

ORDINANCE NO.: 04-26

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO AN INCREASE IN RATES, CHARGES, AND FEES FOR WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM SERVICES; AMENDING SECTION 22-36 (APPLICATION FOR SERVICES; RATES AND CHARGES), ARTICLE II (WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM), CHAPTER 36 (UTILITIES) OF THE ORANGE PARK TOWN CODE WHICH REGULATES THE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE DELIVERY OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO THE CUSTOMERS OF THE TOWN OF ORANGE PARK'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article II (Water and Sewer System), Chapter 36 (Utilities) of the Orange Park Town Code and applicable state law, the Town Council is authorized to increase the rates, charges, and fees for water and sewer services provided under the Town's water and sewer system ("Water and Sewer System") when necessary to provide revenues sufficient to pay the operational expenses of the Water and Sewer System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council engaged Waterworth, a company based in British Columbia, to perform a utility rate review on the Water and Sewer System to evaluate current and future revenues and expenses to determine sufficiency of Water and Sewer System rates, charges, and

fees to customers for water and sewer services ("Utility Rate Review"); and

**WHEREAS**, based on the findings and recommendations contained in the Utility Rate Review, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, the Town desires to increase the Water and Sewer System rates, charges, and fees for water and sewer services to provide revenues sufficient to pay the operational expenses of the Water and Sewer System; now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of Orange Park:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The recitals stated above are hereby incorporated into and made part of this resolution, and such recitals shall serve as findings of fact.

**Section 2. Amending Section 36-26 (Application for Service; rates and charges), Article II (Water and Sewer System), Chapter 36 (Utilities) of the Orange Park Town Code.** Section 36-26 (Application for Service; rates and charges), Article II (Water and Sewer System), Chapter 36 (Utilities) of the Orange Park Town Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 36 - UTILITIES**

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**ARTICLE II. - WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM**

\* \* \*

**Sec. 36-26. - Application for service;  
rates and charges.**

\* \* \*

(c) *Water rates.* Water rates shall be as follows:

(1) Schedule 1.

Water Rate Schedule—Schedule 1

a. Applicable to service which supplies a commercial unit, single-family residential or living unit.

b. Limitations: Resale prohibited.

c. Size of metered connection: Water shall be delivered through three-fourths-inch to ten-inch meter, as available and at the option of the town.

d. Monthly rate:

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Charge for each service as defined	\$16.96	\$18.32	\$19.60	\$20.97

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
0-4,000	\$2.12	\$2.29	\$2.45	\$2.62
4,001-8,000	\$2.65	\$2.86	\$3.06	\$3.28
8,001-12,000	\$3.98	\$4.30	\$4.60	\$4.92
12,001-20,000	\$5.56	\$6.00	\$6.43	\$6.87
20,000+	\$7.23	\$7.81	\$8.35	\$8.94

(2) Schedule 2.

Water Rate Schedule—Schedule 2

- a. Applicable to service which supplies residential or living units of which the water connection has additional services extending therefrom. Each additional service shall be construed to include each apartment unit, condominium unit, housekeeping cottage, guest house, or house trailer.
- b. Limitations: Resale prohibited.
- c. Size of metered connection: Water shall be delivered through three-fourths-inch to ten-inch meter, as available and at the option of the town.
- d. Monthly rate:

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Charge for each service as defined	\$14.42	\$15.57	\$16.66	\$17.83

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$2.65	\$2.86	\$3.06	\$3.28

(3) Schedule 3.

Water Rate Schedule—Schedule 3

- a. Applicable to any domestic water connection such as hotels, motels, non-housekeeping-type living units and similar type living quarters, or other related facilities with multiple services extending therefrom. Service shall be construed to include each non-housekeeping-type unit or related facility.
- b. Limitations: Resale prohibited.
- c. Size of metered connection: Water shall be delivered through three-fourths-inch to ten-inch meter, as available and at the option of the town.
- d. Monthly rate:

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Charge for each service as defined	\$14.42	\$15.57	\$16.66	\$17.83

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$2.65	\$2.86	\$3.06	\$3.28

(4) Schedule 4.

