

ORDINANCE 24-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS,
PROVIDING THAT THE BILLINGS, MONTANA CITY
CODE (BMCC) BE AMENDED BY REVISING ARTICLE
22-800 (STORM SEWERS) BY GENERALLY REVISING
THE TITLE OF THE ARTICLE, RATE METHODOLOGY,
BILLING, AND COLLECTION OF SERVICE CHARGES**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS THAT:

Section 1. That Article 22-800 of the Billings, Montana City Code (BMCC) is amended so that such section shall read as follows:

Article 22-800. – STORM SEWER SYSTEM RATES AND CHARGES

Sec. 22-801. – Costs and purpose.

The purpose of the rates and charges shall be to generate sufficient revenue to pay all costs of establishing, building, reconstructing, or extending the city's storm sewer system, authorized under MCA 7-13-4301, including but not limited to costs of construction, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, administration, depreciation and replacement of stormwater infrastructure, appurtenances, and sewers to dispose of stormwater and divert it from the sewage disposal plant and prevent pollution of sources of water supply, including the principal of and interest on all revenue bonds to be issued for that purpose, as authorized by MCA Title 7 Chapter 7 Part 44, or Title 7 Chapter 13 Part 43, as amended. All proceeds are deemed to be in payment for the use of the city storm sewer system.

Sec. 22-802. – Operation cost determination.

The City Administrator or the Public Works Department shall determine the total annual cost of operation and maintenance of the storm sewer system pursuant to policies adopted by the city council. The total annual cost of operation and maintenance of the storm sewer system shall include, but is not limited to, costs of planning, analysis, labor, personnel, repairs, capital improvements, equipment, equipment replacement, maintenance, modifications, power, permitting, sampling, administration, debt service, and amounts needed to fund reserves.

Sec. 22-803. – Monthly service charge.

A monthly storm sewer system service charge is imposed and made applicable to all premises within the city limits. Stormwater service charges shall be included with the monthly utility billing. All charges shall be assessed to premises within the City upon a methodology and at a rate to be established by Council resolution and in accord with MCA 7-13-4304.

All storm sewer system service charges shall be collected as provided in this article and credited to a fund to be known as “The Municipal Storm Sewer System Fund”, which shall be at all times segregated and maintained as a separate fund.

Sec. 22-804. – Appeal and adjustment.

Any party who considers the charges applicable to his premises unfair, inequitable or unreasonable may apply to the public works director for adjustment thereof, stating the facts and grounds of complaint, and the public works director may notify the owner of any premises as to which he considers the rates and charges to be inadequate. In either case, the public works director shall cause appropriate investigation and report to be made by himself or his duly authorized representative.

The public works director, or his duly authorized representative, shall consider each and all of such complaints and reports and communicate his findings with respect thereto to the city council. The council shall have the right to order a public hearing as to any such matter and, if convinced that an adjustment of the charges for such premises is necessary to provide reasonable equality with those charged to others, it shall so provide, either by ordinance amendatory hereto, or by resolutions fixing special charges for individual premises during the period of continuance of special circumstances which make the standard charges unfair, inequitable, unreasonable or inadequate.

Sec. 22-805. – Delinquent charges.

Bills for storm sewer system service charges shall become delinquent twenty-five (25) days from the date of billing if not paid. If the bill is not paid within forty (40) days after the billing date, the water service to the customer shall be discontinued after written notice of delinquency is mailed to the customer until the delinquent amount due and owing is paid. The city invokes use of the procedures set forth under MCA 7-13-4309 for collection of the payment due and owing as a tax against the lot or parcel of real property to which stormwater sewer system service was furnished and payment is delinquent and also permits the city to bring suit to collect payment of delinquent charges as a debt owing the city.

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2024.

Section 3. REPEALER. All resolutions, ordinances, and sections of the City Code inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance which may be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

PASSED by the City Council on first reading the _____ day of _____, 2024.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on second reading this _____ day of _____, 2024.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: _____
William A. Cole, Mayor

Attest:

BY: _____
Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk