeable wastewater over the first 750 cubic feet. The Metro sewage disposal component shall be the Metro rate for a residential equivalent converted to a commodity charge per 100 cubic feet of chargeable wastewater, except that the minimum Metro sewage disposal component shall be equal to the amount for a single-family equivalent per month per meter. Each meter within an account shall be subject to the minimum monthly charges.

13.16.050 Supplemental Water and Sewer Rates and Charges. The following supplemental water and sewer rates and charges shall be in addition to or

a reduction to other water and sewer rates and charges as specified.

A. Senior Citizen Credit

A "senior citizen credit" of twenty percent of the calculated water service charges is allowed for a single-family residential account when the residence is owned by a senior citizen who lives in the residence and the owner makes application to the city to qualify for such credit. For the purposes of this chapter, "senior citizen" means the head of a single-family household, as defined by Internal Revenue Service regulations who has attained the age of sixty-five years. The senior citizen credit shall only be allowed from and after the date that the owner makes application for this credit. The city shall not be liable for the failure of any qualified person to make application for the senior citizen credit and there shall be no entitlement to such credit in the absence of an application therefor.

B. Outside City Surcharge

Properties located outside of the corporate limits of the city shall be charged an "outside city surcharge" of twenty-five percent of the total water and sewer charges in addition to such normal rates and charges.

C. METRO Supplemental Charges

METRO supplemental charges shall be any special charge, surcharge, rate, or fee which is billed by METRO and attributable to a single user for special services or treatment of high strength or special wastes.

13.16.060 Adjustments. The Public Works Director together with the Finance Director shall establish regulations and procedures for making adjustments to the quantity of water and wastewater from which the commodity charges are calculated. These regulations and procedures shall establish the

criteria to be used in consideration of an adjustment, the method to calculate the adjustment, the frequency that adjustments will be considered, and which adjustments shall be subject to Redmond's cost of purchased water. The rate for calculating Redmond's cost of purchased water shall be the Seattle wholesale rate plus 10%.

Section 7. A new chapter 13.17 is hereby added to the Redmond Municipal code to read as follows:

13.17.010 Utility Accounts.

- A. Utility accounts shall be established for any property, structure, or use receiving water, sewer, or stormwater services. The Finance Department may aggregate or separate accounts for such properties, structures, or uses as it determines appropriate considering property ownerships, tenants, consolidation of bills, ease of payment by owners or tenants, shut-off and lien procedures, and any other applicable factors.
- B. Accounts for water service shall be established as soon after water meter installation as feasible. Water service shall be billed from date of meter installation. Water service accounts shall only be terminated after removal of the structure or use receiving water service and removal of the meter as processed through a water shut-off. Accounts for structures which are temporarily or permanently vacant shall continue to receive regular service charges.
- C. Accounts for sewer service shall be established as soon after the side sewer connection as feasible. Sewer service shall be billed from date of side sewer connection. Sewer service accounts shall only be terminated after removal of the structure or use receiving sewer service, and removal of the side sewer providing the service as documented by a side sewer permit inspection.

13.17.020 Billing.

- A. Billing for single family residential shall be bimonthly. Billing for multi-family

residential, commercial, and irrigation shall be monthly. Billing dates may be staggered throughout the month and billing dates shall be established administratively by the Finance Director.

- B. Fixed monthly charges shall apply from billing date to billing date, read date to read date, or shall apply for a one month period of time, as determined by the Finance Director, and may be prorated based on the number of days in the billing period. Commodity charges shall be based on consecutive meter readings which shall be scheduled to be completed a reasonable time before the billing dates.
- C. If on the billing date the meter reading for the billing period shall not have been completed, the consumption for the billing period shall be estimated from patterns of previous consumption.
- D. A final billing will be processed for all accounts when a change in ownership occurs or when a change in tenants occurs. An administrative fee in an amount established by the Finance Director to cover the administrative costs for processing a final bill shall be charged to any account for which a final billing is processed.

13.17.030 Due Date. All rates and charges for water service, hydrant use, sewer service and stormwater management service shall be due on the day stated in the billing statement.

13.17.040 Billing Statements. Billing statements for single family residential, multi-family residential, commercial and irrigation accounts shall be made in the name of the property owner, or pursuant to a property owners written agreement with the city, to a management company, tenant or other authorized agent. Billings made to persons other than the property owner shall not relieve the owner of the property from liability for payment of rates and charges for water service, hydrant use, sewer service and storm water management service, including, but not limited to, monthly charges, commodity charges, delinquency charges, lien fees, and court fees and shall not in any way affect the

lien rights of the city against the property to which the services are furnished.

13.17.050 Returned Checks. Any account for which a payment of rates and charges for water, sewer, or stormwater services is made by check to the city and said check is returned unpaid by a bank or other financial institution for insufficient funds or for any other reason, shall be charged a returned check fee in an amount as established by the Finance Director.

13.17.060 Partial Payments. Any payment of fees and charges for water, sewer, or stormwater services shall be applied to the outstanding fees and charges in the following manner:

- A. To the fees and charges of the billing with the earliest due date.
- B. In the following order of fees and charges within said billing.
 - 1. Fees and charges not identified below.
 - 2. Metro sewage disposal component of the sewer service charges.
 - 3. Stormwater service charges.
 - 4. Redmond collection component of the sewer service charges.
 - 5. Water service charges.

