

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 187 (SEWER) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND SEWER FEES AND TO INCLUDE REVIEW PROVISIONS

Ordinance # 16-2026

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, on December 6, 1982 adopted an ordinance establishing the rates to be charged for each sewer unit; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance was amended on June 17, 2024 increasing the rate to be charged for each sewer unit; and

WHEREAS, the cost of operating the sewer system for the Township of Readington has increased since amending the initial rate in 2024; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of Readington that the sewer system operate in a fiscally sound and responsible manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of Readington Township as follows:

Section I

Section 187-5 (Required connections; criteria; waiver to be renewed periodically; computation of charges) is hereby amended as follows (struck through portions are to be removed; bolded and underlined portions are to be added; ellipses represent break in text):

...

D. The charges for sewer service as hereinafter set forth shall commence on the date of connection or ninety (90) days after such owner has received notice to connect, whichever event first occurs. Upon failure to pay the charges whether or not connection is made, the owner shall be liable for the penalties and fine provisions hereinafter set forth in this ordinance. The sewer charges shall be made by the Township and billed to the owners of real property upon which there are improvements at the sanitary sewer rental or charge of ~~\$480~~ **\$700**- per year for each sewer rental unit in the Three Bridges Sewer Area and ~~\$480~~ **\$700**- per year for each sewer rental unit in the Whitehouse Sewer Area. The number of sewer rental units shall be determined in different instances as follows:

...

Section II

Section 187-8 (Basis for charges) is hereby amended as follows (struck through portions are to be removed; bolded and underlined portions are to be added):

Sewer **rates and** charges are based upon estimated annual operating and capital costs as well as the treatment costs in the Three Bridges Sewer Area to R.T.M.U.A. and in the Whitehouse Sewer Area to the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority ~~and may be changed from time to time as the needs generated by such costs may require.~~ **The rates and charges provided for in this section shall be reviewed every year for conformity with this Chapter and all applicable statutes, regulations, and ordinances. The Chief Financial Officer of the Township shall review the annual revenues generated by the rates and charges, compared with the projected costs of operation, maintenance and replacement, and report to the Township Committee with recommendations for rate and charge revisions to reflect sufficient annual revenues to offset actual annual operation and maintenance costs.**

Section III

The implementation of the billing for the additional \$220 due per unit for 2026 resulting from the adoption of this ordinance shall be as follows: an additional \$110 per unit will be due in the 3rd Quarter (due date: September 1) and an additional \$110 per unit will be due in the 4th Quarter (due date: December 1). These amounts will be in addition to the \$120.00 per unit that has already been billed for each quarter.

Section IV

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section V

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section VI

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law.

A TRUE COPY OF WHICH ORDINANCE IS PRINTED ABOVE WAS INTRODUCED AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ON ***APRIL 20, 2026*** AND THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO CONSIDER PASSAGE OF SAID ORDINANCE AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 509 ROUTE 523, WHITEHOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY, ON ***MAY 4, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.*** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE, OR AT ANY TIME OR PLACE TO WHICH THE MEETING SHALL BE FROM TIME TO TIME ADJOURNED AN OPPORTUNITY WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL PERSONS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED THEREIN TO BE HEARD CONCERNING SAID ORDINANCE.

ANN MARIE LEHBERGER, *RMC*
MUNICIPAL CLERK