

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-4

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RATES AND CHARGES
FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY MUNICIPAL SEWER UTILITY

- WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana law and the Columbia City Code, the Columbia City Board of Public Works serves as the managing body for the municipally owned sewer utility for the City of Columbia City and the Columbia City Common Council serves as the legislative body; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Columbia City is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and, therefore, all sewer rates and charges are subject to the control and/or approval of the Columbia City Common Council (see also IC 8-1.5-3-8.3 and IC 36-9-23-25); and
- WHEREAS, Indiana law requires all municipally owned utilities to establish rates and charges sufficient to produce revenue for all reasonable and necessary costs of operation and maintenance, working capital, depreciation, capital improvements, debt service on bonds and debt service reserve requirements associated with the utility; and
- WHEREAS, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC has prepared a revised Schedule of Sewer Rates and Charges; and
- WHEREAS, the rates and charges set forth on Exhibit A shall be subject to proper notice and hearing to the applicable customers, pursuant to Indiana law, and any rates herein to be effective as specifically set forth herein by May 1, 2026, and following passage of this ordinance; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Columbia City has miscellaneous utility charges for all of its utilities that require update to be effective immediately and that Section 51.34 be deleted in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City in Whitley, Indiana, that the rates and charges for the City of Columbia City municipally owned sewer utility be amended as follows:

See Exhibits A and B attached hereto and incorporated herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the amended rates and charges are to be implemented by May 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that notice shall be provided to the sewer utility customers setting forth the adjustment in rates and charges.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the new rates and charges for the City of Columbia City's municipally owned sewer utility include sufficient revenues to provide a reasonable rate of return.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the new rates and charges for the City of Columbia City's

municipally owned sewer utility include sufficient revenues to provide a payment in lieu of taxes from the respective utility funds to the City of Columbia City's General Fund.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that proper notice and hearing on this Ordinance be published and mailed to applicable customers pursuant to all Indiana laws including, but not limited to, IC 8-1.5-3-8.1 and IC 5-3-1.


BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall be effective upon passage and rates and charges set forth on Exhibit A shall change starting with the May 1, 2026, billing cycle.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Section 51.34 be deleted, the Miscellaneous Utility Charges (Exhibit B) shall be set forth in a new Code of Ordinances Chapter 57, Miscellaneous Utility Charges, and such charges shall be in effect immediately after adoption of this Ordinance.

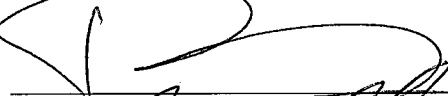
BE IT FURTHER ORDTAINED that the SDI monthly maintenance fees currently in effect will not be affected by this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City, in Whitley County, State of Indiana, this 10th day of February, 2026.


**COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA, BY:**



Daniel Weigold




Theodore J. Varga, Jr.



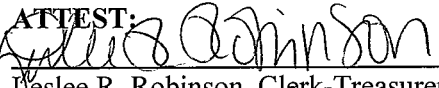
Brent Bockelman



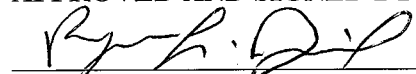
Jennifer B. Zartman-Romano



Ryan Adamson

ATTEST:


Leslee R. Robinson, Clerk-Treasurer
City of Columbia City, Indiana

APPROVED AND SIGNED BY:


Ryan Daniel, Mayor
Dated: 2-10-26

COLUMBIA CITY (INDIANA) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

SEWAGE WORKS EXHIBIT A

	Phase I-2026		Phase II-2027		Phase III-2028	
	City User	Rural User	City User	Rural User	City User	Rural User
Flow rate (per 1,000 gallons):						
First 1,000,000 gallons	\$12.23	\$12.23	\$12.96	\$12.96	\$13.87	\$13.87
Over 1,000,000 gallons	5.01	5.01	5.31	5.31	5.68	5.68
<u>Monthly Flat Rate: (Base Rate)</u>						
<u>Meter Size (Inches)</u>						
5/8 - 3/4"	\$28.97	\$45.70	\$30.71	\$48.44	\$32.86	\$51.83
1"	86.53	137.04	91.72	145.26	98.14	155.43
1-1/4"	115.56	180.45	122.49	191.28	131.06	204.67
1-1/2"	144.49	227.29	153.16	240.93	163.88	257.80
2"	231.02	364.40	244.88	386.26	262.02	413.30
3"	490.56	772.20	519.99	818.53	556.39	875.83
4"	779.24	1,226.85	825.99	1,300.46	883.81	1,391.49
6"	1,442.75	2,273.13	1,529.32	2,409.52	1,636.37	2,578.19
<u>Unmetered Users:</u>						
City and Rural users - monthly rate	\$77.89	\$77.89	82.56	\$82.56	\$88.34	\$88.34
<u>Special Industrial Rate:</u>						
First 1,000,000 gallons	\$12.23	\$12.23	12.96	\$12.96	\$13.87	\$13.87
Over 1,000,000 gallons	5.01	5.01	5.31	5.31	5.68	5.68
<u>Surcharges: (in excess of limits)</u>						
Suspended solids per pound	\$0.63	\$0.63	0.67	\$0.67	\$0.72	\$0.72
BOD per pound	0.63	0.63	0.67	0.67	0.72	0.72
Nitrogen Ammonia	0.63	0.63	0.67	0.67	0.72	0.72
Phosphorus per pound	1.14	1.14	1.21	1.21	1.29	1.29
Two or more dwelling units or business establishments served by one meter - Additional charge for every establishment over one	\$12.23	\$12.23	12.96	\$12.96	\$13.87	\$13.87

CHARGES FOR SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT

EXHIBIT B

BAD CHECK CHARGE		\$25
DISCONNECT/RECONNECT FEE	UTILITY SHUT OFF FEE	\$20
	DURING BUSINESS HOURS RECONNECT FEE	\$20
	AFTER HOURS RECONNECT FEE	\$60
METER DEPOSITS	RESIDENTIAL	\$60
	COMMERCIAL	\$300 Large
SERVICE CALLS	AFTER HOURS	\$75 PER TRIP
TEMPORARY SERVICES		\$50 PLUS KWH's or WATER USED AND DEPOSIT
METER TAMPERING		\$300 1st OFFENSE
		\$500 2nd offense
		\$75 BROKEN
METER TEST		\$30 1st Test
		\$100 2nd test w/in 36 months
ELECTRIC CONNECTION FEE	\$450	SINGLE PHASE (200 amp)
	\$550	SINGLE PHASE (320 amp or larger)
		ACTUAL COST FOR THREE PHASE SERVICE
	\$350	EXISTING SERVICE UPGRADE FEE
WATER TAP FEE	\$1,250	3/4-5/8 inch
	\$4,000	1 & 2 inch
	\$5,000	3 inch
	\$7,000	4 inch
	\$9,000	6-8 inch
SEWER TAP FEE	\$1,000	3/4-5/8 inch
	\$2,250	1 inch
	\$4,000	1 1/2 inch
	\$6,000	2 inch
	\$13,000	3 inch
	\$22,000	4 inch or larger
LAWN IRRIGATION METER	\$525	3/4 inch

If sewer is hooked up and no water for Commercial property, they must purchase a meter and have it installed.