

RESOLUTION NO. 3395

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A GRACE PERIOD TO ALLOW USERS OF CITY SEWER SYSTEM TO INSTALL MEASURES TO REMOVE IRRIGATION WATER FROM THEIR SEWER CALCULATION.

WHEREAS, a Water and Sewer Rate Study was conducted for the City of Red Lodge, March 2015, to ensure that rates, charges and classifications are reasonable and just in accordance with MCA 69-7-101 and to ensure that undertakings are self-supporting in accordance with MCA 7-7-4424; and

WHEREAS, the Water and Sewer Rate study recommended a change in the methodology for calculating sewer usage from a four (4) month winter average of water usage to actual water usage as well as the creation of irrigation only meters; and,

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Red Lodge advertised and conducted a public hearing on May 26, 2015 pursuant to the Rules and Regulations governing Water and Waster Water Service for the City of Red Lodge, Title 10, Chapter 8, Section 1and MCA Section 69-7-111; and

WHEREAS, the public notices regarding the rate increases encouraged users to read the Water and Sewer Rate Study and the associated public hearing included an explanation of the Water and Sewer Rate Study; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2015, the City Council passed Ordinance #916 on second reading and thereby changed the methodology by which sewer usage is calculated; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2015, the City Council pass Resolution #3386 changing the water and sewer rates effective July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, numerous users of the sewer system have indicated that they were unaware of the change in methodology for calculating sewer usage and have had insufficient time to install measures to remove the irrigation water from the sewer calculation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RED LODGE, MONTANA:

That the City Council of the City of Red Lodge, deeming it reasonable that members of the public may have overlooked the change of methodology for calculating sewer usage and wanting to provide adequate opportunity to install irrigation only meters or other approved measures to remove irrigation water usage from their sewer usage calculations, does hereby establish a grace period from July 1 to August 31, 2015 to allow users to make the appropriate adjustments to their plumbing. This grace period shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The sewer usage for any month in question must be at least double the sewer usage of a typical bill in the previous year.
2. The user wishing to take advantage of the grace period must have been in touch with the Public Works Director to coordinate a change in the set-up of their system. The Public Works Director, or his designee, must inspect and approve the changes before any credit will be given.
3. The user must submit either a letter or an email to the City Clerk indicating that they meet the above conditions and requesting to take advantage of the grace period.
4. Those who qualify shall be given a credit to their account for the difference in sewer usage charges. No credit will be given for water usage charges or for sewer minimum charges.
5. No credits will be granted for months other than July and August of 2015, nor will credits be granted after October 15th 2015.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on August 25th, 2015, by Council Member

_____.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Red Lodge this __ day of August, 2015.

APPROVED by the Mayor this ___ day of _____, 2015.

CITY OF RED LODGE

Ed Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Loni Hanson, City Clerk