

ORDINANCE 7-C-25

Synopsis: This Ordinance, if adopted, would amend Section 50.10: Water Rates, increasing the rates and charges applicable to user rates, hydrants, and fire protection systems.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 50.10 OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON,
INDIANA’S CODE OF ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana (“Council”) has reviewed the operational and fiscal needs of the City’s waterworks system and finds that the existing fees, rates, and charges are insufficient to enable the City to properly operate and maintain its waterworks system, to properly serve and safeguard the health, well-being, and property of the City and its inhabitants and water system users, and provide for depreciation and finance necessary upgrades and improvements to the waterworks system; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the administrative, operational, and fiscal needs of its waterworks system including the accountant’s rate report prepared by Baker Tilly, which included a calculation of an estimated increase in rates and charges based upon anticipated operating revenues and disbursements for maintenance and system operations and also included a recommendation that the new rates be phased in over a two-year period; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the data, and reasonable projections based on that data, and now finds that it supports the increase of the City’s waterworks rates, fees, and charges and that such new rates, fees, and charges be phased in over a two-year period as doing so is a prudent and necessary step to ensure that water rates remain sufficient to operate and maintain the City’s waterworks system; and

WHEREAS, the statutes of Indiana require that the rates and charges to be collected for the use of services rendered by that waterworks system shall be fixed by ordinance adopted after a public hearing and in accordance with the requirements of applicable authority; and

WHEREAS, Council has conducted a public hearing regarding this Ordinance following notice and publication as required by Indiana law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED THAT, the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana, hereby amends the City of Huntington, Indiana’s Code of Ordinances by deleting subsections of Section 50.10 and replacing them with the following:

“§ 50.10 WATER RATES.

There are established for the use of and the service rendered by the Waterworks, the following rates and charges:

(A) Minimum Monthly Charges. Each User shall pay a minimum monthly charge, in accordance with the following chart, based upon the size of the installed meter. These minimum monthly charges include the fee assessed for the amounts included below in the columns titled “Included Usage”. All usage in excess of these included usage amounts shall be assessed and payable pursuant to division (B), below:

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<u>Minimum Monthly Charges</u>			
Monthly Charge by Meter Size in Inches			
<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Included Usage</u>	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>Phase 2</u>
5/8" – 3/4"	183 cubic feet	12.81	14.99
1"	224 cubic feet	15.68	18.35
1 1/4"	287 cubic feet	19.51	22.85
1 1/2"	349 cubic feet	23.20	27.18
2"	550 cubic feet	35.16	41.24
3"	974 cubic feet	60.39	70.90
4"	1,533 cubic feet	93.65	110.01
6"	2,084 cubic feet	126.43	148.55

(B) Usage Rates.

<u>Metered Consumption per Month Above Included Usage</u>		
	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>Phase 2</u>
First 40,535 cubic feet	7.00	8.19
Next 259,465 cubic feet	5.95	7.00
Over 300,000 cubic feet	2.04	2.37

(C) Hydrants.

(1) Private Hydrant.

<u>Fire Protection Charges - Private Hydrant</u>		
	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>Phase 2</u>
Annual Fee	985.09	1188.24

(2) Municipal Hydrant.

<u>Fire Protection Charges - Municipal Hydrant</u>		
Monthly Charge by Meter Size in Inches		
<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>Phase 2</u>
5/8" - 3/4"	9.09	10.97
1"	22.73	27.43
1 1/2"	45.45	54.85
2"	72.72	87.76
3"	136.35	164.55
4"	227.25	274.25
6"	454.50	548.50

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(D) Permanent Fire Protection Systems. Permanent fire protection apparatus, including standpipe and sprinkler connections, owned and maintained by an entity other than the City may be connected to the Distribution System where compatible, and are to be used only for fire protection and in extinguishing fires, except as otherwise expressly authorized by the City's ordinances or the Board. Those connections shall be made only with prior express written notification to the Department, and they shall be assessed and pay an annual availability charge, based on the size of the connection to the Waterworks, in addition to charges for water supplied by the Waterworks, which shall be charged pursuant to divisions (A) and (B) above, as follows:

<u>Permanent Fire Protection Systems - Standpipes and Sprinklers</u>		
Annual Charge by Connection Size in Inches		
	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>Phase 2</u>
1 1/2"	25.67	30.96
2"	54.78	66.08
3"	159.12	191.94
4"	339.13	409.07
6"	985.09	1188.24
8"	2099.31	2532.22
10"	3775.23	4553.74
12"	6098.00	7355.50

(E) Applicability of Rates and Charges. The rates and charges fixed in this section shall apply to individual parcels of real estate and individual User; they shall not be construed to permit multiple Users being served through one meter, except as expressly authorized in advance in writing by the Board or Department.

(F) Schedule of Effectiveness of Rates and Charges.

(1) Following the adoption of this Ordinance, the Phase 1 rates and charges shall supersede and replace current rates and charges and be effective for the first full monthly billing period of the municipal water utility after June 1, 2025.

(2) The Phase 2 rates shall supersede and replace those Phase 1 rates effective as of and for and after the first full monthly billing period following June 1, 2026.

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A motion to consider for final adoption on the same day of introduction was [NOT OFFERED or NOT SUSTAINED or SUSTAINED] by a vote of __ in favor and __ in opposition.

Duly adopted on first reading this ____ day of _____, 2025, by a vote of __ in favor and ____ in opposition.

Duly adopted on final reading this ____ day of _____, 2025, by a vote of __ in favor and ____ in opposition.

CITY OF HUNTINGTON, INDIANA by its COMMON COUNCIL

Voting in Favor:

Voting in Opposition:

_____	Charles Chapman (President)	_____
_____	Dwight Brautigam	_____
_____	P J Felton	_____
_____	Dave Funk	_____
_____	Todd Johnson	_____
_____	Paul Pike	_____
_____	Andrew Rensberger	_____

Attest:

Christi A. McElhaney, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor for approval or veto, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Christi A. McElhaney, Clerk-Treasurer

This ordinance having been adopted by the Common Council and presented to me is [APPROVED or VETOED], this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Richard Strick, Mayor