

## TOWN OF LA CONNER



Ordinance No. 1238

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LA CONNER MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING UTILITY RATES

**WHEREAS**, based on the evaluation, staff recommended to adjust the water, sewer and drainage rates commensurate to actual system operating and capital costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the La Conner Town Council finds that the amendments to the La Conner Municipal Code, as set forth below, are in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and the economic viability of the Town of La Conner;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE LA CONNER TOWN COUNCIL** as follows:

**Section 1 - Sewer.** Section 12.10.060 of the La Conner Municipal Code is hereby amended, the revised section to read as follows:

**12.10.060 Sewer rates.**

Sewer charges shall consist of a fixed monthly base rate plus a volume charge for all customers per subsection (6) of this section.

(1) A base rate per month shall apply for all customers, except for qualified senior citizens as defined below.

(2) An additional monthly volume charge shall be applied for each customer class based on the amount of water used or the amount of wastewater flow through a metering manhole, as set forth below.

(3) The volume charge for each customer class shall be:

(a) Residential – A charge for each cubic foot of water;

(b) Average strength commercial or industrial – A charge for each cubic foot of water used;

(c) Above-average strength commercial or industrial – A charge for each cubic foot of water used. Customers identified by the town as having above-average strength may elect, at their option and expense, to have installed a metering manhole and to be charged under that customer category;

- (d) Swinomish Tribal Community – A charge consistent with the most recent contract for wastewater treatment and disposal between the town of La Conner and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community shall be assessed. Such rates shall be established in accordance with the terms of the contract;
- (e) Industrial or other customers who have installed metering manholes – A charge per cubic foot of wastewater flow, plus a per month vault maintenance fee, plus a sampling and analysis charge per sample required at the discretion of the plant operator, or requested by the customer, plus any applicable strength surcharge as defined in subsection (4) of this section;
- (f) Qualified senior citizens – Annually on or before April 1st, and upon presentation of the Skagit County assessor's form so stating, senior citizens who participate in the property tax exemption program will not be charged the base charge set forth in subsection (1) of this section;
- (g) Septic and septage haulers – A charge for each gallon of septic and/or septage delivered to the treatment plant, except that low strength “gray water” delivered from the Washington State Ferry System may be charged a different rate to be negotiated and set by contract;
- (h) Dewatered and dried biosolids deliverers – A charge per dry ton shall be charged for dewatered and dried biosolids delivered to and accepted by the sewer treatment plant.

(4) A strength surcharge shall apply for each cubic foot of sewage flow, for each 100 mg/l of BOD by which the average concentration exceeds 300 mg/l. The surcharge shall be based on the average concentration of sewage, as measured in milligrams per liter (mg/l) of over a one-month period. The plant operator shall determine appropriate sampling and analysis methods to ascertain the concentration.

(5) A capacity surcharge shall be applied for all in-town customers who have not made a capital contribution to the sewer system, either through participation in ULID #1 or by paying a general facilities charge to the town of La Conner for sewer service. A capacity surcharge shall apply for each cubic foot of water used. Customers subject to the capacity surcharge may elect, at their option, to pay the prevailing general facilities charge appropriate for their level of sewer service, at which time the customer would no longer be subject to the capacity surcharge.

(6) The following rates shall be applied, provided that rate increases after calendar year 2024 shall not exceed 8% in any year regardless of the actual CPI:

Ref.	Description	Rate	Effective
(1)	Base Rate per Month	\$31.09	1/1/2024
-	"" ""	2024 rate + (CPI)	1/1/2025
-	"" ""	2025 rate + (CPI)	1/1/2026
(2)(a)	Residential Volume Charge per CF	\$.085	1/1/2024
-	"" ""	2024 rate + (CPI) +(5%)	1/1/2025
-	"" ""	2025 rate + (CPI) +(5%)	1/1/2026
(2)(b)	Average Strength Commercial or Industrial per CF	\$.085	1/1/2024
-	"" ""	2024 rate + (CPI) +(5%)	1/1/2025
-	"" ""	2025 rate + (CPI) +(5%)	1/1/2026
(2)(c)	Above-Average Strength Commercial or Industrial per CF	\$0.1137	1/1/2024
-	"" ""	2024 rate + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2025
-	"" ""	2025 rate + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2026
(2)(d)	Industrial/Other Customers with Metering Manholes per CF	\$0.1137	1/1/2024
-	"" ""	2024 rate + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2025
-	"" ""	2025 rate +	1/1/2026

