

CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, September 23, 2024 4:00 p.m.
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Gerot called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Greg Gerot, Guy Bonner, Theresa Root, Clay Hosley, and Teresa Koepke. Absent: John Stinson

Discussion of fees for FY2025 was held. The proposed fees for FY25 would include the following increases:

- Base Water Rate would increase from \$48.71 to \$53.09. This is a 9% increase.
- Water usage would increase from \$2.43/1,000 gallons to \$2.65/1,000 gallons. This is a 9% increase.
- Base Sewer Rate would increase from \$52.56 to \$57.29. This is a 9% increase. Sewer on vacant lots would increase from \$39.42 to \$42.97. This is a 9% increase.
- Business/Commercial customers will be charged a multiplier (Equivalent Dwelling Unit) of the new water and sewer rates based on usage.
- Residential sanitation would increase from \$12.28 to \$17.28. This is a \$5/month increase or 41% increase. Discussion was held around the fee for extra cans and bags. It was discussed that the City of Pierce would only be responsible for taking what garbage could fit in the new 95-gallon cart. Residents would be responsible for disposing of any additional sanitation.
- Commercial/business sanitation accounts would be provided wheeled carts and will be charged by the number of carts required to accommodate the amount of garbage put out each week. Teresa has reviewed the business accounts with the maintenance crew and came up with a starting point for the number of carts required. Adjustments may need to be made to individual accounts once the carts are in use.
- Commercial/business sanitation accounts with dumpster(s) would increase 25% over their current rate.
- A \$75.00 cart replacement fee would be added for customer damaged/neglected carts. This is a new fee.
- A street light fee in the amount of \$3.00 per account would be added. This is a new fee.
- Late fees would increase from \$8.00 to \$15.00. This is a \$7.00 or 88% increase. It was discussed this fee has not been raised for quite some time and Teresa spends a lot of time following up on delinquent accounts.
- Water shut-off fee would increase from \$25.00 to \$50.00. This is a \$25.00 or 100% increase. It was discussed that the shut-off and turn-off fees should be the same amount. The water turn-on fee would remain at \$50.00.
- The \$50 Dance License fee was reviewed. No action was taken, but it was discussed that this license should no longer be required as there are no businesses within the City of Pierce that are dance halls. The topic could be addressed and action taken at a later council meeting.

Water & Sewer Connection fees were reviewed. Depending on the property, the current fee of \$1,850 for water connection will not cover actual costs of parts and labor. It was discussed that in addition to the cost of installing the water or sewer line and meter, a buy-in fee should be assessed. The buy-in fee is a way to make it fair for those customers that have been paying for improvements, bonds, etc. that new customers are now able to take advantage of. It was decided that a \$1,000 connection fee plus actual costs of parts and labor be assessed for both water and sewer connections.

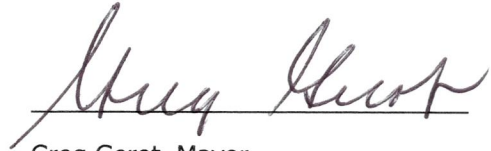
All other fees were to remain the same.

Changes to the sanitation ordinance was discussed. The sanitation ordinance needs to be revised in order to not only protect the City of Pierce's investment in the garbage carts, but to ensure the preservation of health, safety, sanitation, public welfare and property values. The addition of the carts is to help promote a cleaner community

and allow for a safer and more efficient collection of refuse. The following items were recommended for the revised sanitation code:

- The carts are the property of the City of Pierce and must remain on the premise to which they are assigned.
- Carts cannot be overloaded, and to prevent solid waste from being scattered, blown, or spilled, enough space must be maintained to permit the lid to fully and completely close at all times it contains refuse.
- Cart lids shall open freely and the contents of the cart shall be allowed to fall freely when inverted for emptying.
- Items placed outside the cart, including items placed on top of cart, shall not be picked up, and will remain the responsibility of the property owner or tenant.
- Damaged carts will be replaced by the City at a cost to the customer as determined by City Council.
- Customer provided carts are not allowed.
- Carts shall be placed in a place accessible to the collector and shall not block safe pedestrian, bicycle, or vehicle access to streets, alleys, bike paths or sidewalks.
- Carts must be set out by time designated by City Council, but not before 7:00 p.m. of the day prior to collection.
- Carts must be removed from street, alley, or agreed upon collection site within 24 hours of collection, and shall be stored at least as far back as the dwelling from where it is collected, unless otherwise agreed upon with Collector.
- In cases of improper cart maintenance and/or placement which creates an unsanitary condition, litter problem, safety concern, detracting of appearance, or otherwise becomes a nuisance to the public, the Collector may issue a warning notice. If the condition persists, the City may take action pursuant to Ordinance No. 321 (March 13, 2023).

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer