ORDINANCE NO. 1664

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE OF WATER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF BLUFFTON UTILITIES WATER DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Common Council ("Council") of the City of Bluffton ("City") has authority under the Acts of the Indiana General Assembly to make all necessary regulations for the preservation of the rights, property, health, safety and welfare of its citizens and the Council finds that the interests of the citizens of the City would be best served by amending the rates charged for the service of water to the customers of the Bluffton Utilities Water Department (the "Utility"); and

WHEREAS, the Utility, a water utility owned by the City, has been previously taken out of the jurisdiction of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for the approval of rates and charges; and

WHEREAS, the City now finds that a change is necessary to adjust the water rates to an amount that will adequately meet the needs of the Utility for operational costs, capital improvements, and reasonable cash reserves; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to adjust the water rates in phases;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUFFTON, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Title 13, Chapter 8, Section 030 of the Code of Ordinances of Bluffton, Indiana, as in effect on the date of the adoption of this Ordinance, is hereby repealed and replaced and shall after the effective date of this Ordinance read as set forth in Exhibit A attached to this Ordinance and shall be enforced as an ordinance of the City of Bluffton, Indiana.

Section 2: Title 13, Chapter 8, Section 70 of the Code of Ordinances of Bluffton, Indiana, as in effect on the date of the adoption of this Ordinance, is hereby confirmed and readopted and shall remain after the effective date of this Ordinance read as set forth in Exhibit B attached to this Ordinance and shall continue to be enforced as an ordinance of the City of Bluffton, Indiana.

Section 3: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon adoption and publication as required by law.

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bluffton, Indiana this 7th day of October, 2025, by the following vote:

Councilperson	AYES 5	NAYS 0	ABSENT 2
Rickey D. Elwell			
Janella J. Stronczek			
Joshua D. Hunt			
Ronald J. Neuenschwander			
Blake A. Fiechter			Absent
Sarah J. Reed			Absent
David P. Teeple			

Mayor Scott Mentzer, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Bri Lautzenheiser, City Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Bluffton, Indiana, at 5:30 o'clock p.m. this 7 day of October, 2025.

Bri Lautzenheiser, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by me this 7 day of October, 2025.

Mayor Scott Mentzer

Exhibit A

13.08.030 Rates

There shall be and there are hereby established for the use of and the service rendered by Bluffton Utilities Water Department the following rates and charges, based on the use of water supplied by said waterworks system:

Metered Rates Per Month		Rates Per 100 cu. ft. Added to Monthly Minimum Phase I (1)	Phase II (2)	Phase III (3)	Phase IV (4)
First	200 cu. ft. over minimum usage allowed	$8.34	$8.92	$9.54	$10.21
Next	800 cu. ft.	6.39	6.84	7.32	7.83
Next	5,000 cu. ft.	4.89	5.23	5.60	5.99
Next	14,000 cu. ft.	3.36	3.60	3.85	4.12
Over	20,000 cu. ft.	2.67	2.86	3.06	3.27

Minimum Monthly Charge

Each user shall pay a minimum monthly charge in accordance with the following applicable size of meter installed, for which the user will be entitled to the quantity of water set out of the above schedule of rates.

Meter Size	Cu. Ft. Allowed	Per Month Phase I (1)	Phase II (2)	Phase III (3)	Phase IV (4)
5/8" and 3/4"	200	$16.68	$17.84	$19.08	$20.42
1"	342	25.75	27.55	29.47	31.54
1 ¼" and 1 ½"	553	39.24	41.99	44.92	48.06
2"	749	51.76	55.39	59.27	63.41
3"	1,206	77.87	83.33	89.18	95.40
4"	1,730	103.50	110.74	118.52	126.79
6"	2,792	155.43	166.28	177.99	190.40

Public Fire Protection Sprinkling System	Per Month Phase I (1)	Phase II (2)	Phase III (3)	Phase IV (4)
5/8" line	$5.50	$5.89	$6.30	$6.74
3/4" line	8.25	8.83	9.45	10.11
1" line	13.75	14.71	15.74	16.84
1 1/2" line	27.51	29.44	31.50	33.71
2" line	44.01	47.09	50.39	53.92
3" line	82.51	88.29	94.47	101.08
4" line	137.52	147.15	157.45	168.47
6" line	275.03	294.28	314.88	336.92

Private Fire Protection Sprinkling System	Per Month			
	Phase I (1)	Phase II (2)	Phase III (3)	Phase IV (4)
1 ½" line	$51.90	$55.53	$59.42	$63.58
2" line	68.98	73.81	78.98	84.51
3" line	95.20	101.86	108.99	116.62
4" line	112.53	120.41	128.84	137.86
6" line	181.80	194.53	208.15	222.72
8" line	226.83	242.71	259.70	277.88
10" line	281.13	300.81	321.87	344.40
12" line	404.77	433.10	463.42	495.86
For Each hydrant per annum	$687.82	$735.97	787.49	$842.61

(1) Phase I effective upon adoption.
(2) Phase II effective April 1, 2026.
(3) Phase III effective October 1, 2026.
(4) Phase IV effective April 1, 2027.

