

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SEWER RATES AND CHARGES
BY THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

Property owners, ratepayers, and other interested parties served or to be served by the sewage works of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana (“City”), are hereby notified that the Common Council of the City (the “Council”) on April 8, 2024 introduced proposed Ordinance No. 10, 2024 (“Ordinance”), which amends the City’s rates and charges for sewer service. The Council will hold a public hearing at the Council meeting on April 22, 2024, at City Hall – Council Chambers, 166 West Lincolnway, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383, in order to receive public input on the Ordinance and may consider adoption thereof at such time. The public hearing is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. local time. For further information regarding the proposed Ordinance, please contact Valparaiso City Services at 219-462-6174 or cityservices@valpo.us.

The schedule of the amended rates and charges, which are more fully set forth in the Ordinance, is as follows:

For General Service customers, the use of and the service rendered by the sewage works, rates and charges shall be collected from the owners of each and every lot, parcel of real estate or building that are connected with the City sanitary system or otherwise discharges sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, water or other liquids, either directly or indirectly, into the sanitary sewage system of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana. Such rates and charges include User Charges, debt service costs, excessive strength surcharges and other service charges, which rates and charges shall be payable as hereinafter provided and shall be in an amount determinable as follows:

- (a) The sewage rates and charges shall be based on the quantity of water used on or in the property or premises subject to such rates and charges, as the same is measured by the water meter there in use, plus a base charge based on the size of the water meter installed, except as herein otherwise provided. For the purposes of billing and collecting the charges for sewage service, the water meters shall be read monthly and the users shall be billed each month (or period equaling a month). The water usage schedules on **which** the amount of said rates and charges shall be determined shall be as follows:

FOR USERS (GENERAL SERVICE) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

<u>Base Rate</u>	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
5/8” meter	\$ 20.12	\$ 21.71	\$ 23.43	\$ 25.28	\$ 27.28
3/4” meter	20.12	21.71	23.43	25.28	27.28
1” meter	46.56	50.24	54.21	58.49	63.11
1 1/4” meter	104.88	113.17	122.11	131.76	142.17
1 1/2” meter	104.88	113.17	122.11	131.76	142.17
2” meter	179.11	193.26	208.53	225.00	242.78

3" meter	408.78	441.07	475.91	513.51	554.08
4" meter	726.87	784.29	846.25	913.10	985.23
6" meter	1,627.94	1,756.55	1,895.32	2,045.05	2,206.61
8" meter	3,299.68	3,560.35	3,841.62	4,145.11	4,472.57
10" meter	5,150.72	5,557.63	5,996.68	6,470.42	6,981.58

Flow Rate per 100 cu.ft.	\$4.70	\$5.07	\$5.47	\$5.90	\$6.37
-----------------------------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

VLACD

Rate per connection	\$28.65	\$30.91	\$33.35	\$35.98	\$38.82
------------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

FOR USERS (GENERAL SERVICE) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

<u>Base Rate</u>	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
5/8" meter	\$ 23.12	\$ 24.94	\$ 26.92	\$ 29.05	\$ 31.34
3/4" meter	23.12	24.94	26.92	29.05	31.34
1" meter	53.50	57.73	62.29	67.21	72.51
1 1/4" meter	120.51	130.03	140.30	151.39	163.35
1 1/2" meter	120.51	130.03	140.30	151.39	163.35
2" meter	205.80	222.06	239.60	258.53	278.95
3" meter	469.69	506.79	546.82	590.02	636.64
4" meter	835.17	901.15	972.34	1,049.15	1,132.03
6" meter	1,870.50	2,018.28	2,177.72	2,349.76	2,535.39
8" meter	3,791.33	4,090.84	4,414.02	4,762.73	5,138.98
10" meter	5,918.18	6,385.72	6,890.19	7,434.51	8,021.84

Flow Rate per 100 cu.ft.	\$5.40	\$5.83	\$6.29	\$6.78	\$7.32
-----------------------------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

VLACD

Rate per connection	\$32.92	\$35.52	\$38.32	\$41.34	\$44.60
------------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

- (b) For users of the sewage works that are unmetered water users or accurate meter readings are not available, the monthly charge shall be determined by equivalent single-family dwelling units, except as herein provided. Sewage service bills shall be rendered once each month (or period equaling a month). This schedule on which said rates and charges shall be determined is as follows:

FOR USERS (UNMETERED) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Residential:					
Single-Family					
Residence/Unit	\$57.72	\$62.27	\$67.19	\$72.48	\$78.24

FOR USERS (UNMETERED) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Residential:					
Single-Family					
Residence/Unit	\$66.32	\$71.58	\$77.24	\$83.29	\$89.90

- (c) For the service rendered to the City of Valparaiso, said City shall be subject to the same rates and charges hereinabove provided for users located inside of the City, or to rates and charges established in harmony therewith.

For Large Service customers, the use of and the service rendered by the sewage works, rates and charges shall be collected from the owners of each and every lot, parcel of real estate or building that are connected with the City sanitary system or otherwise discharges sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, water or other liquids, either directly or indirectly, into the sanitary sewage system of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana. Such rates and charges include User Charges, debt service costs, excessive strength surcharges and other service charges, which rates and charges shall be payable as hereinafter provided and shall be in an amount determinable as follows:

- (a) The sewage rates and charges shall be based on the quantity of water used on or in the property or premises subject to such rates and charges, as the same is measured by the water meter there in use, plus a base charge based on the size of the water meter installed, except as herein otherwise provided. For the purposes of billing and collecting the charges for sewage service, the water meters shall be read monthly and the users shall be billed each month (or period equaling a month). The water usage schedules on which the amount of said rates and charges shall be determined shall be as follows:

FOR USERS (LARGE SERVICE) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
<u>Base Rate</u>					
5/8" meter	\$ 20.12	\$ 21.71	\$ 23.43	\$ 25.28	\$ 27.28
3/4" meter	20.12	21.71	23.43	25.28	27.28
1" meter	46.56	50.24	54.21	58.49	63.11
1 1/4" meter	104.88	113.17	122.11	131.76	142.17
1 1/2" meter	104.88	113.17	122.11	131.76	142.17
2" meter	179.11	193.26	208.53	225.00	242.78
3" meter	408.78	441.07	475.91	513.51	554.08
4" meter	726.87	784.29	846.25	913.10	985.23
6" meter	1,627.94	1,756.55	1,895.32	2,045.05	2,206.61
8" meter	3,299.68	3,560.35	3,841.62	4,145.11	4,472.57
10" meter	5,150.72	5,557.63	5,996.68	6,470.42	6,981.58
Flow Rate per 100 cu.ft.	\$2.22	\$2.40	\$2.59	\$2.79	\$3.01
Flow Rate per 1,000 gal.	\$2.98	\$3.22	\$3.47	\$3.74	\$4.04

FOR USERS (LARGE SERVICE) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
<u>Base Rate</u>					
5/8" meter	\$ 23.12	\$ 24.94	\$ 26.92	\$ 29.05	\$ 31.34
3/4" meter	23.12	24.94	26.92	29.05	31.34
1" meter	53.50	57.73	62.29	67.21	72.51
1 1/4" meter	120.51	130.03	140.30	151.39	163.35
1 1/2" meter	120.51	130.03	140.30	151.39	163.35
2" meter	205.80	222.06	239.60	258.53	278.95
3" meter	469.69	506.79	546.82	590.02	636.64
4" meter	835.17	901.15	972.34	1,049.15	1,132.03
6" meter	1,870.50	2,018.28	2,177.72	2,349.76	2,535.39

8" meter	3,791.33	4,090.84	4,414.02	4,762.73	5,138.98
10" meter	5,918.18	6,385.72	6,890.19	7,434.51	8,021.84
Flow Rate per 100 cu.ft.	\$2.55	\$2.75	\$2.97	\$3.20	\$3.46
Flow Rate per 1,000 gal.	\$3.42	\$3.69	\$3.99	\$4.30	\$4.64

In order that the rates and charges for General Service and Large Service customers may be justly and equitably adjusted to the service rendered to users, the City shall base its charges not only on the volume, but also on the strength and character of the stronger-than-normal domestic sewage and wastes which it is required to treat and dispose of. The City shall require the user to determine the strength and content of all sewage and wastes discharged, either directly or indirectly into the sanitary sewage system, in such manner and by such method as the City may deem practicable in the light of the conditions and attending circumstances of the case, in order to determine the proper charge. The user shall furnish a central sampling point available to the City at all times.

