Legislation Text

File #: RES PH 25-239, **Version:** 1

Setting the 2026 Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer rates. (Public hearing closed and laid over from November 5, 2025)
WHEREAS, the mission of the Public Works Sewer Utility is to provide a basic service of transporting sanitary wastewater to the regional treatment system and to provide this service at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, Sanitary Sewer Service charges pay for the cost of operating and maintaining the sewage disposal system including the principal and interest on bonds sold for system construction and rehabilitation, and for paying Saint Paul's share of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' annual budget as provided in Chapter 473, Minnesota Statutes, and in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, RES PH 23-23 established the Water Street Special Sanitary Sewer Availability Connection Charge District that includes a connection charge for the purpose of paying for the enlargement, annual maintenance, and operational expenses associated with the sanitary sewer.

WHEREAS, additional missions of the Public Works Sewer Utility are to collect and transport storm water to the Mississippi River through a separate system of pipes, to improve the quality of our storm water discharges and to provide this service at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 19, First Special Session, Laws of Minnesota, 1985, and all other laws particularly Minnesota Statutes, Section 444.075 and applicable charter provisions, enacted Ordinance #17359 (6/3/86) establishing a Storm Sewer System Charge for the purpose of paying the cost of construction, reconstruction, repair, enlargement and improvements necessitated by the separation of the combined sewer system and for the maintenance, operation and use of the separated storm sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the Storm Sewer System Charge is based on a property's anticipated contribution of storm water runoff to the storm sewer system, and is a function of its size and land use; and

WHEREAS, the Storm Sewer System Charge ordinance provides that the City Council may, from time to time by resolution, establish Storm Sewer System Charge rates for various land use classifications excluding legally exempt properties; and

WHEREAS, revenue collected from the Storm Sewer System Charge is used to pay back Sewer Revenue Bonds sold for constructing the storm sewer system and for paying for its operation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, state, federal and watershed district mandated environmental programs have been imposed upon Saint Paul without accompanying funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul pursuant to Chapter 81, Section 81.08 and applicable charter provisions, enacted Ordinance # 19-29 (5/28/19) establishing green infrastructure stormwater management districts for the Snelling Midway Superblock (RES 19-1246) and Ford Site Redevelopment (RES 20-672). This establishment includes a connection charge for the purpose of paying for the annual maintenance and operational expenses associated with the storm sewer systems serving the individual parcels of land; and

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 77.02 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code pertaining to Sanitary Sewer Service Charges and upon the recommendation of City Administration, the Council of the City of Saint Paul does hereby establish the amount and basis for Sanitary Sewer Service Charges to be levied and collected effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 as follows:

A flat rate of $6.45 per 100 cubic feet

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that this rate reflects a 14% increase over the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Service Charge rate.

SANITARY SEWER VOLUME CHARGE

Properties served by meters one inch and smaller shall be billed quarterly. Properties served by meters larger than one inch shall be billed monthly, with the exception of one and two family homes which shall be charged quarterly. Charges for one and two family dwellings for the billing year shall be determined by the amount of water consumed, regardless of the size of the water meter, and the amount billed shall never be greater than the amount of water consumed during the quarter consisting of the first three months prior to the first billing of the year, except for those dwellings assessed minimum charges. Charges for all other properties, regardless of the size of the meter, shall be based on actual water consumption for each billing period.

SANITARY SEWER MINIMUM VOLUME CHARGE

A minimum sanitary sewer volume charge shall be levied and assessed to every property based upon water meter size. The minimum charge below shall reflect part of the fixed cost for basic sewer service:

Water Meter Size	Minimum Volume Charge	Bill Cycle
< 1“	$ 8.21	per quarter
1” (single family dwelling)	8.21	per quarter
1” (other)	14.36	per quarter
1-1/2”	10.03	per month
2”	22.80	per month
3”	47.88	per month
4”	118.56	per month
6”	228.00	per month
8”	392.16	per month
10”	560.88	per month
12”	775.20	per month

SANITARY SEWER BASE FEE

A sanitary sewer base fee shall be levied and assessed to every property based upon water meter size and shall be applied during every billing cycle, as shown below:

Water Meter Size	Base Fee	Bill Cycle
< 1“	$ 11.29	per quarter
1” (single family dwelling)	11.29	per quarter
1” (other)	31.26	per quarter
1-1/2”	14.71	per month

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2”	18.63	per month
3”	26.33	per month
4”	32.92	per month
6”	46.53	per month
8”	58.88	per month
10”	70.27	per month
12”	84.57	per month

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that this rate reflects a 14% increase over the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Base fee.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 81.05 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code pertaining to Storm Sewer System Charges and upon recommendation of City Administration, the Council of the City of Saint Paul does hereby establish the amount and basis for Storm Sewer System Charges to be levied and collected effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

STORM SEWER SYSTEM CHARGE			
Class	**Land Use Classificatio**	**2026 RATE**	**SIZE**
A	Cemeteries, golf course and two-family residenti	$251.08	Acre
B	Railroad right of way	502.18	Acre
C	One- and two-family res	150.11	Parcel
D	Condominiums and tow	100.97	Unit
E	Public and private schoo	1,378.21	Acre
F	Multiple dwellings, churc	1,839.43	Acre
G	Commercial and industr	2,478.03	Acre

Be it FINALLY RESOLVED, that these rates reflect a 14% increase over the 2025 Storm Sewer System Charge rates.

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