RESOLUTION NO. 2379

A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING THE SANITARY SEWER UTILITY FEE, CONFIRMING THE AVERAGE FLOW RATE FOR AN EQUIVALENT RESIDENTIAL UNIT AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2337

THE TROUTDALE CITY COUNCIL FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the sanitary sewer utility service provides key infrastructure vital and necessary to the livability and prosperity of the community by ensuring public health and safety and protection of the environment, through the safe and reliability collection and treatment of wastewater.

2. That sanitary sewer user fees are the primary revenue source for providing these vital services which are necessary for the ongoing daily operating costs and reinvestment and replacement costs of critical capital infrastructure assets.

3. That costs for maintenance, upgrade, and replacement of the sanitary sewer system infrastructure continues to increase along with compliance costs with State Department of Environmental Quality and Federal regulatory requirements, including the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for surface water.

4. That during the recovery from 2008 economic downturn, and for a number of years prior, the user fees were held at a financially unsustainable low rate, resulting in significantly underfunding the needed system infrastructure reinvestment.

5. That the City retained FCS Group to provide independent and objective utility rate development supporting current operating costs and long-term capital replacement requirements.

6. That the Council has received a series of annual utility rate analysis presentations beginning with FCS in March 2014 and most recently with FCS's comprehensive rate analysis and forecast recommendation in March 2017.

7. That the Council consensus in March 2017 was to approach necessary recommended rate increase by smoothing the increase over a multi-year rate schedule rather than one year significant rate jump. And even with the below rate schedule increases the City's utility rates will be at or near the lowest in the region.

8. That the sanitary sewer utility fee must be increased over a sustained period of years to provide for both increasing costs of operation and maintenance, and provide a predictable source of funding for the needed capital projects associated with the system infrastructure reinvestment in the sanitary sewer system.

9. That Section 12.04.030 of the Troutdale Municipal Code establishes a sanitary sewer utility fee and authorizes the Council to adjust the amount of the fee by Resolution.

10. That the current sanitary sewer utility fee was set by Resolution No. 2337 dated May 24, 2016 and effective July 1, 2016.

11. That no adjustment is proposed for the average flow rate that is represented by an equivalent residential unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TROUTDALE

Section 1. The sanitary sewer utility fee shall be increased to support system reliability, State Department of Environmental Quality NPDES permit compliance costs, operating cost recovery and necessary system infrastructure reinvestment.

Section 2. The monthly sanitary sewer utility fee shall be per equivalent residential unit (ERU), and effective July 1, 2017 the charge per ERU shall be $39.39, and effective July 1, 2018 the charge per ERU shall be $41.75, and effective July 1, 2019 the charge per ERU shall be $44.26, and effective July 1, 2020 the charge per ERU shall be $46.92, and effective July 1, 2021 the charge per ERU shall be $49.74.

Section 3. The monthly additional surcharge on all sanitary sewer accounts that are connected to the sanitary sewer system through a Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) station that is operated and maintained by the City shall be $1.00.

Section 4. The monthly additional fee on all utility accounts that utilize recycled water from the City's wastewater treatment plant shall be based on actual consumption of recycled water at a rate equal to one-half the water commodity charge.

Section 5. For the purposes of assessing the monthly sanitary sewer utility fee, an account holder will be charged for the number of equivalent residential units for which system development charges are or would be assessed unless there is a documented, long-term change in wastewater discharge by that particular account.

Section 6. An equivalent residential unit has an average flow of 180 gallons per day.

Section 7. Resolution No. 2337 is rescinded effective July 1, 2017.

Section 8. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

YEAS: 6
NAYS: 1 White
ABSTAINED: 0

Casey Ryan

Casey Ryan, Mayor

5/24/2017

Date

Sarah Skroch

Sarah Skroch, City Recorder
Adopted: May 23, 2017