

CHAPTER 91

WATER METERS

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91.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the conservation of water and facilitate the equitable distribution of charges for water service among customers.

91.02 WATER USE METERED. All water furnished customers shall be measured through meters furnished by the City, paid for by the customer, and installed by a competent plumber.

91.03 FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS; EXCEPTION. Fire sprinkler systems may be connected to water mains by direct connection without meters under the direct supervision of the Superintendent. No other open, unmetered connection shall be incorporated in the system, and there shall be no valves except a main control valve at the entrance to the building which must be sealed open.

91.04 LOCATION OF METERS. All meters shall be so located that they are easily accessible to meter readers and repairmen and protected from freezing. The City reserves the right to require remote reading meters and may require the same at locations to be determined by the City, accessible for reading purposes. The City may further require the installation of a remote reading meter in the event that access has been denied to the City Meter Reader for a period of three months. In the event that access has been denied, the expense of said meter shall be charged against the customer. Costs relative to the replacement of existing meters for which there has been prior payment, other than those required by the City by reason of denial of access, shall be paid for by the City.

91.05 METER SETTING. The property owner shall provide all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including suitable valves on both the discharge side and influent side of the meter. Meter pits may be used only upon approval of the Superintendent and shall be of a design and construction approved by the Superintendent.

91.06 METER COSTS. The full cost of any meter shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter by the City, or, at the sole option of the City, the property owner or customer may be required to purchase and install such meter in accordance with requirements established by the City.

91.07 METER REPAIRS. Whenever a water meter owned by the City is found to be out of order the Superintendent shall have it repaired. If it is found that damage to the meter has occurred due to the carelessness or negligence of the customer or property owner, then the property owner shall be liable for the cost of repairs.

91.08 RIGHT OF ENTRY. The Superintendent shall be permitted to enter the premises of any customer at any reasonable time to read, remove, or change a meter.

91.09 METERS SERVING MOBILE HOME PARKS. The City shall require one meter accessible for reading purposes for each mobile home park, which meter shall be purchased and installed at the cost of the mobile park owner/operator. All such meters shall meet the specifications of the City and shall be maintained by the mobile home park owner in a manner satisfactory to the City. Charges for water used shall be based upon this meter and shall include all water passing through said meter, regardless of subsequent usage.

91.10 RESALE PROHIBITED. Resale of any water passing through City meters, other than to mobile home park residents, is hereby prohibited unless prior approval has been received from the Council.

91.11 FIRE PROTECTION IN MOBILE HOME PARKS. Fire protection within mobile home parks may be provided by the City through the use of by-pass valves and the cost of fighting such fires and the furnishing of the water shall be borne by the City.

91.12 IRRIGATION SYSTEM METERING. The purpose of this section is to provide a means and method for the installation, metering, and billing for water used for irrigation purposes so as to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the City.

1. Definition. For the purpose of this section, the owner of land who causes an irrigation water meter to be installed under the provisions of this section is referred to as the “builder,” and such term includes the heirs, successors or assigns of such owner.

2. Construction by Owner. In the event an owner of land within the corporate limits desires to construct an irrigation system (which is a system that returns the water to the ground as opposed to the City sewer system) or to separately meter water used for irrigation purposes, the owner, at said owner’s expense, may do so after making proper application to the City and receiving a permit to install such a water meter, in accordance with the following:

A. Meter Costs. The full cost of any meter shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter by the City or, at the sole option of the City, the property owner or customer may be required to purchase and install such meter in accordance with requirements established by the City. Irrigation meters shall be installed by the City or a licensed plumber.

(Ord. 705 – Mar. 17 Supp.)

B. Irrigation Meters. Said meters shall be installed not more than four (4) feet from the prime meter and shall be installed in series or beyond in direction of flow from the prime meter.

C. If an underground irrigation system is installed, said system shall include an approved backflow preventer.

D. Meter Repairs. Whenever a water meter is found to be out of order, the Superintendent shall have it repaired. If it is found that damage to the meter has occurred due to the carelessness or negligence of the customer or

property owner, then the property owner shall be liable for the costs of repairs.

E. Type of Water. The owner shall install a meter with appropriate isolation valves and said meter shall be approved by the City prior to installation. The meter system shall be arranged so that all readings for the purpose of billing by the City shall be on a deductive basis for all water used by the irrigation system.

F. Minimum Charge. In addition to any regular charges for water used, the owner shall pay a \$1.00 per month charge for the additional meter.

3. Eligibility. Only residents of the City are eligible to avail themselves of the benefits of this section. All individuals or property owners receiving water from the City, but not residents of the City, shall not be eligible to receive any reduction on their billing statement as the result of the ordinance codified by this section.

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