

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND, WASHINGTON,  
AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 17.56.010  
AND 17.56.020 RELATED TO SEWER UTILITY RATES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City has need, from time to time, to update the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to reflect current conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, according to established policy, Richland’s utility rates are set to recover costs for each service and class of customer; and

**WHEREAS**, the City periodically reviews the revenue requirements and rate structures of its utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2025 review of the sewer utility’s revenue requirements indicated that current rates are insufficient to recover costs considering anticipated operating and maintenance expenses, debt service, and capital funding over a ten-year analysis period; and

**WHEREAS**, at its March 10, 2026 meeting, the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) favorably recommended that Richland City Council approve an increase to daily sewer service rates by six percent (6%) in 2026, six percent (6%) in 2027, and six percent (6%) in 2028; and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s best interests are served by adjusting the sewer utility rates to meet financial obligations and revenue needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Section 17.56.010, entitled Schedule I – Residences and multifamily residences, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 77, and last amended by Ordinance No. 2023-28, is hereby amended as follows:

**17.56.010 Schedule I – Residences and multifamily residences.**

A. Billings shall be monthly, to the building owner and/or the tenant on the basis of one month in arrears and include applicable taxes.

B. Residences and condominiums will be billed the monthly residential charge.

C. The city may furnish sewer to customers at locations outside the corporate limits of the city. The monthly rates for sewer furnished to out-of-city customers shall be the rates set forth in this title for the applicable class of service plus 50 percent of such rates.

D. Residences with less than three living units shall be billed the monthly residential charge per month per living unit. These monthly charges are due whether the living unit is occupied or not. Multifamily residences will be billed a per unit charge for each living unit, whether occupied or

not, plus consumption charges based on water usage. Sewer charges will be billed on the owner's/manager's monthly bill along with the associated water charges.

For multifamily facilities served by a water meter for each unit, sewer will be billed at the residential charge to each unit regardless of whether the living unit is occupied.

E. Rates shall be charged according to the following tables: ~~(effective for all utility bills generated on or after December 1, 2023):~~

	<b>Rate</b>
<del>Daily residential charge:</del>	<del>\$0.8416</del>
<del>Daily multifamily per unit charge:</del>	<del>\$0.4077</del>
<del>Multifamily consumption charge:</del>	<del>\$2.15</del>

<u>Effective for all utility bills generated on or after July 1, 2026:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Daily residential charge:</u>	<u>\$0.8921</u>
<u>Daily multifamily per unit charge:</u>	<u>\$0.4322</u>
<u>Multifamily consumption charge:</u>	<u>\$2.28</u>

<u>Effective for all utility bills generated on or after January 1, 2027:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Daily residential charge:</u>	<u>\$0.9456</u>
<u>Daily multifamily per unit charge:</u>	<u>\$0.4581</u>
<u>Multifamily consumption charge:</u>	<u>\$2.42</u>

<u>Effective for all utility bills generated on or after January 1, 2028:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Daily residential charge:</u>	<u>\$1.0024</u>
<u>Daily multifamily per unit charge:</u>	<u>\$0.4856</u>
<u>Multifamily consumption charge:</u>	<u>\$2.56</u>

Section 2. Richland Municipal Code Section 17.56.020, entitled Schedule II – Commercial, etc., as first enacted by Ordinance No. 77, and last amended by Ordinance No. 2023-28, is hereby amended as follows:

**17.56.020 Schedule II – Commercial, etc.**

A. All commercial customers, including recreational vehicle parks, mixed-use and other customers not specifically included in Schedule I, shall be included in this schedule, except for industries which discharge chemical waste, food processing waste, other unusual waste, or unusual amounts of water. Industries discharging such wastes, if their waste is accepted for treatment by the city, shall be subject to individually negotiated contracts. Water usage will be used as the basis for computing monthly sewer charge. Sewer charges will be billed on the customer’s monthly bill along with the associated water charges.

B. Billing shall be monthly to the owner or the tenant of the commercial establishment on the basis of one month in arrears and include applicable taxes. For the purposes of this section, “billing month” means the month which includes the last day of the period of water consumption for which the customer will be billed.

C. Rates shall be charged according to the following tables: ~~(effective for all utility bills generated on or after December 1, 2023):~~

	<b>Rate</b>
<del>Minimum daily charge:</del>	<del>\$2.0219</del>
<del>Additional charge — per 100 cubic feet:</del>	<del>\$2.15</del>

<u>Effective for all utility bills generated on or after July 1, 2026:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Minimum daily charge:</u>	<u>\$2.1432</u>
<u>Additional charge – per 100 cubic feet:</u>	<u>\$2.28</u>

<u>Effective for all utility bills generated on or after January 1, 2027:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Minimum daily charge:</u>	<u>\$2.2718</u>
<u>Additional charge – per 100 cubic feet:</u>	<u>\$2.42</u>

<u>Effective for all utility bills generated on or after January 1, 2028:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Minimum daily charge:</u>	<u>\$2.4081</u>
<u>Additional charge – per 100 cubic feet:</u>	<u>\$2.56</u>

D. Users billed under this schedule who use large volumes of water that is not returned to the sewer shall have the option of installing a separate water meter for the irrigation system or installing an effluent meter in a control manhole as specified in RMC 17.44.010. Separate water meters or effluent meters shall be installed at the owner’s expense and in compliance with city standards. All meters shall be dedicated to the city for operation and maintenance.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City of Richland on April 26, 2026 and take effect on July 1, 2026.


Section 4. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 5. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

**PASSED** by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

  
Theresa Richardson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

  
Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

First Reading: April 7, 2026  
Second Reading: April 21, 2026  
Date Published: April 26, 2026