13.17.070 Delinquent Accounts. Any account for which a fee or charge shall remain unpaid at the close of business on the due date shall be delinquent.

13.17.080 Delinquent Account Processing.

- A. Interest shall be charged for any sewer or stormwater fee or charge which becomes delinquent. The interest rate shall be 8 percent per annum. This interest charge shall be billed on each regular billing as the charges become applicable.

- B. The Public Works Director together with the Finance Director shall establish regulations and procedures for discontinuing water service to properties for which water service fees become delinquent. These regulations and procedures shall provide for a date at which delinquent accounts will be processed for shutoff and shall provide for a notice to be given advising of the planned discontinuance of water service. Administrative fees in an amount established by the Finance Director to cover the administrative costs of notification and processing shall be charged to any account for which delinquent water fees and charges remain unpaid in accordance with said rules and regulations. Administrative fees in an amount established by the Finance Director to cover the cost to turn off and turn on water service shall be charged to any account for which an employee of the city is sent to the property to turn on or turn off the water in accordance with said rules and regulations.
- C. All fees and charges for water, sanitary sewer and stormwater services including but not limited to all charges for turning water on or off, together with any penalties and interest that may be provided by ordinance, shall be a lien upon the property to which the water, sanitary sewer and/or stormwater service is furnished superior to all other liens and encumbrances whatsoever, except those for general taxes and local and special assessments. Liens shall be enforced by the city in the manner provided by law.
- D. The Public Works Director together with the Finance Director shall establish regulations and procedures for the filing of liens against properties for non-payment of sewer and stormwater fees and charges. In the event that the city shall prepare and/or record a written lien against a property pursuant to state law, administrative fees in amounts established by the Finance Director shall be charged to cover the administrative costs of preparing and filing such lien and shall be added to the delinquent charges. In the event that the city shall prepare and/or file a claim in small claims court for non-payment of sewer and stormwater fees and charges,

administrative fees in amounts established by the Finance Director shall be charged to cover the administrative costs of preparing and filing such claim and shall be added to the delinquent charges. In addition to the administrative fee, reasonable attorney's fees as may be awarded by the court shall be charged to the account.

- E. The additional and concurrent method of enforcing the lien of the city for the delinquent and unpaid sewer and stormwater fees and charges by turning off the water service to the premises to which water and sanitary sewerage services are furnished shall not be exercised after two years from the date of recording of the lien notice, as provided by law, except to enforce payment of six months' charges for which no lien notice is required by law to be recorded.

Section 8. Section 13.08.080 of the Redmond Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

13.18.080 Billing and Collection. The stormwater management service charges imposed under this chapter shall be computed on a monthly basis. The amount billed shall be included on the sanitary sewer bill or on the water bill if the property is not served by sanitary sewer. A separate billing shall be made to those property owners within the city who are not city water or sanitary sewer customers. Billing shall be periodic according to the same schedule for water or sanitary sewer billing applicable to the property as provided in Chapter 13.17.

Section 9. A new Section 13.28.025 is hereby added to the Redmond Municipal Code to read as follows:

13.28.025 Irrigation, Sprinkling, Recreational Water Consumption. Services for irrigation, sprinkling and recreational usage shall be subject to the following regulations:

- (1) The public Works Department may restrict the above uses to certain hours of the day and/or certain days of the week.

- (2) Public Works Department may limit the maximum amount of water to be consumed over a specified period of time.
- (3) The installation of check valves, slow closing valves, vacuum breakers, and other appurtenances necessary for the protection of the city's water system may be required by the Public Works Department.

The City shall not be liable for damages or losses resulting from the curtailment of water usage under the above regulations. However, where practicable, the Public Works Department will endeavor to give reasonable advance notice to the public or the persons concerned of restrictions or limitations on the use of water for such purposes. Any person violating any of the above regulations, after notice by the Public Works Department of requirements thereunder, shall be guilty of a violation of this chapter and be subject to a civil infraction not to exceed \$500 per violation.

Section 10. Repealer. The following sections of the Redmond Municipal Code are hereby repealed:

13.16.070 Application For Service. (Repealed)

13.16.080 Connection Required - When - How Made - Warrant to Fund. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.04.041)

13.16.090 Separate Accounts for Funds. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.02.020)

13.16.110 Irrigation, Spring Clean, Recreational Water Consumption. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.28.025)

13.16.120 Billing. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.17.020-060)

13.16.125 Partial Payments. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.17.060)

13.16.130 Failure to Pay Connection Fees - Liens - Administrative Costs. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.08.050, 13.11.140)

13.16.140 Effective Billing. (Repealed, see Chapter 13.17)

13.16.150 Senior Citizen Credit. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.16.050(A))

13.16.160 Returned Checks. (Repealed and Recodified, 13.17.050)

Section 11. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 12. This ordinance, being an exercise of power specifically delegated to the City legislative body, is not subject to referendum, and shall take effect July 1, 1992, which is more than five (5) days after passage and publication of the ordinance or a summary thereof consisting of the title.

CITY OF REDMOND


MAYOR ROSEMARIE IVES

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


CITY CLERK, DORIS SCHAUBLE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

BY: 

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 4-14-92
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 4-21-92
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR: 4-24-92

PUBLISHED: 4-26-92
EFFECTIVE DATE: 7-1-92
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