Non-Recurring Charges:
Nonrecurring charges are per the schedule below.

Security Deposit: 1. Residential 2. Small Commercial 3. Large Users (including restaurants)	1. $25 with an excellent credit rating from a previous Utility Co. or a credit report obtained by this Utility at the customer's expense, $150 otherwise. 2. The greater of estimated one month's usage or $150. 3. Amount will be determined by the Board of Works. Estimated one month's usage minimum.
Payment Made After Due Date	10% first $3.00 plus 3% excess over $3.00
Bad Checks	$35.00
Non-Working Hours Service Calls	$40.00 per hour or any portion thereof. $35.00 minimum each/additional trip.
Non-Payment Reconnects 1. 8 am – 4pm Monday – Friday 2. All other days and hours	1. $40.00 each 2. $60.00 each
24 Hour Inspection Turn-On	$25.00
Meter Test 1. 5/8"- 1" meter 2. 1 ¼" - 2" meter 3. 3" – 6" meter	1. $35.00 2. $45.00 3. $300.00 (subject to refund if meter is defective)
Meter Tampering	Cost to replace damaged equipment plus prosecution.

Meter Split	$750

Temporary Users:

Water furnished to temporary users, such as contractors, etc., shall be charged on the basis of the metered cu. ft. rates hereinbefore set forth as estimated and established by the Waterworks Superintendent.

Amended and replaced by Ordinance No. 1664

History:

Amended by Ordinance No. 1512 January 20, 2020

Amended by Ordinance No. 1560 August 2, 2022

Exhibit B

13.8.70 System Development Charges

Connections to the City of Bluffton's water facilities must pay a System Development Charge as follows:

		Calculation
In City Connections: (1)	$1,462.48 per EDU	$\sum$ (E) / $\sum$ (C)
Outside of the City Connections: (1)	$1,680.39 per EDU	$\sum$ (E) / $\sum$ (C) * 1.149

(1) Methodology as proposed by City Board of Public Works and detailed below.

Equivalent Connections

Meter Size	Number of Connections at 11/23/2020	Equivalency Factor*	Equivalent Connections	Cost/EDU	Equivalent Cost
			(A x B)	(L/B)	(D x C)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
5/8"	3682	1	3682	$1,671	$6,152,622
3/4"	35	1.5	52.5	$1,385	$72,713
1"	136	2.5	340	$1,170	$397,800
1 ½"	38	5	190	$1,330	$252,700
2"	65	8	520	$1,219	$633,880
3"	14	15	210	$1,338	$280,980
4"	24	25	600	$1,052	$631,200
6"	9	50	450	$929	$418,050
Total	4003		6044.5		$8,839,945

**Based on Memo dated February 12, 1979 regarding Meter Equivalence Factors for Computing Minimum Charges for Oversized Meters recommended by the Public Service Commission Engineering Department.*

Net Equity

Meter Size	Equity** x B
	(F)
5/8"	$682
3/4"	$1,023
1"	$1,705
1 ½"	$3,410
2"	$5,456
3"	$10,230
4"	$17,050
6"	$34,100

*** Calculation of net equity (as of December 31, 2021):*

Capital assets	*$9,138,868*
Construction work in progress	*13,610,745*
Land	*218,616*
Less: accumulated depreciation	*(5,285,778)*
Subtotal	*17,682,451*
Less: outstanding bond and note principal	*(13,559,660)*
Net equity in water utility plant assets	*4,122,791*
Divided by: EDUs	*6,044.5*
System Development Charge (rounded) $	*682*

Material Cost

Meter Size	Est. $ Same Side of Road	Est. $ Across the Road	Average
	(G)	(H)	(I)
5/8"	$583	$720	$652
3/4"	$597	$839	$718
1"	$735	$1,032	$884
1 ½"	$2,369	$2,759	$2,564
2"	$3,126	$4,124	$3,625
3"	$8,034	$8,945	$8,490
4"	$7,441	$8,352	$7,897
6"	$10,200	$11,163	$10,682

Labor Cost

Meter Size	Est. Labor Hours	Direct Labor $28.07/hr
	(J)	(K)
5/8"	12	$337
3/4"	12	$337
1"	12	$337
1 ½"	24	$674
2"	24	$674
3"	48	$1,347
4"	48	$1,347
6"	60	$1,684

Total Cost

Meter Size	Inside City
	(F+I+K)
	(L)
5/8"	$1,671
3/4"	$2,078
1"	$2,926
1 ½"	$6,648
2"	$9,755
3"	$20,067
4"	$26,294
6"	$46,466

Confirmed by Ordinance No. 1664

History:

Adopted by Ordinance No. 1577 December 20, 2022