- (a) Normal sewage domestic waste strength should not exceed a Biochemical Oxygen Demand of 240 milligrams per liter of fluid or Chemical Oxygen Demand in excess of 480 milligrams per liter of fluid, suspended solids in excess of 200 milligrams per liter of fluid, phosphorus in excess of 10 milligrams per liter of fluid, or NH₃ in excess of 30 milligrams per liter of fluid. Additional charges for treating stronger-than-normal domestic waste shall be made on the following basis:
 - (1) Rate Surcharge Based Upon Suspended Solids – There shall be an additional charge per pound for suspended solids received in excess of 200 milligrams per liter of fluid as follows:

FOR USERS (SUSPENDED SOLIDS) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.17	\$0.19	\$0.20	\$0.22	\$0.23

FOR USERS (SUSPENDED SOLIDS) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.20	\$0.21	\$0.23	\$0.25	\$0.27

- (2) Rate Surcharge Based Upon BOD – There shall be an additional charge per pound of biochemical oxygen demand for BOD received in excess of 240 milligrams per liter of fluid as follows:

FOR USERS (BOD) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.14	\$0.15	\$0.16	\$0.18	\$0.19

FOR USERS (BOD) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.16	\$0.17	\$0.19	\$0.20	\$0.22

- (3) Rate Surcharge Based Upon COD – There shall be an additional charge per pound of chemical oxygen demand for COD received in excess of 480 milligrams per liter of fluid as follows:

FOR USERS (COD) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.07	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.10

FOR USERS (COD) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.09	\$0.10	\$0.11

- (4) Rate Surcharge Based Upon Phosphorous – There shall be an additional charge per pound of phosphorous received in excess of 10 milligrams per liter of fluid as follows:

FOR USERS (PHOSPHOROUS) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

	<u>Effective from adoption through June 30, 2025</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2028 and Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.54	\$0.58	\$0.63	\$0.68	\$0.73

FOR USERS (PHOSPHOROUS) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

	Effective from adoption through <u>June 30, 2025</u>	Effective July 1, 2025 through <u>June 30, 2026</u>	Effective July 1, 2026 through <u>June 30, 2027</u>	Effective July 1, 2027 through <u>June 30, 2028</u>	Effective July 1, 2028 and <u>Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.62	\$0.67	\$0.72	\$0.78	\$0.84

- (5) Rate Surcharge Based Upon NH₃ (Nitrogen as Ammonia) – There shall be an additional charge per pound of NH₃ received in excess of 30 milligrams per liter of fluid as follows:

FOR USERS (NH₃) LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CITY:

	Effective from adoption through <u>June 30, 2025</u>	Effective July 1, 2025 through <u>June 30, 2026</u>	Effective July 1, 2026 through <u>June 30, 2027</u>	Effective July 1, 2027 through <u>June 30, 2028</u>	Effective July 1, 2028 and <u>Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.29	\$0.31	\$0.34	\$0.37	\$0.39

FOR USERS (NH₃) LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY:

	Effective from adoption through <u>June 30, 2025</u>	Effective July 1, 2025 through <u>June 30, 2026</u>	Effective July 1, 2026 through <u>June 30, 2027</u>	Effective July 1, 2027 through <u>June 30, 2028</u>	Effective July 1, 2028 and <u>Thereafter</u>
Per Pound	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.39	\$0.42	\$0.45

In order that the single-family domestic and residential users of sewage service shall not be penalized for the use of water for lawn care and other uses during the summer consumption months. The billing for sewage services for residences and/or domestic uses for the billing months of July, August and September shall be based upon the average water usage for the previous six (6) billing months of November, December, January, February, March and April. The sprinkling rate allowance shall not be available to users who have occupied the billed premises for less than three (3) months and not received 3 bills prior to the sprinkling rate billing period. In the event the water usage for the billing months of July, August and September is less than the average of the previous months, then the billing for sewage services shall be computed on the actual water used in the month for which the sewage service bill is being charged. Domestic and/or residential sewage service as applicable to the sprinkling rate shall apply to each lot, parcel of real estate or building, which is occupied and used as a single-family residence.

The sprinkling rate set out herein shall not apply to any premises, which are partially or wholly used for multi-family, commercial, industrial or other non-residential purposes. The owner of any multi-family, commercial, industrial or other non-residential property, which is used partially for residential purposes shall have the right to obtain separate water service for the residential portion of the premises and, if such separation of water service is obtained by the owner, then that water service used solely for residential purposes would qualify for the sprinkling rate provided herein. In the event that a user who does not qualify for the sprinkling allowance desires to be considered for such allowance, then such user shall petition the Valparaiso City Utilities in writing for consideration for this allowance.

At the meeting of the Council on April 22, 2024, and prior to final adoption of the Ordinance, any property owners, ratepayers, or anyone else interested in the proceedings may appear and be heard concerning the proposed rates and charges. The hearing may be adjourned, if necessary. A complete copy of the Ordinance may be reviewed at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer, Holly Taylor, 166 Lincolnway, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.

Following adoption of the Ordinance, users of the sewage works system for service to property located outside the City's corporate boundaries may be entitled to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1.5-3-8.3 to review and adjust the rates and charges imposed on them if a petition under Indiana Code 36-9-23-26.1 with respect to the Ordinance has not been filed.

CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer
April 9, 2024