

## **City Council Takes a Long-term Approach to Stabilize Utility Rates**

After thorough research and thoughtful analysis, the City Council has adopted a transparent rate plan that will move the City towards more sustainable utility funds and gives our customers a stable long term forecast for expected rate increases.

Staff has assisted the Council by presenting several rate analysis reports dating back to March 2014; and most recently a comprehensive rate analysis and forecast recommendation presented in March of 2017. The latest study, covering all three City utilities, takes into consideration the responsibility of the City to provide safe clean drinking water, protect the environment and protect property from local flooding. Highlighting a growing need for action, it contained a comprehensive financial analysis of all of the utility funds; projecting the impact of escalating operation and maintenance costs, capital projects and establishing reserves for system reinvestment. This report, prepared by Financial Consultants Incorporated (FCS) recommended the City remove the stormwater rate cap as fast as practical; and adopt a five year rate plan.

**With the newly approved fee increases, the City of Troutdale will *still* be one the lowest cost utility providers in the Portland region, both for residents and large business accounts.**

### **Water Commodity Fee Increases:**

The water commodity charge user fee is used to support system reliability, State Health Authority Drinking Water Program and State Department of Environmental Quality permit compliance costs, operating cost recovery and necessary system infrastructure reinvestment. The current charge per thousand gallons is \$3.21. The monthly water commodity user fee shall be per thousand gallons as follows:

effective July 1, 2017 the charge per thousand gallons shall be \$3.66  
effective July 1, 2018 the charge per thousand gallons shall be \$4.14  
effective July 1, 2019 the charge per thousand gallons shall be \$4.43  
effective July 1, 2020 the charge per thousand gallons shall be \$4.74  
effective July 1, 2021 the charge per thousand gallons shall be \$5.07

### **Sewer Utility Fee Increases:**

The sanitary sewer utility fee is used to support system reliability, State Department of Environmental Quality NPDES permit compliance costs, operating cost recovery and necessary system infrastructure reinvestment. The current sanitary sewer utility fee per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is \$37.16. An ERU has an average flow of 180 gallons per day. The monthly sanitary sewer utility fee shall be per ERU.

effective July 1, 2017 the charge per ERU shall be \$39.39  
effective July 1, 2018 the charge per ERU shall be \$41.75  
effective July 1, 2019 the charge per ERU shall be \$44.26

effective July 1, 2020 the charge per ERU shall be \$46.92  
effective July 1, 2021 the charge per ERU shall be \$49.74

**Storm Sewer Fee Increases:**

The Troutdale Municipal Code establishes a storm sewer utility ERU and it is set as 2,700 square feet of impervious surface. All residential users are deemed to have an assumed average 2,700 square feet of impervious surface. The current storm sewer utility fee per ERU is \$4.61. The monthly storm sewer utility fee shall be per ERU.

effective July 1, 2017 the charge per ERU shall be \$5.71  
effective July 1, 2018 the charge per ERU shall be \$6.40  
effective July 1, 2019 the charge per ERU shall be \$7.10  
effective July 1, 2020 the charge per ERU shall be \$7.88  
effective July 1, 2021 the charge per ERU shall be \$8.44