



CITY OF BINGEN

Proposed 2017 Budget – Revenue Sources and Property Tax Levy

The City of Bingen's budget includes the following changes to its revenue sources:

Property Tax Levy

The City of Bingen is proposing to increase its total property tax levy by 1% as allowed by law. The property tax levy for 2016 was \$200,569.49. An increase of 1% means the city would receive \$202,575.18 in property taxes for 2017 – an increase in \$2,005.69.

Utility Rates

The City's current ordinances provide for an annual increase of 5% in water and sewer rates. The City is proposing to increase its water rates by 10% and to not increase the sewer rates. Below is information regarding utility rates.

The proposed budget for 2017 includes revenue from utility rates. In 2009, the city adopted ordinances that provide for an annual 5% increase in water and sewer rates. In 2017, the city proposes to increase the water rates by 10% and not increase the sewer rates therefore base rates will save residential utility customers \$0.51 per month. The proposed rates are shown below along with historical rate information.

Utility rates pay for the operation and maintenance of the city's water and sewer system including the wastewater treatment plant. The proposed 10% increase in water rates will help pay for improvements to the city's water system, including replacing a 65-year old reservoir.

Monthly Base Sewer Rates

Type of User	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	2017 Proposed	% Change
Residential	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Commercial	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Light Industrial/Agricultural	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Heavy Industrial	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%

Overage charges will remain the same at \$18.00 per ½ ERU. Residential customers are not charged overage charges for sewer.

Water Rates

Type of Account	2015 Rate	2016 Rates	Proposed 2017 Rates
Residential (Single-Family) Base Rate			
Usage (0-10,000 gallons) per thousand	28.40	29.82	\$32.80
Usage (10,001 – 20,000 gallons) per thousand	1.60	1.68	1.85
Usage (>20,000 gallons) per thousand	2.69	2.82	3.10
	4.02	4.22	4.64
Base Rates for Commercial, Light Industrial, Industrial, Multi-Family			
3/4 inch meter	43.39	45.56	50.12
1 inch meter	68.93	72.38	79.62
1-1/2 inch meter	137.83	144.72	159.19
2 inch meter	206.76	217.10	238.81
3 inch meter	427.56	448.94	493.83
4 inch meter	598.57	628.50	691.35
6 inch meter	898.50	943.43	1,037.77
Usage per 1,000 gallons	2.44	2.56	2.82

A residential household that uses 6,000 gallons of water would have paid a total of \$85.90 per month in 2016 for combined water and sewer and will pay \$89.90 per month in 2017.

Residential Utility Billing Rate Comparison	
Includes billing for both water and sewer based on 6,000 gallons water used	
City	2016 Rates
Stevenson	\$65.53
Goldendale	\$67.80
Cascade Locks	\$70.28
Bingen	\$85.90
Hood River	\$89.00
White Salmon	\$99.15
North Bonneville	\$99.86
The Dalles	\$101.62

Business License Fees

The City of Bingen is proposing to restructure its business license fees. Currently, businesses pay a license fee based on the type of business. Fee range from \$5 to \$275. The City is proposing to establish a flat fee of \$40.00 annually regardless of the type of business. The business license fee will apply to property owners who lease or rent out their facilities (business or residential). A property owner who leases or rents out facilities will be charged a flat rate of \$40 regardless of the number of leases/rentals they have in Bingen.

The City is also updating its business license ordinance and fee structure to make it easier to work with the State of Washington and its “one-stop business licensing program.” The City anticipates moving its business licensing application and renewal process to the State’s licensing program sometime in 2017-2018.