

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO AMEND UTILITY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (ONWASA) has previously adopted a Utility Ordinance governing the operation of the water and sewer system; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the current Utility Ordinance and recommends a series of revisions which will create greater efficiencies and better serve our customers.

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 162A-6(a)(14c) requires that the Board of Directors adopt a Declaration of Intent prior to adopting or amending utility ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ONSLOW WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY HEREBY DOTH DECLARES:

1. It is the intention of the Board of Directors to adopt an ordinance or amendment to its Utility Ordinance which will make certain changes or modifications to the ONWASA Utility Ordinance set forth below.
2. The proposed changes or amendments to the ONWASA Utility Ordinance are as follows:

A. Article 1 – General, Section 1.1 Definitions

Current Language

Authority Utility Facilities - shall mean all parts of the Authority's water and sewer utility system and generally includes water lines, sewer lines, treatment facilities, pump stations, hydrants, water meters, meter boxes, cut-off valves and other facilities related to providing water and wastewater utility service but excluding any Owner Service Facilities as defined below.

Building Sewer - shall mean the private plumbing pipes or any other plumbing facilities of an Owner pursuant to which wastewater is discharged from the Owner's premises to Authority Utility Facilities.

Owner Service Facilities - shall mean (i) the water service facilities owned by an Owner and commencing at the connection on the Owner's side of the Authority's meter and servicing the premises of such Owner, including pipe, private cut-off valves, Backflow Prevention Assembly, pressure reducing valve and other components and (ii) the Building Sewer running from the Owner's premises to the sewer tap provided by the Authority to which an Owner connects private plumbing.

Point of Discharge - shall generally be at the property line of the customer

where the sanitary sewer cleanout or commercial grinder pump station valve box is situated, adjacent to the public street where the Authority's main is located. For single residences served by a grinder pump station that connects to a sewer force main, the Point of Discharge shall be located at the point where the building sewer connects to the wet well. This shall be where the Authority loses jurisdiction and sanitary control over the sewer system infrastructure, and where the customer becomes responsible for all piping, control devices, etc. located on his side of the point of delivery.

Service Connection, Sewer - shall include the tap, service piping, etc. installed from the public sanitary sewer main to the *Point of Discharge*.

Proposed Language

Authority Utility Facilities - shall mean all parts of the Authority's water and sewer utility system and generally includes water lines, sewer lines, treatment facilities, pump stations, hydrants, water meters, meter boxes, cut-off valves and other facilities related to providing water and wastewater utility service, but excluding any *Owner Service Facilities* as defined below.

Building Sewer - shall mean the private plumbing pipes or any other plumbing facilities of an Owner pursuant to which wastewater is discharged from the Owner's premises to *Authority Utility Facilities*.

Owner Service Facilities - shall mean (i) the water service facilities owned by an owner and commencing at the connection on the Owner's side of the Authority's meter and servicing the premises of such Owner, including pipe, private cut-off valves, Backflow Prevention Assembly, pressure reducing valve and other components, and (ii) the *Building Sewer* running from the Owner's premises to the sewer tap provided by the Authority to which an Owner connects private plumbing.

Point of Discharge - shall generally be at the property line of the customer near the sanitary sewer cleanout or commercial grinder pump station valve box is situated, adjacent to the public street where the Authority's main is located. Where the sewer line is not located in a street, or the street right of way cannot be readily determined, the *Point of Discharge* shall be at the adapter coupling immediately adjacent to the sewer line. For single residences served by a grinder pump station that connects to a sewer force main, the *Point of Discharge* shall be located at the point where the building sewer connects to the wet well. This shall be where the Authority loses jurisdiction and sanitary control over the sewer system infrastructure, and where the Owner becomes responsible for all piping, control devices, etc. located on his side of the point of delivery.

Service Connection, Sewer - shall include the tap, service piping, etc. installed from the public sanitary sewer main to the *Point of Discharge*.

B. Article III – Wastewater, Section 3.1 Method of Connection

Current Language

d.) Connections to Authority Utility Facilities will be made at the cleanout provided for the structure to be served.

Proposed Language

d.) Connections to Authority Utility Facilities will be made at the adapter coupling provided for the structure to be served.

C. Article III – Wastewater, Section 3.2 Maintenance of Building Sewer/Damages

Current Language

Whenever a Building Sewer connected to Authority Utility Facilities becomes clogged, broken, out of order or discharging in a manner detrimental to the Authority Utility Facilities, or the public health and welfare. The Owner of any building or premises through which the Building Sewer, defined as running from the point of discharge to the served premises which collects wastewater, shall, upon notification by the Executive Director or his designee, reconstruct, alter, clean or repair the Building Sewer, as the condition of such may require, within thirty (30) days after receiving notification. Noncompliance shall result in disconnection of the sewer lateral at the point of connection to the Authority's public collection system and shall be subject to all applicable fees per the approved Authority Rate and Fee Schedule. The property owner shall be responsible for maintaining sewer service laterals from the served premises to the point of discharge, except that the Authority will maintain sewer service connections extending from the main to the point of discharge if:

- a) A gravity sewer service lateral cleanout is already installed at or near the property line, or
- b) The property owner installs a cleanout at or near the property line.