#### Water Rate Schedule—Schedule 4

- a. Applicable to each service supplying any motor vehicle service station, automobile, car wash, laundry, coin laundry, restaurant or business serving prepared food to the public, school, church, commercial business, industrial business, governmental organization, or assisted living facility providing congregate, nursing or dementia care or related services.
- b. Limitations: Resale prohibited.
- c. Size of metered connection: Water shall be delivered through three-fourths-inch to ten-inch meter, as available and at the option of the town.
- d. Monthly rate:

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Monthly Charge by Meter Size				
¾ inch	\$16.96	\$18.32	\$19.60	\$20.97
1 inch	\$38.15	\$41.20	\$44.09	\$47.17
1.5 inch	\$59.36	\$64.11	\$68.60	\$73.40
2 inch	\$84.78	\$91.56	\$97.97	\$104.83
3 inch	\$169.57	\$183.14	\$195.96	\$209.67
4 inch	\$423.91	\$457.82	\$489.87	\$524.16
6 inch	\$847.82	\$915.65	\$979.74	\$1,048.32
8 inch	\$1,356.51	\$1,465.03	\$1,567.58	\$1,677.31

10 inch	\$1,949.98	\$2,105.98	\$2,253.40	\$2,411.13
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User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$2.65	\$2.86	\$3.06	\$3.28

(5) Schedule 5.

Water Rate Schedule—Schedule 5

- a. Applicable to each service supplying service to separately metered irrigation systems.
- b. Limitations: Resale prohibited.
- c. Size of metered connection: Water shall be delivered through three-fourths-inch to ten-inch meter, as available and at the option of the town.
- d. Monthly rate:

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Monthly Charge by Meter Size				
¾ inch	\$16.96	\$18.32	\$19.60	\$20.97
1 inch	\$38.15	\$41.20	\$44.09	\$47.17
1.5 inch	\$59.36	\$64.11	\$68.60	\$73.40
2 inch	\$84.78	\$91.56	\$97.97	\$104.83
3 inch	\$169.57	\$183.14	\$195.96	\$209.67
4 inch	\$423.91	\$457.82	\$489.87	\$524.16
6 inch	\$847.82	\$915.65	\$979.74	\$1,048.32
8 inch	\$1,356.51	\$1,465.03	\$1,567.58	\$1,677.31
10 inch	\$1,949.98	\$2,105.98	\$2,253.40	\$2,411.13

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
Tier 1	\$3.98	\$4.30	\$4.60	\$4.92
Tier 2	\$5.56	\$6.00	\$6.43	\$6.87
Tier 3	\$7.24	\$7.82	\$8.37	\$8.95

Water Use By Meter Size			
Tier Number	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Water use (gallons)			
¾ inch	0-12,000	12,001-20,000	> 20,000
1 inch	0-27,000	27,001-45,000	> 45,000
1.5 inch	0-42,000	42,001-70,000	> 70,000
2 inch	0-60,000	60,001-100,000	> 100,000
3 inch	0-120,000	120,001-200,000	> 200,000
4 inch	0-300,000	300,001-500,000	> 500,000
6 inch	0-600,000	600,001- 1,000,000	> 1,000,000
8 inch	0-960,000	960,001- 1,600,000	> 1,600,000
10 inch	0-1,380,000	1,380,001- 2,300,000	> 2,300,000

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(d) *Sewer rates.* Sewer rates shall be as follows:

(1) Schedule 1.

Sewer Rate Schedule—Schedule 1

Applicable to service which supplies a single-family residential or living unit.

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Charge for each service as defined	\$21.32	<u>\$23.03</u>	<u>\$24.64</u>	<u>\$26.36</u>

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$4.16	\$4.49	\$4.81	\$5.14

Maximum Bill				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Not to exceed	\$71.25	\$76.91	\$82.36	\$88.04

(2) Schedule 2.

