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City Council

Approval of an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Related to Storm and Surface Water Management

Agenda Date: 12/17/2019

Agenda Item Number: 4.M

File Number: 19-1123

Type: ordinance **Version:** 2 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Related to Storm and Surface Water Management

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

On November 20, 2019, the Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the financial implications of exempting roadways from storm and surface water charges, in combination with elimination of Storm and Surface Water Utility funding of sidewalks and pathways projects in the Capital Facilities Plan. The Finance Committee recommended staff forward this item to Council for approval.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve the ordinance amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 13.16 regarding storm and surface water regulations on second reading.

Report

Issue:

Whether to approve an ordinance amending storm and surface water regulations.

Staff Contact:

Eric Christensen, Water Resources Director, Public Works, 360.570-3741

Presenter(s):

None - Consent Calendar Item.

Background and Analysis:

Background and analysis has not changed from first to second reading.

Storm and Surface Water Utility staff have reviewed codes relevant to their operations and are proposing revisions. The revisions take into account policies and strategies identified in the City of Olympia Storm and Surface Water Plan (2018).

The majority of the proposed revisions correct inconsistencies in terms. Specific substantial changes

to the chapter include:

- Establishing the Storm and Surface Water Utility's purpose and obligations under the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (MS4 permit);
- Making definitions and regulations regarding prohibited discharges and illicit discharges consistent with requirements of the MS4 permit;
- Making explicit that all properties pay storm and surface water utility rates with the only exemptions being undeveloped properties, City streets, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) highways and private streets;
- Making explicit the two components (stormwater and water quality) of the storm and surface water general facility charge and when they are each applicable;
- Clarifying the process for a commercial property to apply for a lower rate category;
- With the owner or occupant's consent, establishing right of entry for City staff to inspect and repair stormwater facilities; and
- Consistent with the MS4 permit, requiring property owners to inspect and maintain stormwater facilities to function as they were designed.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The proposed revisions will help the Utility maintain compliance with the MS4 permit ordinance and are consistent with the Utility's mission to reduce flooding, improve water quality and protect and enhance aquatic habitat in Olympia.

Options:

1. Approve the ordinance amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 13.16 regarding storm and surface water regulations on first reading and forward to second reading.
2. Advise staff to revise the ordinance before approval. This incorporates Council input while still correcting code deficiencies and inconsistencies.
3. Do not approve the ordinance. This option would not correct identified code deficiencies and inconsistencies.

Financial Impact:

Exempting City streets and WSDOT highways will reduce the Storm and Surface Water Utility annual revenue by a net value of \$130,000. The Utility has resources above reserves to manage this revenue reduction.

Attachment:

Ordinance