

Resolve 16-11/12

Postponed on 6/18/12

Passage: 7-0 (Coyne and Leeman absent) 7-2-12

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)

KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)

DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)

EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)

CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

## CITY OF PORTLAND

IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)

JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)

JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

### **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN ORDINANCE AND POLICY DOCUMENTS TO CREATE A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM INCLUDING A STORMWATER FEE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland operates and maintains an extensive wastewater system to convey sewage and stormwater runoff away from private properties and public right-of-ways; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland, in addition to regular operations and maintenance costs, must make hundreds of million dollars in upgrades to the wastewater system to eliminate pollution caused by the discharge of untreated sewage, stormwater conveying that sewage, and the stormwater itself into streams, rivers, and Casco Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, neither the federal government nor the state government has provided Portland with any financial assistance to meet any of these costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland's current means of raising funds to pay for operating, maintaining, and upgrading the wastewater system is sewer fees paid by sewer users in the City of Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, the sewer fee rate is increasing and will continue to increase as a result of decreasing volumes of sewer due to water conservation activities and increasing costs related to maintaining and upgrading the wastewater system; and

**WHEREAS**, such sewer fee rate increases will disproportionately impact sewer fee payers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Stormwater Funding Task Force has studied and considered alternatives for funding the operation, maintenance, and upgrades to the wastewater system from either the current sewer fee, property taxes, or a fee based on impervious area (i.e., an area of a property comprised of rooftops, driveways, and parking lots) which generated stormwater runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Stormwater Funding Task Force has concluded that the fairest and most equitable funding alternative available to the City is the implementation of a stormwater fee based on impervious surface to defray the stormwater portions of the costs currently borne entirely by the sewer fee;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Administration shall develop an ordinance and policy documents to create a stormwater management program and fee on or before July 1, 2013: and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Administration shall develop the stormwater fee according to the Stormwater Funding Task Force's recommended criteria; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager shall report to the City Council on or before January 1, 2013 with a status update.