

**BEFORE THE PHILADELPHIA WATER, SEWER AND
STORM WATER RATE BOARD**

In the Matter of a Proposed Rate :
Increase in Water, Sewer and : **FY 2019-2021 Rates**
Storm Water Rates :

HEARING EXHIBIT 6

On Behalf of the Public Advocate

May 14, 2018

AN ORDINANCE

To authorize the placing upon City Plan No. 367 of Gregg street, from Bustleton avenue to the property line of the Philadelphia Electric Company; of Barnes street, from a point approximately one hundred eighty feet northeast of Chestnut lane (thirty-three feet wide) to the property line of the Philadelphia Electric Company; of Colima road, from Barnes street to Dale road, and of Dale road, from Colima road to Barnes street; and the placing upon the City plan a right-of-way for drainage purposes.

The Council of the City of Philadelphia hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 11-402 of The Philadelphia Code, the Board of Surveyors of the Department of Streets, is authorized to place upon City Plan No. 367 Gregg street, from Bustleton avenue to the property line of the Philadelphia Electric Company; Barnes street, from a point approximately one hundred eighty feet northeast of Chestnut lane (thirty-three feet wide) to the property line of the Philadelphia Electric Company; Colima road, from Barnes street to Dale road, and Dale road, from Colima road to Barnes street; and to place upon the City plan a right-of-way for drainage purposes.

SECTION 2. This authorization is conditional upon compliance with the following requirements within one year from the date of approval of this ordinance:

(a) The dedication to the City, without cost, and free and clear of all encumbrances, of the beds of the aforesaid Gregg street, Barnes street, Colima road and Dale road, to be placed upon the City plan under authority of this ordinance, and of the unopened portion of the bed of Bustleton avenue, as lying within the lines of property registered in the name of Rae Zimmerman as of August 7, 1936.

(b) The filing of an agreement, satisfactory to the Law Department, by the party or parties affected thereby, granting to the City a right-of-way for drainage purposes

of such width and location to be established by the Water Department. The agreement shall provide that no buildings and/or other structures either overhead, underground, or upon the surface shall be constructed within the lines of the right-of-way or abutting thereon, unless the plans for such structures shall be submitted first to the Water Department for their approval before proceeding with any construction work, and it shall also grant the right-of-access and occupation at any and all times to the officers, agents, employees and contractors of the City for the purposes of construction, reconstruction, maintenance and inspection of the drainage structures to be constructed therein.

(c) The payment of the cost of advertising the public hearing by the Board of Surveyors on the City plan changes authorized by this ordinance.

(d) The payment into the City Treasury of the sum of fifty (\$50) dollars for advertising and costs of this ordinance.

Approved the eighteenth day of April, A. D. 1937.

RICHARDSON DILWORTH,
Mayor of Philadelphia.

AN ORDINANCE

To amend Chapters 13-100 and 13-200 of The Philadelphia Code, pertaining to water rates and sewer rates, by prescribing standards upon which the Water Department shall fix and regulate rates and charges for supplying water and sewage disposal services.

WHEREAS, Section 5-801 of the Home Rule Charter provides that the rates and charges for supplying water and sewage disposal services shall be fixed by the Water Department in accordance with such "standards" as Council may from time to time ordain; and

WHEREAS, "Standards" have been judicially determined to be limitations, criteria, yardsticks, guides, rules, broad outlines and similar definitions which restrict the exercise of delegated power and keep it within fixed and definite channels; and

WHEREAS, Council in prescribing such "standards" desires to establish a definite plan which gives appropriate recognition to essential economic facts before precise rates are fixed by the Water Department; therefore

The Council of the City of Philadelphia hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. Chapter 18-100, pertaining to Water Rates, of The Philadelphia Code, is amended as follows:

CHAPTER 18-100: WATER RATES.

§18-101. STANDARDS.

[(1) The rates which the Water Department fixes for supplying water, pursuant to §5-801 of the Charter, shall be such as to yield to the City at least an amount equal to operating expenses, including sinking fund charges and proportionate charges for all services performed for the Water Department by all officers, departments, boards or commissions of the City. Such rates shall yield not more than the total appropriation from the Water Fund to the Water Department in the Annual Operating Budget, plus a reasonable sum to cover unforeseeable or unusual expenses, or diminutions in expected revenue, less the cost of supplying water to City facilities and fire systems. Such rates shall be equitably apportioned among the various classes of consumers.]

