

ORDINANCE NO. 48, 2024

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE AND SERVICES RENDERED BY THE SEWAGE WORKS SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the legislative body of the City of Columbus, Indiana, by way of its City Council (the "Common Council") did adopt Ordinance Number 1861, 1961 and established a Utility Service Board (the "Board") pursuant to and consistent with the then existing rules and regulations as established in the relevant Indiana Code sections; and

WHEREAS, the Board manages the Columbus City Utilities (the "Utilities") as a separate legal entity of the City of Columbus (the "City"); and

WHEREAS, all action regarding wastewater rates, fees, services and costs consumers of the Utilities pay for wastewater are first studied and determined by the Board, who then forwards a recommendation to the Common Council, who likewise considers the proposed rates, fees, service and costs and then acts upon the proposal by enactment of an ordinance that alters, modifies or establishes new rates, fees, service fees or costs that consumers pay service provided by the Utilities; and

WHEREAS, rates and fees for wastewater services are NOT subject to the review of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission but rather, are determined by the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Board commissioned a study of the wastewater system (the "Rate Report") through Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, who reviewed the Master Plan, previously developed by the Utility, examined present cost of operations, review cost of future projects, cost of ongoing maintenance and system improvements and has made certain recommendation as to the rate modification to the wastewater service, additionally, certain future projects will require bonds necessary to support larger capital projects; and

WHEREAS, such projects and improvement are necessary to maintain a clean and safe wastewater system and maintain the quality of wastewater processing to meet the standards of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Environmental Protective Agency, both entities who exercise oversight upon the Utilities; and

WHEREAS, the last changes to wastewater rates and charges were last amended by Ordinance No. 13-2021, adopted by the Common Council on June 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing on the proposed rates was given pursuant to Indiana Code 36-9-23, as amended (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was held before this Common Council on the date hereof, at which time testimony from interested persons was received, after introduction of this ordinance and as provided for in the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. This Common Council hereby finds and determines that, based upon the Rate Report, the existing rates and charges are insufficient to pay all the legal and other necessary expenses incident to the operation of the utility, including maintenance costs, operating charges, upkeep, repairs, depreciation, including increases in such costs, and the payment of principal and interest on bonds, future bonds or other obligations.

SECTION 2. This Common Council finds and determines that the proposed rates set forth in Exhibit A hereto are nondiscriminatory, reasonable and just, and should be adopted.

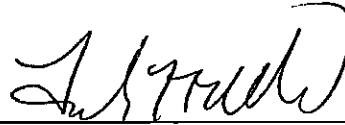
SECTION 3. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect beginning with December 2024 usage and January 2025 billing.

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DULY PASSED on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, by a vote of 8 ayes and 1 nays.

COMMON COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA



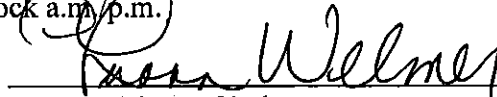
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Luann Welmer, Clerk

7<sup>th</sup> Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Columbus for her approval or veto this day of NOV., 2024 at 10:00 o'clock a.m./p.m.



Luann Welmer, Clerk

This Ordinance having been passed by the legislative body and presented to me is approved by me and duly adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock a.m./p.m.



Mary K. Ferdon, Mayor of the City of Columbus, Indiana

Attest:



Luann Welmer, Clerk

# EXHIBIT A - PROPOSED SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

		Proposed			
		Present	Phase I*	Phase II**	Phase III***
<b>Base Charge (Per Month)</b>					
<u>Meter Size:</u>					
5/8	inch meter	\$7.05	\$7.45	\$8.12	\$8.53
1	inch meter	14.08	14.73	16.06	16.86
1 1/2	inch meter	29.51	30.73	33.50	35.18
2	inch meter	49.16	51.10	55.70	58.49
3	inch meter	110.00	114.15	124.42	130.64
4	inch meter	189.54	196.60	214.29	225.00
6	inch meter	428.19	443.95	483.91	508.11
8	inch meter	760.42	788.30	859.25	902.21
10	inch meter	1,186.25	1,229.65	1,340.32	1,407.34
<b>Volumetric Rate (Per 1,000 Gallons)</b>					
Residential and Small Commercial		\$8.33	\$8.78	\$9.57	\$10.05
Large Commercial		6.60	8.01	8.73	9.17
Industrial		5.26	6.33	6.90	7.25
Driftwood Utilities, Inc.		6.16	7.54	8.22	8.63
<b>Septic/Bulk User Rate (Per Gallon)</b>		\$0.0650	\$0.0609	\$0.0664	\$0.0697
<b>Property Not Using Water (Per Month)</b>					
Unmetered user (assumes 4,640 gals.)		\$45.70	\$48.19	\$52.52	\$55.16
<b>Excessive Strength Surcharges</b>					
BOD (>250 mg/l)		\$0.241	\$0.292	\$0.318	\$0.334
SS (>250 mg/l)		0.153	0.366	0.399	0.419
NH3 (>18 mg/l)		2.109	4.171	4.546	4.773
PT (>6 mg/l)		1.567	3.113	3.393	3.563
<b>Additional BOD Monthly Capacity Charges</b> (Total LB BOD Per Month)					
BOD/LB Usage Bracket 1 (68,701 - 137,400)		\$0.00	\$0.04	\$0.04	\$0.04
BOD/LB Usage Bracket 2 (137,401 - 364,110)		0.00	0.12	0.13	0.14
BOD/LB Usage Bracket 3 (364,111 - 580,230)		0.00	0.50	0.55	0.58
BOD/LB All Over (580,231+)		0.00	0.52	0.57	0.60

Present rates and charges per Ordinance No. 13-2021, adopted June 15, 2021.

\*Phase I effective for December 2024 usage, January 2025 billing

\*\*Phase II effective for December 2025 usage, January 2026 billing

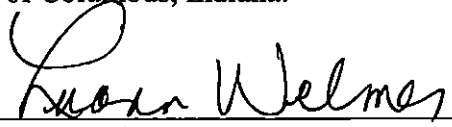
\*\*\*Phase III effective for December 2026 usage, January 2027 billing

ATTEST:

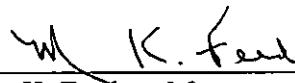
I hereby certify that the foregoing within and attached ordinance was duly passed by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, at a meeting thereof held on the ~~6<sup>th</sup>~~ day of ~~October~~ <sup>Nov.</sup> 2024, by the following vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Chris Bartels (District 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elaine Hilber (District 2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jerone Wood (District 3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank Miller (District 4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kent Anderson (District 5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay Foyst (District 6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Burnett (Councilor at Large)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Dell (Councilor at Large)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grace Kestler (Councilor at Large)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The foregoing within and attached ordinance passed by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, on the ~~6<sup>th</sup>~~ day of ~~October~~ <sup>Nov.</sup> 2024, is presented by me this ~~2<sup>nd</sup>~~ day of ~~October~~ <sup>Nov.</sup> 2024, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., to the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Indiana.

  
Luann Welmer  
Clerk of the Common Council

The foregoing within and attached ordinance passed by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, on the ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~ day of ~~October~~ <sup>Nov.</sup> 2024, is approved by me this ~~7<sup>th</sup>~~ day of ~~October~~ <sup>Nov.</sup> 2024, at 10:00 o'clock A.M.

  
Mary K. Ferdon, Mayor