Sewer Rate Schedule--Schedule 2

Applicable to service which supplies residential or living units of which the water connection has additional services extending therefrom. Each additional service shall be construed to include each apartment unit, condominium unit, housekeeping cottage, guest house, or house trailer.

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Charge for each service as defined	\$18.11	\$19.56	20.93	22.39

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$4.16	\$4.49	\$4.81	\$5.14

(3) Schedule 3.

Sewer Rate Schedule--Schedule 3

Applicable to any domestic water connection such as hotels, motels, non-housekeeping-type living units and similar type living quarters, or other related facilities with multiple services extending therefrom. Service shall be construed to include each non-housekeeping-type unit or related facility.

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Charge for each service as defined	\$18.11	\$19.56	20.93	22.39

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$4.16	\$4.49	\$4.81	\$5.14

(4) Schedule 4.

Sewer Rate Schedule—Schedule 4

Applicable to each service supplying any motor vehicle service station, automobile, car wash, laundry, coin laundry, restaurant or business serving prepared food to the public, school, church, commercial business, industrial business, governmental organization, or assisted living facility providing congregate, nursing or dementia care or related services.

Minimum Monthly Charge Schedule				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Monthly Charge by Meter Size				
¾ inch	\$ 21.32	\$23.03	\$24.64	\$26.36
1 inch	\$47.95	\$51.79	\$55.41	\$59.29
1.5 inch	\$74.58	\$80.55	\$86.19	\$92.22
2 inch	\$106.54	\$115.06	\$123.12	\$131.74
3 inch	\$213.08	\$230.13	\$246.24	\$263.47
4 inch	\$532.69	\$575.31	\$615.58	\$658.67
6 inch	\$1,065.39	\$1,150.62	\$1,231.16	\$1,317.35
8 inch	\$1,704.63	\$1,841.00	\$1,969.87	\$2,107.76
10 inch	\$2,450.41	\$2,646.44	\$2,831.69	\$3,029.91

User Charge Schedule (per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof)				
Effective date	11/1/2018	5/1/2026	10/1/2026	10/1/2027
Water use (gallons)				
All use	\$4.16	\$4.49	\$4.81	\$5.14

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(f) *Water meter installation charges.* The following schedule of installation charges covers meter installations where there is an existing service stub-out within ten feet or less of the property line. Costs to extend a water main or service line to serve an applicant shall be at the expense of the applicant. These charges consist of cost of materials, labor, and the proportionate cost of water plant and distribution system.

- (1) Three-fourth-inch service, three-fourth-inch meter.....~~\$650.00~~ 2,000.00
- (2) One-inch service, one-inch meter.....~~1,080.00~~ \$2,500.00
- (3) One and one-half-inch service, one and one-half-inch meter.....~~1,500~~ \$3,000.00
- (4) Two-inch service, two-inch meter.....~~3,000.00~~ \$3,500.00
- (5) Three-inch service, three-inch compound meter.....~~4,570.00~~ \$5,000.00
- (6) Four-inch service, four-inch compound meter.....~~7,920.00~~ \$6,000.00
- (7) Six-inch service, six-inch compound meter.....~~17,600.00~~ \$10,000.00

Metered service connection larger than six inches in size to be quoted on application. Estimate of cost to be prepared by the director of public works. Payment shall be made as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(g) *Sewer connection charges.*

- (1) Residential. The connection charge shall be two times the amount of the water meter installation charge where there is an existing service stub-out within ten feet or less of the property line, plus ~~\$25.00~~ \$50.00 to cover inspection by the town. Costs to extend a sewer main or service line to serve an applicant shall be at the expense of the applicant. These charges consist of cost of materials, labor and the proportionate cost of the sewage collection system.
- (2) Commercial or industrial. Connection charge shall be computed the same as residential except an additional waste charge may be applied, as determined by the

director of public works, on an individually evaluated basis to recover costs of treatment of industrial type wastes of excessive strength and/or quantity, but in no case will the charge be less than ~~\$1,300.00~~ 1500.00, plus a ~~\$25.00~~ 50.00 inspection fee.