(1) *Councilmanic Examination:*

At least once in every four years Council shall make or cause to be made an independent examination of the current operations and Capital Programming and Budgeting of the Water Department, and in connection therewith employ qualified consultants to advise the Council directly with respect to:

(a) *The formulated policy as prescribed by the Water Department for its capital program and capital budget and sinking fund requirements.*

(b) *The economic soundness of operational methods, universal meter operations, bill collecting and accounts receivable procedures, inventory control and similar factors.*

(c) *The reserves necessary to stabilize rates for 3, 4 and 5 year periods.*

(2) *Standards for Rates and Charges:*

Pursuant to Section 5-801 of the Charter, the Water Department shall fix and regulate rates and charges for supplying water in accordance with the following standards:

(a) *The rates and charges shall be such as shall yield to the City at least an amount equal to operating expenses, including interest and sinking fund charges and proportionate charges for all services performed for the Water Department by all officers, departments, boards or commissions of the City.*

(b) *The rates and charges shall yield not more than the total appropriation from the Water Fund to the Water Department and all other departments and agencies, plus a reasonable sum to cover unforeseeable or unusual expenses, reasonably anticipated cost increases or diminutions in expected revenue, less the cost of supplying water to City facilities and fire systems. Such rates and charges may provide for sufficient revenue to stabilize them over a reasonable number of years.*

(c) *The rates and charges shall be equitably apportioned among the various classes of consumers.*

(d) *The rates and charges shall be just, reasonable and non-discriminatory as to the same class of consumers.*

(e) Special rates and charges, to be designated as "charity water rates and charges," shall be established for public and private schools, institutions of purely public, charity, and places used for actual religious worship.

(f) Special rates and charges, to be designated as "public housing water rates and charges" shall be established for property of the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

(3) Notice of Proposed Changes:

The Water Department shall give written notice to Council at least ninety (90) days in advance of the filing of notice of any proposed change in rates or charges or of any proposed revision in service rates, and shall submit therewith financial, engineering and other data upon which the proposed water rates and charges are based. Proposed revisions of rates to be made within 90 days prior to the enactment of the next annual operating budget shall be submitted to Council forthwith.

(4) Annual Report:

Water rates and charges shall be reviewed by the Water Department at least once a year, and a report thereof shall be submitted to Council.

SECTION 2. Chapter 13-200, pertaining to Sewer Rates, of the Philadelphia Code, is amended as follows:

CHAPTER 13-200: SEWER RATES.

§13-201. STANDARDS.

(1) The rates which the Water Department fixes for supplying sewage disposal services, pursuant to §5-801 of the Charter, shall be such as to yield to the City at least an amount equal to operating expenses, including sinking fund charges and proportionate charges for all services performed for the Water De-

partment by all officers, departments, boards or commissions of the City. Such rates shall yield not more than the total appropriation from the Sewer Fund to the Water Department in the Annual Operating Budget, plus a reasonable sum to cover unforeseeable or unusual expenses, or diminutions in expected revenue, less the cost of supplying sewage disposal services to City facilities. Such rates shall be equitably apportioned among the various classes of consumers.]

(1) Councilmanic Examination:

Council shall from time to time investigate and in connection therewith employ qualified consultants to advise the Council with respect to sewer rates in the same manner as authorized by Section 13-101 (1) with respect to water rates, and to submit their findings directly to Council.

(2) Standards for Rates and Charges:

Pursuant to Section 5-801 of the Charter, the Water Department shall fix and regulate rates and charges for supplying sewage disposal services in accordance with the following standards:

(a) The rates and charges shall be such as shall yield to the City at least an amount equal to operating expenses, including interest and sinking fund charges and proportionate charges for all services performed for the Water Department by all officers, departments, boards or commissions of the City.

(b) The rates and charges shall yield not more than the total appropriation from the Sewer Fund to the Water Department and all other departments and agencies, plus a reasonable sum to cover unforeseeable or unusual expenses or diminutions in expected revenue, less the cost of supplying sewage disposal service to City facilities. Such rates and charges may provide for sufficient revenue to stabilize them over a reasonable number of years.

(c) The rates and charges shall be equitably apportioned among the various classes of consumers.

(d) The rates and charges shall be just, reasonable and non-discriminatory as to the same class of consumers.

(e) The sewer rates and charges for properties which receive water at meter charges, shall be fixed by the Water Department at a stated percentage of the rates and charges for water, classified according to the size of the water meters.

(3) Charge where City water not used:

For properties which use other than City supplied water, the charge for sewage disposal service shall be based upon the quantity of water discharged into the sewer system. A meter or other measuring device satisfactory to the Water Department shall be installed by the consumer and the charge for such service shall be comparable to that charged for sewage disposal service for City water having a meter of equal size.

