

**Ordinance No. 8491A**

AN ORDINANCE relating to and amending Sections 5 & 6 of Ordinance 62662, as amended, to increase the license or occupation tax rate upon certain public utility and other businesses, occupations, pursuits and privileges imposed by said ordinance; and to impose such tax on an additional city utility (sewerage); and imposing an occupation surtax on the city's water utility.

*8-31-55 filed  
9-8-55 held*

**Council Bill No. 73816**

INTRODUCED AUG 20 1955	BY: <del>James</del> <i>Finney</i>
REFERRED AUG 20 1955	TO: <del>James</del> <i>Finney</i>
REFERRED:	
REPORTED SEP 12 1955	VETO:
SECOND READING SEP 14 1955	PUBLISHED:
THIRD READING SEP 16 1955	VETO SUSTAINED:
SIGNED SEP 19 1955	PASSED OVER VETO:
PRESENTED TO MAYOR SEP 12 1955	APPROVED SEP 13 1955
FILED SEP 14 1955	PUBLISHED SEP 24 1955
ENGROSSED:	BY: <i>J.C.</i>

VOL. 12 PAGE 458

COMPARED BY:

AND

62- -

Water ✓  
Graph for ✓  
on Report ✓

FIRE  
A. S.  
BLDG.  
ENG.  
D. O.  
A. C.  
S. E.  
C. O.  
EIGHT

ORDINANCE NO. 84414

AN ORDINANCE relating to and amending Sections 5 and 6 of Ordinance No. 62662, as amended, to increase the license or occupation tax rate upon certain public utility and other businesses, occupations, pursuits and privileges imposed by said ordinance; and to impose such tax on an additional city utility (sewerage); and imposing an occupation surtax on the city's water utility.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Section 5 of Ordinance No. 62662, entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE relating to, and providing for, a license or occupation tax upon certain businesses, occupations, pursuits and privileges; defining offenses and providing penalties."

approved May 25, 1932, as last amended by Ordinance No. 83422, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO TAX--AMOUNT: That beginning January 1, 1956, unless otherwise specified herein, there are hereby levied upon, and shall be collected from, the persons and the City of Seattle on account of certain business activities engaged in or carried on, annual license fees or occupation taxes in the amounts to be determined by the application of the rates against gross income, as follows:

(a) Upon every person engaged in carrying on a telegraph business, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per tax year.

(b) Upon every person engaged in or carrying on a telephone business, a fee or tax equal to six per cent (6%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per tax year.

(c) Upon every person engaged in or carrying on the business of selling or furnishing gas for hire, a fee or tax equal to five per

cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per tax year.

(d) Upon every person, including the City of Seattle, engaged in or carrying on the business of selling or furnishing water for hire, a fee or tax equal to six per cent (6%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per tax year.

Provided that as to the City of Seattle in the conduct of its municipal water utility, there shall be levied upon and collected therefrom, on account of such activity, an occupation surtax of Five Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$540,000.00) per annum beginning October 1, 1955, payable in monthly installments or otherwise as determined by the Superintendent of Water.

(e) Upon every person, including the City of Seattle, engaged in or carrying on the business of selling or furnishing electric light and power, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per tax year.

(f) Upon every person conducting or engaged in the business of supplying steam heat or power to the public for hire, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per tax year.

(g) Upon every person engaged in the business of operating or conducting a fire alarm system, district telegraph or burglary and

police alarm system for hire, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per tax year.

(h) Upon every person, including the City of Seattle, engaged in the business of operating or conducting a municipal transportation system for transporting persons and property within the city a fee or tax equal to two per cent (2%) of the total gross income from such business during the fiscal year next preceding the year for which the fee or tax is required.

(i) Upon the City of Seattle in respect to the conduct, maintenance and operation of its municipal sewerage system as a public utility under ordinance of said city, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from the sewerage charges provided for and collected by the city under such ordinance, beginning October 1, 1955.

Section 2. That Section 6 of Ordinance No. 62662, as last amended by Ordinance No. 83422, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. CITY OF SEATTLE SUBJECT TO TAX: Subdivisions (d), (e), (h) and (i) of Section 5 shall, so far as permitted by law, be applicable to the City of Seattle, except that said city shall not, as a taxpayer, be required to conform to the other provisions of this ordinance. The tax imposed upon the municipal light and power system of the City of Seattle shall be applicable to the business of such system, both within and without the city.

(To be used for all Ordinances except Emergency.)

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days from and after its passage and approval, if approved by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect at the time it shall become a law under the provisions of the city charter.

Passed by the City Council the 12 day of September, 1955,  
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 12 day of September, 1955.

M. J. Mitchell  
President of the City Council.

Approved by me this 13 day of September, 1955.

Alvan Pomroy  
Mayor.

Filed by me this 13 day of September, 1955.

Attest: A. Ashomas  
City Comptroller and City Clerk.

(SEAL)

Published \_\_\_\_\_

By M. A. Perrine  
Deputy Clerk.

SEP 24 1955

ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL

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THE CITY OF SEATTLE  
LAW DEPARTMENT

515 COUNTY-CITY BUILDING

A. C. VAN SOELEN, CORPORATION COUNSEL

August 29, 1955

CITY PROSECUTOR  
BRUCE MACDOUGALL  
LAW CLERK  
ALFRED L. NEWBOULD  
GEORGE H. HOLT  
SECRETARY  
FAYE FORDE  
CLAIM AGENT  
JOHN F. COOPER

Re: Amendments to utility tax  
Ordinance 62662; and repeal  
of Ordinance 63995 relating  
to street use charge on  
telephone company.