Payment shall be made as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(h) Application for building permits to construct a potable water system and/or a sewage disposal system by private party where town service is not available. At the time of filing application, the owner shall make advance payment according to the following fee schedule:

- (1) Single-family residences, per lot.....~~\$30.00~~ 50.00
- (2) Multifamily residences, per unit.....~~14.00~~ \$25.00
- (3) Commercial, per 1,000 square feet of land area.....~~25.00~~ \$50.00

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(o) *Payment of bills; delinquent accounts.*

(1) *Bills.* All meters shall be read and bills for all charges shall be rendered monthly and shall be due and payable on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day following the billing date for which service was rendered. Where any meter is defective or the customer has prevented the meter from being read, the customer shall pay for that month an amount equal to the average amount charged for the two months preceding. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the customer from payment obligation nor charges for late or delinquent payments. It is the customer's responsibility to notify the town of any mailing address changes.

(2) *Returned payments.* A charge will be assessed for any returned payment. Any returned payment that was made in order to avoid being cut off for non-pay will result in immediate disconnection. Any normal monthly payment will be given a written notice to pay the check and fees within five business days. Failure to pay the returned payment within five business days will then result in immediate disconnection. Subsequent returned payments on an account will result in the town only accepting cash or money orders for future payments.

- (3) *Penalties.* If any person is 20 days or more delinquent in paying water and/or sewer fees, there shall be assessed against such person a penalty equal to one and one-half (1½) per cent of the unpaid balance. All utility bills are due and payable upon receipt.
- (4) *Disconnection upon failure to pay bill.* All accounts shall be due and payable on the due date printed on the utility bill. In the event of the failure of a consumer to pay for any services supplied by the town (water, sewer, refuse and other charges provided for) the town shall have the right to disconnect the water supply on the termination date indicated on the bill. ~~If payment is not made prior to 8:00 a.m. on the designated cutoff date as indicated on the bill, payment shall be considered late and a late payment fee of \$30,00 will be assessed. If cut off notices have left the town Hall with the meter technician, it is essentially sent for cut off and will require payment in full as indicted on the cut off notice, which will include the late payment fee of \$30,00, as well as the reconnect fee of \$30,00. Water service is considered disconnected when meter technicians have left the office with the cut off notices. Base charges continue to accrue even if account is not paid.~~ If payment is not received by 7:00 a.m. on the designated cutoff date, a flat \$60.00 fee shall be assessed to the account. This fee covers the administrative and field costs associated with the disconnection process and applies once the cutoff list is finalized by the Finance Department, regardless of whether physical disconnection has occurred.

\* \* \*

(q) *Miscellaneous rates, charges and fees.*

- (1) If a customer requests a service call for any reason not listed below, a trip charge of \$50.00 will be billed to the account. An After-Hours Trip Charge of \$125.00 shall be assessed for any service call performed outside of normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), or at any time on weekends or Town-observed holidays. This charge is in addition to any applicable labor or material costs. If the reason for the service is determined to be Town's responsibility, the charge may be waived.

- (2) There shall be a service charge for commencing water and/or sewer services of (\$50.00) for administrative charges for starting a new billing when such service was previously furnished or temporarily suspended at the request of the customer.
- (3) Meter Tampering charge - ~~\$50.00~~ 60.00
- (4) Replacement of broken curbstop related to utility theft or owner repairs - \$150.00
- (5) If a meter is pulled per owner's written request, the customer will be charged a meter pull fee in the amount of ~~\$80.00~~ 100.00. If the meter needs to be reinstated at a later date, the customer will be charged ~~\$80.00~~ 100.00. At no time can a tenant request a meter to be pulled.
- (6) If water service is transferred to another residence, a ~~\$25.00~~ 50.00 transfer fee shall be charged.
- (7) If water service is turned off upon the request of the customer, a reconnect fee of \$50.00 shall be charged.
- (8) Meter Test - If meter smaller than two inches is found to be not more than 2% fast, a charge of ~~\$80.00~~ 100.00 will be billed to the customer. The cost to the customer for testing of any meter of two inches or larger shall be equal to the town's actual cost to have the meter tested. If meter is proved to be faulty, the expense of the test will be borne by the town.
- (9) Re-reads - If the customer requests a meter be re-read by the town, a fee of ~~\$45.00~~ 50.00 will be charged when it is determined that the initial read was not in error. If the re-read was an error by the town, the bill will be recalculated to the best estimate of what the reading should have been at the time of the incorrect reading.
- (10) An administrative fee of \$50.00 will be charged for any liens processed by the Finance Department for unpaid utility bills. This charge does not include any recording costs, additional collection fees or attorney fees.

\* \* \*

(u) *Right of town to refuse or terminate service.*

(1) The town reserves the right by unilateral acts in its sole discretion to refuse service or to terminate service temporarily, or to discontinue service in all instances when conditions exist which would constitute an emergency of public concern, or when the providing of any service would constitute a threat to the safety, health or welfare of customers generally or a significant portion of the customer population. When discontinuance or termination of service can be remedied by an act of the customer, the town shall provide notice of remedial action to the customer in order that service may be continued uninterrupted. Acts considered to be remedial by the customer, and for which service may be temporarily terminated, discontinued or interrupted, are the following:

- a. Failure to pay required deposits for service.
- b. Failure of the customer to meet the provisions of a developer's agreement as related to utility requirements or other agreements with the town.
- c. Failure to correct deficient piping or other components upon the customer's property after reasonable notice thereof by the town.
- d. Use of service for any other property or purpose than that described in the permit or applications.
- e. When requested by customer, in which case resumption of service shall be accomplished in accordance with town policy as herein provided.

(2) The town reserves the right by unilateral act in its sole discretion to refuse service, to terminate service temporarily, or to discontinue service without notice under the following circumstances:

- a. Causing, or allowing to exist, a hazardous condition with respect to the location, use of or access to any utility service or component.
- b. Alteration or modification of any transmission or metering component or device used in providing any utility service to the customer.
- c. Total or partial destruction of, or abandonment of, any structure, including any vacancy for a

duration which in the town's opinion, may create a hazardous or unsafe condition or constitute a nuisance.

(3) The town reserves the right by unilateral act in its sole discretion to terminate or discontinue temporary service for construction work without notice when discontinuance or termination of service can be remedied by an act of the customer under the following circumstances:

- a. Failure to request a final inspection when all required trade inspections have been approved;
- b. When the construction permit status changes to cancelled, closed, suspended, or upon approval of all required individual trade inspections for the approved work;
- c. If there is an increase in usage that is more typical of usage associated with building occupancy and not construction activity;
- d. Failure to pay required deposits for service;
- e. Failure to correct deficient piping or other components upon the customer's property after reasonable notice thereof by the town; or
- f. Total or partial destruction of, or abandonment of, any structure, including any vacancy for a duration which in the town's opinion, may create a hazardous or unsafe condition or constitute a nuisance.

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**Section 3. Conflicts.** All prior ordinances or any part of a prior ordinance or the Orange Park Town Code in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Section 4. Severability.** If any section or portion of a section of this ordinance proves to be invalid,

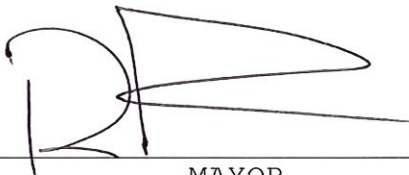
unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of this ordinance.

**Section 5. Codification Instructions.** The Codifier, the Town Clerk, and the Town Attorney are authorized to make the Orange Park Town Code consistent with the changes set forth herein. Such editorial changes and any others necessary to make the Orange Park Town Code consistent with the intent of this ordinance are approved and directed herein.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become immediately effective upon adoption.

Passed on first reading this 17th day of March, 2026.

Passed on second reading this 7th day of April, 2026.

  
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN CLERK

FORM APPROVED:

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TOWN ATTORNEY