(4) Charge where City water not discharged into sewage disposal system:

Where commercial and industrial properties which use City water do not discharge all or part of such water into the sewage disposal system of the City, the quantity of such water may be excluded in determining the proper sewage service charge, provided, the minimum sewage service charge, as established by regulation of the Water Department, is not reduced thereby. To determine the amount of such exclusion, the consumer shall install a meter or measuring device satisfactory to the Water Department; provided, that if, in the opinion of the Water Department, it is not feasible to install a meter or measuring device, some other satisfactory method of measuring may be designated by the Water Department.

(5) Annual Report:

Sewer rates and charges shall be reviewed by the Water Department at least once a year, and a report thereof shall be submitted to Council.

Explanation:

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted.
[Italics] indicate new matter added.

Approved the eighteenth day of April, A. D. 1957,

RICHARDSON DILWORTH,

Mayor of Philadelphia.

AN ORDINANCE

To authorize the striking from City Plan No. 119 and the vacation of Warnock street, from Jefferson street to Oxford street; Alder street, from Master street to Oxford street; Delhi street, from Master street to Jefferson street; and Hutchinson street, from Oxford street to a point approximately one hundred eighty-three feet south of Columbia avenue; the reservation and placing upon the City plan certain drainage rights-of-way and providing for their subsequent abandonment under certain terms and conditions.

The Council of the City of Philadelphia hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 11-403 of The Philadelphia Code, the Board of Surveyors of the Department of Streets, is authorized to strike from City Plan No. 119 and vacate Warnock street, from Jefferson street to Oxford street; Alder street, from Master street to Oxford street; Delhi street, from Master street to Jefferson street; and Hutchinson street, from Oxford street to a point approximately one hundred eighty-three feet south of Columbia avenue; and to reserve and place upon the City plan drainage rights-of-way and providing for their subsequent abandonment under certain terms and conditions.

News ([Http://Www.Philly.Com/News](http://www.philly.com/news))

Think you can't park there? Take a closer look at that Philly fire hydrant

Updated: AUGUST 24, 2017 — 12:25 PM EDT



(<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/think-you-cant-park-there-take-a-closer-look-at-that-fire-hydrant-20170824.html?viewGallery=y>). (http://philly.reprintmint.com/006-default.html?src=http%3A%2F%2Fmedia.philly.com%2Fimages%2F250*250%2Fdixon-126097-f-wp-content-uploads-2017-08-781291_be725027c8d4ca2-e1503601615616-1200x801.jpg&verification=http%3A%2F%2Fmedia.philly.com%2Fimages%2Fdixon-126097-f-wp-content-uploads-2017-08-781291_be725027c8d4ca2-e1503601615616-

1200x801.jpg&source=006&title=hydrants25&caption=Philadelphia high-pressure water hydrants, like the wider red plug here, were decommissioned in 2005. The city has more than 25,000 active hydrants that are slimmer and painted orange.)

Buy Photo

View Gallery

JULIA TERRUSO

Philadelphia high-pressure water hydrants, like the wider red plug here, were decommissioned in 2005. The city has more than 25,000 active hydrants that are slimmer and painted orange.

by **Julia Terruso**, Staff Writer [@JuliaTerruso](https://twitter.com/JuliaTerruso) (<http://twitter.com/JuliaTerruso>) |
 ✉ jterruso@phillynews.com ([mailto: jterruso@phillynews.com](mailto:jterruso@phillynews.com))

When Seth Donkochik drives around the city looking for parking, he keeps an eye out for fat, red fire hydrants.

He's not a collector of parking tickets or an antagonist of the Philadelphia Fire Department. Donkochik just knows how to spot the decommissioned plugs, no longer in operation, where it may or may not be safe to park.

"I started parking all across the city, and, lo and behold, I wouldn't get tickets," said Donkochik, who lives in Northern Liberties.

That is, of course, until he did. But he fought both violations, won, and hasn't been ticketed in years, he said.

The hydrants, part of the city's now-defunct [High-Pressure Fire System](http://hiddencityphila.org/2012/03/not-your-ordinary-fire-plugs/) (<http://hiddencityphila.org/2012/03/not-your-ordinary-fire-plugs/>), date to the early 1900s, when they were installed between the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers from Girard Avenue to South Street, mostly in industrial areas where factory fires threatened to burn down the urban landscape.

The city decommissioned the fleet in 2005, but today, 924 plugs are still scattered around the city — faded cast-iron plugs confusing parking-spot hunters and ticket-writers. The Philadelphia Parking Authority trains its officers not to ticket cars in front of the decommissioned hydrants, and a ticket issued there can be challenged and revoked. The Philadelphia Police Department, though, has no written policy instructing officers not to ticket at the old hydrants.

The decommissioned hydrants have three bolts at the top and are fatter and redder than the very-much-in-operation slimmer, orange hydrants. Those distinguishing features aren't that helpful for someone circling the block for a spot.



