



## Town Commission Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Date:** April 8, 2025

**Submitted By:** Ken Rubach, Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director, Lucila Lang, Finance Director

**Submitting Department:** Administration

**Item Type:** Ordinance

**Agenda Section:** ORDINANCES 1st Reading

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**Subject Title:** Ordinance 2025-03: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 20, "UTILITIES," OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING ARTICLE II, "SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM," SECTION 20-19 "RATES AND CHARGES"; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Explanation:** Currently, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea charges sewer rates only to residents served by the Town-owned sewer system, which includes most areas of the Town south of Pine Avenue. The Town transmits its wastewater to Pompano Beach under a Master Sewer Agreement, which covers transmission, treatment, and disposal costs. Those residents who live north of Pine Avenue are billed directly through Pompano Beach because we do not own the sewer system.

The Wastewater Service Agreement between the City of Pompano Beach and the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea includes an annual recalculation of the monthly and volumetric rates. Since FY18, the fixed monthly fee has increased by 90.01% and the volumetric rate has increased by 45.55%. In calendar year 2025, the fixed monthly fee increased by 4% and the volumetric rate increased by 14%. There has been no increase to the Town's sewer rate since 2020, resulting in a deficit of \$183,642.35 in the Sewer Fund for the previous fiscal year.

If sewer rates are not increased, the Sewer Fund will continue to operate at a deficit this year as it did in FY24, further impacting the Town's reserves. The existing sewer system is over 50 years old, and it is crucial to maintain a reasonable fund balance to cover future capital expenses.

Below are the recommended rate increases for this year, along with examples of how the increase will affect single-family residents, multi-family properties, and commercial establishments. It is important to note that these rate changes will not generate a full-year increase, as the Town was notified in November of a Pompano Beach rate increase that took effect January 1. Notices about the proposed increases have been sent out in the residents'

utility bills and, additionally, a postcard has been sent with the proposed increases as well. If the increase is approved, the Town will begin seeing the additional revenue in May 2025.

Service Type	Base Rate	Increase	Proposed Amount		Consumption Rate	Increase	Proposed Amount
Single-Family	\$11.81	\$2.95/25%	\$14.76		\$6.80	\$2.04/30%	\$8.84
Multi-Family	\$4.86	\$3.65/75%	\$8.51	x #units	\$6.80	\$2.04/30%	\$8.84
Commercial	\$11.81	\$2.95/25%	\$14.76	x #units	\$6.80	\$2.04/30%	\$8.84
Customer Service/Admin Charge	\$1.73	\$.43/25%	\$2.16				

**Recommendation:** Approve First Reading of Ordinance 2025-03 amending the Town code to reflect the new rates and charges for the sanitary sewer system.

**Exhibits:**

1. Ordinance 2025-03 FY 25 Sewer Rates





60 Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”,  
61 “article” or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

62 **Section 4. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held  
63 to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no  
64 way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

65 **Section 5. Conflicting Ordinances.** All prior ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in  
66 conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

67 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption on  
68 second reading, and the new sewer rates shall be effective commencing the first day of the water  
69 service billing cycle that begins in May 2025, provided that the City of Fort Lauderdale is able to  
70 timely implement the changes; otherwise, the new sewer rates shall be effective commencing the  
71 first day of the water service billing cycle that begins in June 2025.

72 Passed on the first reading, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

73 Passed on the second reading, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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**MAYOR EDMUND MALKOON**

	First Reading	Second Reading
Mayor Malkoon	_____	_____
Vice-Mayor Strauss	_____	_____
Commissioner Pouloupoulos	_____	_____
Commissioner Denapoli	_____	_____
Commissioner Graziano	_____	_____

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Katrina Adler

(CORPORATE SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Susan L. Trevarthen, Town Attorney