

CITY OF MONROE
ORDINANCE NO. 023/2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO TAXATION OF STORMWATER UTILITY PROVIDERS; AMENDING CHAPTER 5.20 MMC PUBLIC UTILITIES; ESTABLISHING A TEN PERCENT UTILITY TAX ON THE GROSS INCOME OF STORMWATER UTILITY PROVIDERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND REFERENDUM; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the public interest is best served by imposing a stormwater utility tax in the amount of ten percent; and

WHEREAS, stormwater utility services are provided by the City of Monroe and are funded in part by user rates and charges; and

WHEREAS, the City currently levies a tax of ten percent on other utilities operating within the City limits, with the monies collected going to support the City's operating expenses, services, and programs;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 5.20 MMC—New Section 5.20.080 Adopted. Chapter 5.20 of the Monroe Municipal Code is hereby amended by the addition of a new Section 5.20.080 to provide in its entirety as follows:

5.20.080 Stormwater utility businesses subject to tax.

Effective January 1, 2026, there is levied upon every business providing stormwater utility service, within or partly within the City limits, a tax equal to ten percent (10%) of the total gross income derived from the operation of such business. The City of Monroe, as a stormwater utility provider, shall be subject to the tax imposed by this chapter.

Section 2. Notice. The Finance Director is authorized and directed to provide notice of the tax imposed under Section 1 of this ordinance as required by RCW 35.92.460.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 4. Referendum and Effective Date. This ordinance is subject to referendum as set forth in RCW 35.21.706. Any duly qualified person may file a referendum petition with the City Clerk within seven days after the passage of this ordinance. In the event that such a petition is filed, the City Clerk shall, within ten days, confer with the petitioner regarding the form and style of the petition, secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from the City Attorney, and assign an identification number to the petition. Thereafter, the petitioner shall have thirty days within which to gather signatures from not less than fifteen percent of the City's registered voters as of the last municipal general election, on petition forms which contain the ballot title and full text of the measure to be referred. The City Clerk shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the referendum measure to the next election ballot within the City or at a special election ballot as provided pursuant to RCW 35.17.260(2). In the event that no referendum petition is timely filed, this ordinance shall take effect eight (8) days after its passage and publication of an approved summary thereof consisting of the title; provided, however, that the tax imposed by Section 5.20.080 shall first apply to gross revenues received on or after January 1, 2026.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Monroe, at a regular meeting held this 18th day of November, 2025.

First Reading: October 28, 2025
Final Reading: November 18, 2025
Published: November 21, 2025
Effective: November 26, 2025

CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON:


Geoffrey Thomas (Nov 21, 2025 14:30:33 PST)

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Jodi Wycoff (Nov 21, 2025 08:12:37 HST)

Jodi Wycoff, City Clerk


Zach Lell (Nov 19, 2025 15:13:59 PST)

J. Zachary Lell, City Attorney

Ord 023 2025 Stormwater Utility Tax (FINAL)

Final Audit Report

2025-11-21

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