



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

1st Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of September 2, 2025
2nd Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of September 9, 2025

DATE: September 2, 2025

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

THRU: Drew Molly, Chief Operations Officer, Corpus Christi Water
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FROM: Nicholas J. Winkelmann, Director of Water Systems and Support Services
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Water Laboratory Charges

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Corpus Christi Code Section 55-54 to update water laboratory charges effective January 1, 2026.

SUMMARY:

This amendment will increase charges on specific laboratory testing to recover the actual cost of providing this service to our customers and ensure competitive pricing with local private laboratories. This amendment also serves to update the list of tests that are performed by the Water Utilities Laboratory. New fees to take effect January 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Laboratory services are primarily utilized by the water, wastewater, and stormwater divisions to meet monitoring and permit requirements. Additionally, nearly 100 external clients utilize the Water Utilities Laboratory services for water and wastewater testing. The proposed increases in testing fees are necessary to cover existing operating costs. Price adjustments also ensure the Water Utilities Laboratory offers competitive pricing with private laboratories in Corpus Christi.

The Water Utilities Laboratory continuously evaluates new parameters and methods that can be added or updated to the laboratory's scope of work. While Sec. 55-54(b) ensures the laboratory can improve services by adding new parameters and methods at any time, this amendment provides an opportunity to update the list of fees to reflect the current list of available tests. Other changes clarify method options and billing procedures. Some tests allow clients to choose which method is performed such as most probable number (MPN) or membrane filtration (MF). Additionally, nitrite and nitrate are billed together as both results are achieved with a single test.

ALTERNATIVES: Do not authorize the amendment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The proposed price changes are anticipated to increase the laboratory's generated revenue by approximately \$100,000 annually.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 4010 – Water Fund
Organization: 30000 – Water Admin
Department: 45 - Water
Account: 324300 & 324310 – Lab Charges

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommend approval of this amendment.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

City Code Section 55-54 Water Utilities Laboratory Charges