Ref.	Description	Rate	Effective
		(5%+CPI)	
(2)(e)	Vault Maintenance per Month	\$300.00	1/1/2024
(2)(f)	Sampling and Analysis per Sample	\$85.00	1/1/2024
(2)(g)	Septic and Septage Haulers per Gallon for Materials with 10% or Less Solids	\$0.12	1/1/2024
(2)(h)(i)	Biosolids Materials per Ton Received with Greater Than 10% but 90% or Less Solids	\$37.50	1/1/2024
(2)(h)(ii)	Biosolids Materials per Ton with 91% or Greater Solids	\$150.00	1/1/2024
(3)	Strength Surcharge per CF	\$0.81	1/1/2024
(4)	Capacity Surcharge per CF	\$1.72	1/1/2024

**Section 3 - Water.** Section 12.15.030 of the La Conner Municipal Code is hereby amended, the revised section to read as follows:

**12.15.030 Monthly rates and service charges.**

All rates and charges for furnishing water service shall be made on a monthly basis. The total monthly charge shall consist of a meter charge plus a volume charge.

(1) Minimum Monthly Meter Charges. The monthly charge for the three-quarter-inch meter size shall be the "base" charge. Increases in the base charge after calendar year 2024 shall not exceed 8% in any year regardless of the actual CPI. Charges for meters larger than three-quarter-inch shall be multiples of the "base" charge, as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge	Effective
3/4" or smaller (base)	\$46.82	1/1/2024
	2024 Base + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2025
	20231 Base + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2026
1"	2 x base	1/1/2024
1-1/2"	3 x base	1/1/2024
2"	5 x base	1/1/2024
3"	12 x base	1/1/2024

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge	Effective
4"	25 x base	1/1/2024
6"	By negotiation	1/1/2024

(2) Volume Charge. Increases in the volume charge after calendar year 2024 shall not exceed 8% in any year regardless of the actual CPI.

**Water Volume Rate Schedule**

Description	Rate	Effective
Volume Charge per CF	\$0.0683	1/1/2024
	2024 rate + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2025
	2025 rate + (5%+CPI)	1/1/2026

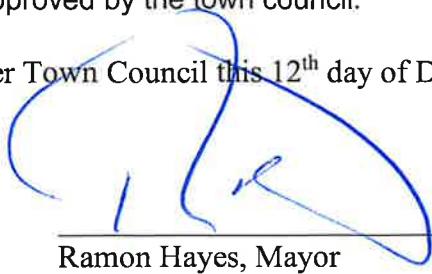
(3) Charges for shut-off and turn-on services for existing meters to be \$75.00 for all services.

(4) Water Service New Installation Charges. These charges are for the materials, labor and equipment to set a new meter and do not include the applicable general facilities charge set forth in LCMC 12.15.140.

Service Size	Charge
3/4"	\$3,360.00
1"	\$3,590.00
1-1/2"	\$6,855.00
2"	\$7,010.00
Larger than 2"	Actual cost for materials, labor, and equipment plus a 15 percent administrative charge.

(5) Wholesale Water Charges. Sale of water to another water system shall be charged per the terms of the applicable agreement as approved by the town council.

**ADOPTED BY VOTE** of the La Conner Town Council this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.



Ramon Hayes, Mayor

Attest:

Mary A. DeLoach

Finance Director

Approved as to form:

Eric D. H.

Town Attorney