

	<p>Agenda Item: Original Ordinance, Second Reading</p> <p>Title: Original Ordinance No. 2116, Amending Laramie Municipal Code Title 13, Division VII, Chapter 13.80, Related to Surface Water Drainage</p>
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Recommended Council MOTION:

I move to approve Original Ordinance No. 2116, on second reading, amending Laramie Municipal Code Title 13, Division VII, Chapter 13.80, related to Surface Water Drainage.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

2025 Adopted Goal – Infrastructure that is Housing-Ready & Business-Ready

The community's success builds upon the publicly operated infrastructure that ensures human health and facilitates business and commerce; healthy infrastructure supports a thriving Laramie.

Action Directed → Implement the business plan for the stormwater management utility as adopted in E.O.1859, L.M.C. 13.80.

Background:

In December 2024, the City established the Surface Water Management Utility (LMC 13.80) following many years of study, planning, and community discussion regarding the need for a sustainable funding mechanism to maintain and improve the city’s stormwater system. The creation of the utility was the culmination of more than a decade of work that began with the 2009 West Laramie Drainage Plan and continued through multiple system assessments and engineering analyses. These studies consistently demonstrated that existing funding was inadequate to support the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of the community’s aging and undersized drainage infrastructure.

The purpose of the utility is to ensure a stable, dedicated funding source to address flooding, system reliability, and water quality concerns. The utility was structured as an enterprise fund, designed to operate much like a business, funded through user fees rather than general taxation, to provide equity, accountability, and long-term financial stability.

Following the initial rollout of the utility in July 2025, members of the public expressed concerns regarding the proposed rate structure, overall affordability, and perceived equity. In response, on August 5, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution 2025-65, which suspended implementation of the business plan and established a 120-day review period. This pause was intended to allow additional time for staff and Council to re-examine rate methodologies, evaluate alternative approaches, and provide clearer communication to the community about the utility. City Council has held three successive public work sessions held on September 9, 2025, October 14, 2025, and November 12, 2025.

On November 18, 2025, Council determined to extend the suspension of the Surface Water Management Program through June 30, 2026, with the adoption of Resolution 2025-93 thus allowing staff time to draft directed amendments for Council consideration.

Based on Council direction provided at the November 12, 2025, work session, staff prepared an ordinance amending LMC 13.80 including the potential modification to the levels of operation and service, and adjustment of fees, for the stormwater utility.

Responsible Staff:

City Manager, Public Works Director and Administrative Services Director