



CITY OF OBETZ  
RECORD OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE: 65 – 25

PASSED: February 2, 2026

**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 operates its municipal water and sanitary sewer systems in coordination with regional infrastructure and relies upon the City of Columbus for approximately sixty-five percent (65%) of its potable water supply and for one hundred percent (100%) of its sanitary sewer treatment and conveyance services; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this regional service arrangement, the City of Obetz is directly subject to the wholesale pricing structures, cost allocations, and rate adjustments adopted by the City of Columbus for water and sewer services, over which the City of Obetz has no independent control; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Ordinance is to modernize the City's rate-setting framework, enhance transparency and accountability, and align municipal utility rates with external cost drivers beyond the City's control, while continuing to provide reliable and essential services to the community in a financially responsible manner.

**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 on 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. Water, sanitary sewer, and solid-waste rates shall be established by Obetz City Council each year, as early as practicable given the timing of the City of Columbus’s annual rate adjustments. The new rate structure shall be published on the City’s website prior to billing and may also be communicated through utility bills or other customer notices as determined by the Administration. The new rates shall be effective immediately upon adoption unless otherwise noted in the adopting ordinance.

(c) 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.
- (6) The Municipality may deny or condition the establishment or transfer of water or sewer service at a service address where outstanding utility charges remain unpaid.
- (7) The installation or maintenance of utility service constitutes acceptance of and agreement to comply with applicable ordinances, rules, and regulations governing such services.

(d) 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.

(e) 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, subject to verification of eligible costs by the Administrator or City Engineer.

(3) This credit agreement shall expire after ten (10) years, after which the developer shall have no further claim for reimbursement.

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; WHEREFORE, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon passage.

Passed this 2 day of February, 2025.

**ATTESTS:**

Stacey Boumis  
Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council

Angela M. Kirk  
Angela M. Kirk, Mayor

Derek Varney  
Derek Varney, Council Pres. Pro-Tem

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

Eugene Hollins  
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 65-25 was duly posted at 5:00 PM (time) on the 9 day of February, 2026, at the Obetz Government Center, Obetz Athletic Club, and Obetz Community Center as well as on the Obetz website.



Stacey Boumis  
Stacey Boumis, Clerk

2/9/26  
Date