JULIA TERRUSO / STAFF

One of Philadelphia's fat, red high-pressure water hydrants (right) decommissioned in 2005, sits next to an active hydrant, which is slimmer and orange.

“Oh, I avoid them now. I’d rather be safe than sorry,” said Christina Sirochman, who was ticketed in Fairmount several years ago for parking by one of the hydrants while stopping at her bank. “It seems like everyone has issues on and off, so it’s hard to predict.”

With so many decommissioned hydrants in the city — and a city traffic code prohibiting parking within 15 feet of a hydrant in either direction — there could be hundreds of underused spaces in the city.

The Water Department maintains a list of the blocks that still have the high-pressure hydrants. But because active hydrants often sit right next to the old hydrants, it's hard to tell based on parking violation data how many tickets have been issued in error.

Philadelphia Decommissioned Fire Hydrants

Search:

Street_On ▼	Street_From	Street_To
10TH ST	ARCH ST	RACE ST
10TH ST	ARCH ST	RACE ST
10TH ST	UNK	UNK
10TH ST	DEGREY PL	WALNUT ST
10TH ST	DEGREY PL	WALNUT ST
10TH ST	DEGREY PL	WALNUT ST
10TH ST	DEGREY PL	WALNUT ST
11TH ST	RACE ST	CALLOWHILL ST

Neighbors in Fishtown and Northern Liberties have sporadically started to paint the old hydrants to better distinguish them as inoperable. The city supports the street art so long as the decommissioned hydrants are the only ones getting painted.

“It’s not obvious they don’t work,” said Matt Ruben, president of the Northern Liberties Neighbors Association. “The only thing is anyone can see they look different, but that by itself isn’t enough information to let you know they don’t work. We’re spreading the word, but we also can’t 100 percent guarantee that any PPA meter inspector will definitely not ticket there.”

The PPA says its parking enforcement officers are trained to distinguish the large, red hydrants from the thin, orange ones. Those ticketed in error should contact the agency, PPA spokesman Marty O’Rourke said.

But the Philadelphia Police Department has no such policy.

“There’s nothing on the books with the Police Department,” said Officer Tanya Little of the Public Affairs Division. “I see the different colors, but officers wouldn’t know which hydrants work and which don’t work. They’re charged with enforcing the law on the books.”

To rip out all the old hydrants would cost \$4 million to \$5 million, an undertaking the city is not committed to funding right now, said city spokeswoman Lauren Hitt.

Plus, natural urban erosion could take care of them within the next 50 years, predicts Harry Kyriakodis, a historian and author who researched the high-pressure water-hydrant system as part of a forthcoming book, *Underground Philadelphia*.

The old hydrants get pulled up as part of construction projects, Kyriakodis said. As sidewalks get repaved, the plugs slowly sink into the ground.

They may look lackluster now, but the system is largely credited with saving the city from a great fire in the early and mid-20th century, when many other cities had devastating blazes, Kyriakodis said.

“I think each one is a standing monument,” he said, “to why Philadelphia didn’t burn.”



 **JONATHAN LAI/STAFF WRITER**

One of the decommissioned hydrants in Northern Liberties that has been painted silver.

Kyriakodis said the hydrant system could shoot a two-inch stream of water a distance of 230 feet. The hydrants, no longer connected to a water source and separate from the active system, became unnecessary as fire equipment evolved and building materials became more fire-resistant.

But how to set the record straight for those less informed about the plugs?

“Other than putting a sign that says, ‘It’s OK to park in front of this one,’ I don’t see any solution,” Kyriakodis said. “I don’t think the Parking Authority wants to broadcast that it’s OK to park in front of certain hydrants, because it could be a disaster if people get confused.”

Some people already have.

Kevin Oliver, 31, moved to Northern Liberties two years ago and was told by multiple people that the hydrant on his block no longer worked and was fair game. He went away for a wedding last weekend and came back to two \$76 tickets. He sent over a photo of the hydrant, which a reporter confirmed was actually an active one.

“I don’t think anyone’s intentionally doing anything illegal. People just want a place to park that’s safe,” Oliver said, noting the many car break-ins in his neighborhood. “If there was any way for us to know definitively what’s legal, what’s not legal, I’m sure that would help.”

Staff writer Jonathan Lai contributed to this article.

Published: August 24, 2017 — 4:59 PM EDT

© Copyright (<http://www.philly.com/philly/about/copyright/>)2018 Philadelphia Media Network (Digital), LLC
[Terms of Use & Privacy Policy \(\[http://www.philly.com/philly/about/terms_of_use/\]\(http://www.philly.com/philly/about/terms_of_use/\)\)](http://www.philly.com/philly/about/terms_of_use/)