Mr. David Levine, Chairman  
Finance Committee  
City Council

Dear Sir:

We have consolidated two of your requests of August 24, 1955 and herewith transmit two proposed ordinances as follows:

1. An ordinance amending Sections 5 and 6 of Ordinance 62662, as amended, to (a) increase the license or occupation tax on the telephone business to 6% effective January 1, 1956; (b) add to the tax of 6% imposed on the city's water utility an occupation surtax of \$540,000 per annum beginning October 1, 1955, payable in monthly installments or otherwise as determined by the Superintendent of Water; and (c) add a subsection (i) to impose upon the city in respect to the operation of its sewerage system as a public utility, a fee or tax equal to 5% of the total gross income from the sewerage charges provided for, and collected by the city under such ordinance beginning October 1, 1955.

These additions and amendments which are all to Sections 5 and 6 of Ordinance 62662, as amended, are underlined in one bill, which is herewith transmitted.

2. We have also in a separate bill, as requested, provided for the repeal, effective January 1, 1956, of Ordinance 63995 which requires the telephone company to pay a specified sum for the use of the streets in the conduct of its telephone business; and also for the repeal of Ordinance 65353, which relates to payments made by the telephone company pursuant to Ordinance 63995. We have included in the "whereas" clause contained in this bill a recital to the effect that such repeal is suggested by the telephone company because the said ordinance is, among other things, obsolete and that the company will pay 6% instead of 5% as a utility occupation tax under the bill first above referred to.

Yours very truly

*A. C. Van Soelen*  
A. C. VAN SOELEN  
Corporation Counsel

ACV:FF  
Encs

August 24, 1955

Hon. A. C. Van Soelen  
Corporation Counsel  
City of Seattle

Dear Sir:

Will you please prepare the necessary legislation to eliminate the present "Street Use Charge" to the telephone company and to increase the Utility Tax on the company to six percent. The effective date of this ordinance should be January 1, 1956.

Very truly yours,

David Levine  
Chairman, Finance Committee

HE:vm

November 18, 1955

Hon. W. C. Thomas  
City Comptroller  
City of Seattle

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The effective date of Ordinance 84392, insofar as it affects the Water Department, shall be December 1, 1955, which is the same date Ordinance 84392 becomes effective.

Yours very truly,

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Levine, Chairman

CTB:ej

August 24, 1955

Hon. A. C. Van Soelen  
Corporation Counsel  
City of Seattle

Dear Sir:

Will you please prepare the necessary legislation to provide for a Water Utility Surtax of \$50,000, and also a five per cent Utility Tax on the new Sewer Utility. The effective date of this ordinance should coincide with that of the Sewer Service Charge ordinance.

Very truly yours,

David Levine  
Chairman, Finance Committee

HE:vm

# The City of Seattle--Legislative Department

MR. PRESIDENT:

Date Reported  
and Adopted

Your Committee on Finance  
to which was referred C.B. 75816,

SEP 12 1955

relating to and amending Sections 5 & 6 of Ordinance 62662, as amended, to increase the license or occupation tax rate upon certain public utility and other businesses, occupations, pursuits and privileges imposed by said ordinance; and to impose such tax on an additional city utility (sewerage); and imposing an occupation surtax on the city's water utility,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE SAME DO PASS.



Chairman

Chairman

Committee

Committee

ORDINANCE NO. 84414

AN ORDINANCE relating to and amending Sections 5 and 6 of Ordinance No. 82882, as amended, to increase the license or occupation tax rate upon certain public utility and other businesses, occupations, pursuits and privileges imposed by said ordinance; and to impose such tax on an additional city utility (sewerage); and imposing an occupation surtax on the city's water utility.

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF WASHINGTON, } ss.  
COUNTY OF KING

BE IT OBTAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Section 5 of Ordinance No. 82882, entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE relating to, and providing for, a license or occupation tax upon certain businesses, occupations, pursuits and privileges; defining offenses and providing penalties."

approved May 25, 1932, as last amended by Ordinance No. 83423, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO TAX—AMOUNT: That beginning January 1, 1955, unless otherwise specified herein, there are hereby levied upon, and shall be collected from, the persons AND THE CITY OF SEATTLE on account of CERTAIN business activities ENGAGED IN OR CARRIED ON, annual license fees or occupation taxes in the amounts to be determined by the application of the rates against gross income, as follows:

(a) Upon every person engaged in carrying on a telegraph business, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per tax year.

(b) Upon every person engaged in or carrying on a telephone business, a fee or tax equal to SIX per cent (6%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per tax year.

(c) Upon every person engaged in or carrying on the business of selling or furnishing gas for hire, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per tax year.

(d) Upon every person, including the City of Seattle, engaged in or carrying on the business of selling or furnishing water for hire, a fee or tax equal to six per cent (6%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license is required; provided, that the minimum fee or tax shall not be less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per tax year.

PROVIDED THAT AS TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY, THERE SHALL BE LEVIED UPON AND COLLECTED THEREFROM, ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH ACTIVITY, AN OCCUPATION SURTAX OF FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$540,000.00) PER ANNUM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1955, PAYABLE IN MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS OR OTHERWISE AS DETERMINED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER.

(e) Upon every person, including the City of Seattle, engaged in or carrying on the business of selling or furnishing electric light and power, a fee or tax equal to five per cent (5%) of the total gross income from such business in the city during his fiscal year next preceding the tax year for which the license

M. E. Brown, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says that he is the business manager and one of the publishers of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper is a legal newspaper and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of the publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the said Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of said King County.

That the annexed is a true copy of.....

ORDINANCE NO. 84414

....., as it was published in the regular issue (and not in supplement form) of said newspaper on the 24TH day of SEPTEMBER 1955, and that said newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period.

*M. E. Brown*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

24TH day of SEPTEMBER 1955

*E. Campbell*

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle. (This form officially sanctioned by Washington State Press Association.) Affidavit Form D.