



**CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF ORDINANCES**

ORDINANCE: 65 – 25

PASSED: _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 939.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF OBETZ REGARDING WATER AND SEWER RATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Obetz relies on the City of Columbus for 65% of its water supply and for 100% of its sewer services, making Obetz directly subject to Columbus' pricing structures and rate increases; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Obetz did not increase its water or sewer rates from 2013 to 2024, despite consistent rate increases by the City of Columbus over the same period, absorbing the financial impact to minimize the burden on residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the continued financial stability and operational integrity of the Obetz water and sewer system, this Council implemented a structured and transparent formula for adjusting rates beginning March 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, based on the actual costs imposed by the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus Utility Advisory Board recently proposed an 18% increase for water rates and an 8% increase for sewer rates, beginning January 1, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, this Council finds it necessary to align Obetz's rate adjustment schedule with the City of Columbus to avoid substantial cost increases in the interim months that would strain Obetz's ability to maintain and improve its water and sewer infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OBETZ THAT:

Section 1. Obetz Codified Ordinance Section 939.03 is hereby amended to read as follows:

939.03 WATER, SEWER, AND REFUSE RATES

(a) Administration

1. The Administrator shall make rules regulating the conditions under which water service shall be rendered.
2. Any rules and regulations issued by the Administrator are effective for all consumers of water from the system of the Division of Water, both within and outside the Municipal limits.
3. The Administrator is authorized, within their discretion and in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated herein, to order the discontinuance of water service to any person, home, commercial, or industrial user in violation of any rules, ordinances, and regulations.

4. Where the Administrator has ordered a discontinuance of water service for a violation of any rule, ordinance, or regulation, there shall be charged the fees provided for in Section 939.02(g).

(b) Rate Structure and Adjustments

1. 2025 Rate Schedule: All water, sewer, and refuse rates for the year 2025, effective March 1, 2025, are set forth in Exhibit A attached to this ordinance.
2. Water and Sewer Commodity Rates: Beginning ~~March~~ January 1, 2026, and ~~annually~~ within three months of each change thereafter to the water or sewer commodity rates charged to the City of Obetz by the City of Columbus, the water and sewer commodity rates shall be adjusted as follows:
 - The water commodity rate shall be the rate charged to the City of Obetz by the City of Columbus, plus an additional 2%.
 - The sewer commodity rate shall be the rate charged to the City of Obetz by the City of Columbus, plus an additional 2%.
3. Base Rates: The water and sewer base rates are established as set forth in Exhibit A and may only be modified by Council action.
4. Refuse Rates: The monthly refuse rate shall be the contractual charge from the waste service provider, plus \$1.00 per month.

(c) Notice of Rate Changes

1. All customers shall receive notification of an increase by means of publication on the monthly bill at least one billing cycle prior to the effective date of the increase.

(d) Owner's Liability for Charges; Penalties

1. Each water charge assessed under this chapter is made a lien upon the corresponding lot, parcel of land, building, or premises served by a connection to the municipal water system.
2. If a charge is not paid within ninety (90) days after it becomes due, it shall be certified to the Auditor of Franklin County for collection as a tax lien, along with applicable interest and penalties.
3. Owners of real estate premises maintaining water service are liable for all water, sewer, and refuse charges incurred at such premises.
4. Tenants may contract for water and sewer service but doing so shall not relieve the property owner of liability for unpaid charges.
5. The Municipality is authorized to shut off water service to properties with unpaid water, sewer, or refuse charges after certification of delinquency.

(e) Collection and Disbursement of Funds

1. All moneys payable to the Administrator or Water Superintendent shall be collected by the Water Department or Administrator at their usual place of business and deposited with the Finance Director within forty-eight (48) hours.
2. Revenue collected under this chapter shall be allocated into separate funds for maintenance, repair, operation, debt service, and capital improvements as determined by the Finance Director.

(f) Water Master Meter Connection

1. Developers installing a new master meter connection to the City of Columbus system shall pay all associated capacity fees, meter fees, water tap costs, and installation expenses.

2. These costs may be credited against future water connection fees owed to the City, based on the current rate at the time of connection.
3. This credit agreement shall expire after ten (10) years, after which the developer shall have no further claim for reimbursement.

(g) Effective Date

1. The rates established by this ordinance shall be effective as of March 1, 2025, as set forth in Exhibit A.
2. ~~Annual~~ Subsequent adjustments to water and sewer commodity rates shall occur on January 1, 2026, and within three months of each March 1st change thereafter to the water and sewer commodity rates charged to the City of Obetz by the City of Columbus, in accordance with the formula established in Section (b)(2).

Section 2. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that any and all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements of the laws of the State of Ohio.

Section 3. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the City of Obetz, in that the adjustments to water, sewer, and refuse rates must be implemented in a timely manner to ensure the City can meet its financial obligations to the City of Columbus and maintain critical water and sewer infrastructure. Accordingly, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon passage and approval by the Mayor.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTESTS:

Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council

Angela M. Kirk, Mayor

Michael Flaherty, Council Pres. Pro-Tem

ORDINANCE: 65 – 25

PASSED: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Eugene Hollins, Esq., Law Director

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

Pursuant to the City Charter, I, Stacey E. Boumis, Clerk of Council of the City of Obetz, Ohio, do hereby certify that Ordinance _____ was duly posted at _____ (time) on the _____ day of _____, 2025, at the Obetz Government Center, Obetz Athletic Club, and Obetz Community Center as well as on the Obetz website.

Stacey Boumis, Clerk

Date