

ORDINANCE NO. 1599

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13.16.044 OF THE ZILLAH MUNICIPAL CODE WHICH ESTABLISHES CHARGES FOR CERTAIN SEWER SERVICES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ZILLAH, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Statement of Purpose: Washington State RCW 35.92.025 authorizes cities and towns to charge property owners seeking to connect to the water or sewerage system of the city or town as a condition granting the right to connect. Service charges or general facility charges are one-time fees for new developments or existing ones that increase the demand on the water and wastewater systems to pay for the impacts of that increased demand and impact. If the city is undertaking a project that requires a new water or sewer connection (e.g., a new public building, a park facility), it is effectively paying itself, whereas an exemption would have the following benefits:

- Directly lowers the upfront costs of these projects and free up public funds for other initiatives and potentially reduces the overall tax burden on citizens.
- Streamlines internal financial processes so there is no need to budget for or transfer funds for these specific connection fees, which frees up funding for other purposes benefiting taxpayers and the community.
- Increases the city's financial capacity to undertake more development or infrastructure improvements that benefit the community.

Section 2. Amendment of Section 13.16.044 of the Zillah Municipal Code, adding a new subsection titled Exemptions to read as follows:

F. Exemptions.

The following special categories of property as exempt from service charges and general facility charges:

1. City street rights-of-way;
2. Parcels owned by the city;
3. County highway rights-of-way;
4. State rights-of-way.

Section 3. Severability: If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances is held to be invalid the remainder of this Ordinance or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

Section 4. Effect: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately after publication as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ZILLAH, WASHINGTON,
this 5th day of May, 2025.

Dr. Scott Carmack, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Grayum, City Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James C. Carmody, City Attorney

Date Published:

Effective Date: