RESOLUTION NO. 89-2010

A RESOLUTION MODIFYING VARIOUS FEES AND CHARGES FOR UTILITY SERVICES, UPDATING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE, AND MODIFYING THE UTILITY BILLING CYCLE

WHEREAS, the Interim Finance Director requested and received a limited review report of the City's utility billing operation, and in response to the findings included in the report, initiated an internal audit of the City's utility accounts, and a review and update to procedures, policies, and practices; and

WHEREAS, recommended changes, including a change of billing cycles from bi-monthly to monthly, reduce and adjust various fees, and to apply billing methodologies and other procedures, policies, and practices that were reviewed by the Citizen's Utility Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen's Utility Advisory Board considered and unanimously approved the change to monthly billing, reductions to late notice fees, implementing turn-on and turn-off fees, and various procedures, policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen's Utility Advisory Board previously approved the implementation of a surcharge to ensure adequate funding of the City's wastewater operations in response to increased costs of services for treatment and uncertainty related to pending long-term contractual discussions regarding those services; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen's Utility Advisory Board has been advised of the on-going discussions to reach a long-term agreement for wastewater treatment and the pending expiration of the surcharge; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen's Utility Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council to extend the surcharge until a long-term agreement and a rate structure that will provide adequate funding for the wastewater system are approved;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, Oregon as follows:

SECTION 1A: a Wastewater Service Surcharge of $1.00 per ccf used (each 100 cubic feet of water used) for commercial accounts and $1.00 per ccf for the "Winter Average" usage for residential accounts is hereby adopted. Winter Average usage for residential accounts shall be the most up-to-date winter average as measured for each household over the most recent winter billing cycle (four months).

SECTION 1B: The surcharge will not be applied to low-income utility customers eligible for reduced rates under MMC section 13.2.010

SECTION 1C: The Wastewater Service Surcharge shall remain in effect until a long-term agreement for treatment is executed and an updated rate structure is adopted. The Surcharge will terminate effective the first billing cycle after these two conditions are met. All Wastewater Service Surcharge revenue collected by the City shall be used to pay for Wastewater services.

SECTION 2A: All utility accounts for the City of Milwaukie will be billed each month, for services consumed in the previous monthly billing cycle, including monthly base fees and consumption charges.

SECTION 2B: The City of Milwaukie "Fees & Charges" document, included as Exhibit A to this resolution, is hereby adopted.

SECTION 3A: Residential wastewater consumption charges, including low-income, shall be calculated utilizing the "Winter Average" water consumption. Winter average water consumption is defined as the average monthly water consumption during the four month period used to determine December through March water charges. Accounts with no water consumption data shall be charged a minimum usage of 600 cubic feet for the monthly "Winter Average". If consumption data exists for the customer from a prior residence, that consumption data shall override the minimum and be used to establish the "Winter Average" and the account's wastewater surcharge. The residential "Winter Average" consumption shall be determined and updated annually for each account prior to the subsequent April billing and will continue at this consumption until the following April.

SECTION 4A: This resolution repeals Resolutions 14-2010, 4-2002, and 31-2003, and supersedes previously adopted fees and charges resolutions, including Resolution 53-2010, and any resolution related to minimum lifeline sewer charges, utility billing cycles, and the winter average.

SECTION 4B: This resolution is effective January 1, 2011.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council on December 21, 2010.

Jeremy Ferguson, Mayor

Dated: 12-21-2010

Attest:

Pat DuVal

Pat DuVal, City Recorder