Residential grinder pump systems that are connected to an Authority sanitary sewer force main are maintained by the Authority from the point of connection at the main up to and including the grinder pump station and associated electrical controls subject to the terms and conditions of the Grinder Pump Sewer Service Agreement signed by the customer.

Proposed Language

Whenever a Building Sewer connected to Authority Utility Facilities becomes clogged, broken, out of order or discharging in a manner detrimental to the Authority Utility Facilities, or the public health and welfare, the Owner of any building or premises through which the Building Sewer, defined as running from the Point of Discharge to the served premises which collects wastewater, shall, upon notification by the Executive Director or his designee, reconstruct, alter, clean or repair the Building Sewer, as the condition of such may require, within thirty (30) days after receiving notification. Noncompliance shall result in disconnection of the sewer lateral at the point of connection to the Authority's public collection system and shall be subject to all applicable fees per the approved Authority Rate and Fee Schedule.

The property owner shall be responsible for maintaining sewer service laterals from the served premises to the Point of Discharge.

Residential grinder pump systems that are connected to an Authority sanitary sewer force main are maintained by the Authority from the point of connection at the main up to and including the grinder pump station and associated electrical controls, subject to the terms and conditions of the Grinder Pump Sewer Service Agreement signed by the customer.

D. Article III – Wastewater, Section 3.4 – Basis for Billing Sewer Use**Current Language**

Sewer usage will be billed based on the minimum charge plus flow determined by the flow of the Authority's water meter at the premises being billed. If sewer is provided to the premises to which the Authority does not provide water, or the sewer usage is unrelated to the usage of water, billing will be based at the option of the Authority on one of the following:

- (a) Water meter readings at the premises for water supplied by another water provider or meter readings from a meter attached to any private well supplying the premises, which meter shall be provided and installed at the Owner's expense.
- (b) Flat Rate.

Proposed Language

Sewer usage will be billed based on the minimum charge plus flow determined by the flow of the Authority's water meter at the premises being billed. If sewer is provided to the premises to which the Authority does not provide water, or

the sewer usage is unrelated to the usage of water, billing will be based at the option of the Authority on one of the following:

- (c) Water meter readings at the premises for water supplied by another water provider or meter readings from a meter attached to any private well supplying the premises, which meter shall be provided and installed at the Owner's expense.
- (d) Flat Rate.

Bulk sewer usage fee will be billed based on the Base Charge plus the flow determined by the Authority's water meter(s) or sewer meter(s) at the premises being billed. Billing method will be determined by the Authority.

E. Article IV – Rates, Fees and Charges, Section 4.1 – General

Current Language

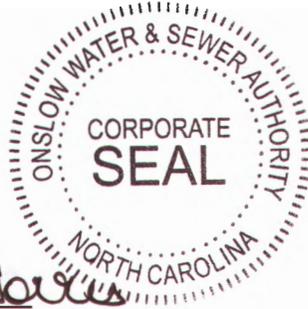
- (b) Bulk Rate – a fee for water sold to others for re-sale or for service through a Bulk Meter.
- (d) User Fee – a charge based on volumetric utility usage determined from meter readings or other method acceptable to the Authority, the amount of which increases as volumetric usage increases.
- (e) Volunteer Fire and Rescue Rate – a combination of flat and volumetric rate to be charged to volunteer rescue squads and fire departments.

Proposed Language

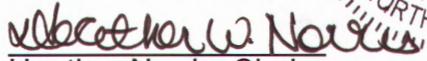
- (b) Water Bulk Fee – a fee for water sold to others for re-sale or for other services.
- (d) Master Meter Fee – a fee for water and/or sewer services per meter that applies to all residential meters and Multi Users.
- (e) Sewer Bulk Fee – a fee for sewer use from a collection system that ties into a single point of discharge.
- (f) User Fee – a charge based on volumetric utility usage determined from meter readings or other method acceptable to the Authority, the amount of which increases as volumetric usage increases.
- (g) Volunteer Fire and Rescue Rate – a combination of flat and volumetric rate to be charged to volunteer rescue squads and fire departments.

The Clerk to the Board shall submit this Declaration of Intent, along with the proposed changes to the Utility Ordinance, to each of the member governing bodies of ONWASA for review and comment.

This the 17th day of June 2021.



Attest:


Heather Norris, Clerk



Jerry Bittner, Chairman