

Ordinance No. 2024 - 08

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING, RESTATING AND REORDAINING
SECTION 13.45.030, AMOUNT,
OF CHAPTER 13.45, SEWER USER FEE,
OF TITLE 13, ENVIRONMENT,
OF THE STAUNTON CITY CODE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that Section 13.45.030 of the Staunton City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.45.030 Amount.

(1) The user fee shall be ~~\$4.88~~\$5.60 per each 100 cubic feet of metered water entering the premises. The owner of any premises may, at his option and expense, install a separate meter designed to measure the wastewater actually entering the city system of sanitary sewers. Subject to the inspection and approval of the separate meter by the city, the rate of ~~\$4.88~~\$5.60 per 100 cubic feet will be applied to the metered flow of wastewater into the sewer system. There shall be paid each two months, as prescribed, by each user of the city sewer system a minimum charge per two months of ~~\$24.40~~\$28.00.

(2) Users of the city sewer system within the corporate limits of the city who do not have city water service shall be charged a flat rate of ~~\$48.80~~\$56.00 each two months, with the exception of any existing contracts in effect specifying a different rate.

(3) The rate at which wastewater disposal services will be provided outside the corporate limits of the city shall be one and one-half the regular city rate, with the exception of any existing contracts in effect specifying a different rate.

(4) No sewer user fee will be charged for metered water supplies through an outside and separate water service which has been installed at the owner's expense for the exclusive use of construction, lawn irrigation, and plant watering, and from which water cannot be reasonably expected to enter the sanitary sewer system. Refer to SCC 13.15.040(3).

(5) No sewer user fee will be charged for a portion of metered water entering the premises under the following conditions:

(a) Whenever the owner or occupant of a lot or premises is installing a new lawn or a new landscaping scheme upon the lot or premises and watering of the same is necessary for the initial gestation and growth of the same, the owner or occupant may obtain relief from the sewer user fee under the following conditions:

(i) The project must be the establishment of a new lawn of at least 1,800 square feet, the cost of which exceeds \$1,500; or

(ii) The complete renovation of a previously established lawn of at least 1,800 square feet, the cost of which exceeds \$1,500; or

(iii) A new landscaping plan or a renovation of an existing landscaping plan, the cost of which exceeds \$2,000.

(b) An owner or occupant seeking relief under this section shall make application therefor at the water billing department of the city of Staunton and present to the water billing department such evidence, including receipts for seeding, plantings, etc., as requested by the water billing department to determine whether or not the applicant qualifies for relief. Upon approval by the water billing department of the request, the water used during the time concerned, to the extent that it exceeds the average amount of water used by the premises for the immediate past 12 months (or such lesser period of time that the premises were used or occupied), shall not be used in computing the sewer user fee set forth herein. In the event there is no past history available with regard to water usage for the subject premises, the water billing department shall determine an average water bill for the subject premises based on estimations for similarly sized dwellings or buildings in making its computations hereunder.

(c) No such relief shall be issued for the watering of vegetable gardens or for any other use except as set forth herein, and the relief granted hereunder shall be granted only for a period of time not to exceed 60 days and such relief shall not be granted with respect to the same premises more than once in each calendar year.

(6) For any premises used exclusively as an industrial laundry for which it is impractical to separately measure the wastewater by meter, as determined by the city manager or designee, the user fee charge for an account shall be reduced by credit equal to 15 percent of the charge otherwise applicable. For purposes solely of this provision, an "industrial laundry" shall mean an establishment engaged on a non-retail contract basis in operating a mechanical laundry, with steam as a significant processing byproduct, for cleaning by washing with water various clothing, fabrics, and other similar items, when during a bimonthly billing period metered water on the premises for the particular account exceeds 1,000 hundred cubic feet.

(7) Upon prior written request and certification submitted by the owner to the city's finance department, for a period of 90 days after connection of service or until the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, whichever is earlier, no sewer user fee shall be charged as to any premises on which a new dwelling is being constructed on an unimproved lot.

In all other respects, the provisions of Chapter 13.45 of the Staunton City Code remain the same and are hereby restated, confirmed and reordained.

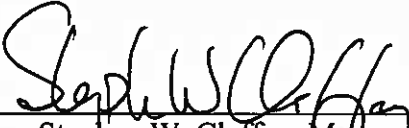
This ordinance shall be effective July 1, 2024.

Public Hearing Advertisement: March 28, 2024 and April 4, 2024

Introduction and Public Hearing: April 11, 2024

Proposed Adoption: April 25, 2024

Effective: July 1, 2024


Stephen W. Claffey, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council