

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. Meters for new homes will be furnished at the customer's expense; thereafter the meter will be replaced and/or maintained at the expense of the City.

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 Public Works Director. No open connection can 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 repairmen and protected from freezing. New businesses and homes must have remote readers.

91.05 METER SETTING. The property owner shall have provided all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including a globe type valve on the discharge side of the meter. Meter pits may be used only upon approval of the Public works Director and of a design and construction approved by him.

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 is found to be out of order the Public works Director 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 Public Works Director shall be permitted to enter the premises of any customer at any reasonable time to read, remove, or change a meter.

91.09 METER TESTING. The Public Works Director or any designee shall make a test of the accuracy of any water meter at any time when requested in writing. If it is found that such meter overruns to the extent of 5% or more, the cost of the test shall be paid by the City and a refund shall be made to the customer for overcharges collected since the last known date of accuracy, but not more than 5% of the total water bill and not for a longer period than 3 months. If the meter is found to be accurate or slow or less than 5% fast, the user shall pay a testing charge of \$25.00.

91.10 IRRIGATION METERS. For the purpose of this section, a “Prime meter” measures water disposed of through the public water and sanitary sewer systems. An “irrigation meter” may also be installed, for residential or commercial use, to measure water that is not disposed of through the public sanitary sewer system. The water measured by an irrigation meter may include water for swimming pools, watering yards, watering gardens, production purposes or other similar uses. The procedure for installation of an irrigation meter is as follows:

1. The irrigation meter shall be obtained from the City. The cost of the original meter, installation of meter, including any electrical wiring, shall be borne by the owner of the property to be served. Replacement of the original meter will be of no additional cost to the property owner. Rental properties shall pay a meter deposit for all irrigation meters.
2. The approval for installation of an irrigation meter shall be enforced at any time there is a change in occupancy, or a change in billing for any irrigation meter within the City, whether or not the meter is removed and reinstalled. An irrigation meter may be shut off at any time any user fails to send or bring in the meter reading or fails to pay promptly any charges for water service within the City, after appropriate warnings. The irrigation meter may be shut off at any time due to leakage in the irrigation system, misuse of water, or high water usage in the system.
3. Irrigation meters on residential properties shall be installed not more than four (4) feet from the prime meter and shall be installed parallel to the prime meter. Location of irrigation meters on commercial properties shall be preapproved by the Public works Director.
4. Any request for the installation of an irrigation meter shall be directed to the Public Works Director.
5. The irrigation meter installation must be approved by the Public Works Director. The water lines must be separately valved and run directly to point of distribution/ consumption.
6. The Public Works Director shall review the request and make a determination that the separate line will not discharge into the sanitary sewer system of the City.

7. Shut-off valves are required ahead of the irrigation meter and must be within one foot of the meter.
8. A backflow preventer (approved by the City) to protect against contamination of the water system must be installed on the inlet side of the irrigation meter.
9. The irrigation meter must be installed horizontal to the floor with the arrow of the meter being in the direction of the flow of water.
10. A minimum billing of 3,000 gallons a month shall be charged for water that is registered through the irrigation meter and all other amounts shall be per current rate schedule.
11. Water service rates and charges are subject to change at the beginning of every fiscal year or at any time the Council deems necessary. A schedule of all rates and charges are available at City Hall.
12. Upon request to discontinue service of irrigation water, the Public works Director shall have the water meter removed and lines capped. A twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) service charge will be made for reconnection.

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