

CHAPTER 8 PUBLIC UTILITIES

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ORDINANCE 800 WATER USE AND CHARGES

Section 800.01: Provisions Binding.

The provisions established by this Section shall apply to every person who is supplied with water through the water system of the City. For purposes of this Section, a person supplied with City water shall be known as a "consumer" or "user."

Section 800.02: Applications for Service; Account in Owner's Name.

Any person desiring water service from the City water system for premises not previously connected to the system shall make application to the City Clerk on a form provided by the City. Such application shall contain a description of the property to be served and shall be filed with the City Clerk. Each water consumer shall have a separate account with the City for payment for water services, which accounts shall be carried in the name of the record owner of the property, regardless of whether or not the record owner is the water consumer.

Section 800.03: Issuance of Permit and Fee.

Upon receiving an application, the City Clerk shall determine if the property may be connected to the City water system, and whether there are delinquent water bills or real estate taxes on the property. If the property may be connected and there are no delinquencies, the Clerk shall issue a Water Access Permit upon payment of the Water Access Charge as set forth in the Schedule of Fees, Section 215.

Section 800.04: Connections, Character of Pipe.

All service pipe connected with the water system from the water mains to the water meter shall be of copper pipe 3/4 inch or larger inside diameter.

Section 800.05: Water Meters, Access to Meters.

The water furnished by the City shall be measured by water meters. The main water meter to the property shall be furnished by the City. Duly authorized employees of the City shall have the authority to enter upon any public or private premises for purposes of inspecting or reading water meters at any reasonable hour with the consent of the property owner or an administrative warrant. Every water consumer shall have a City approved and furnished water meter installed and properly operating or be subject to utility termination.

Section 800.06: Replacement of Meters.

The City Council may hold property owners responsible for the replacement cost of meters that are carelessly or intentionally damaged and are not covered under the manufacturer's warranty or normal wear and tear. The City Council may require consumers to upgrade or replace water meters at the consumer's expense to ensure accurate measurement of water usage. The charges for water meters shall be set forth in the Schedule of Fees, Chapter 215.

Section 800.07: Water Service Charges.

The charges for water usage shall be determined by the City Council pursuant to the provisions of this Section, and shall be set forth in the Schedule of Fees, Chapter 215.

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Section 800.08: Basis for Water Service Charges.

The water service charges for the use of, and for service supplied by, the City's water facilities shall consist of a base rate (minimum) charge, a usage charge and a water access charge.

Section 800.09: Base Rate (Minimum) Charge.

A base rate (minimum) charge shall be applied to all users, regardless of the volume of water use. The amount of the base rate (minimum) charge shall be determined by the Council from time to time. All properties connected to the water system shall pay the base rate (minimum) charges regardless of whether the service is used or not.

Section 800.10: Basic User Charge.

The base rate (minimum) charge for the use of, and for service supplied by, the City water facilities shall be set in an amount sufficient to cover the City's cost of providing service, plus replacement cost. The adequacy of the base rate (minimum) charge shall be determined by the City Council and reviewed by the City Auditor in its annual audit report. The base rate (minimum) charge shall be revised periodically to reflect changes in debt service or in operation and maintenance costs, including replacement costs.

The usage charge shall be based on usage as recorded by water meters.

The usage charge shall be added to the base rate (minimum) water charge for persons whose water use exceeds the volume set by the Council for the base rate (minimum) water charge.

Section 800.11: User Recovery Cost.

Each residential household, commercial complex, commercial business or industry shall pay to the City the established amount set forth by the base rate (minimum) charge for the proper operation of the water plant, as set forth in the Schedule of Fees, Chapter 215. Every building, whether occupied or vacant, is subject to this base rate (minimum) charge. Any established multi-dwelling shall make payment in the amount established by the base rate (minimum) charge and the additional unit charge. The payment shall be made unless the water service is discontinued and the connection is removed.

Section 800.12: Separate Connections and Branch Services.

Each property served by City water shall have a separate and distinct service connection and a separate meter, unless the City Council, upon application by the consumer, adopts a resolution permitting a branch service.

Where permission is granted for a branch service, each branch service shall be equipped with its own stop deck, curb stop, waste cock, and separate water meter. The material and size of all branch service components shall meet City specifications. If the water main is located in a street, the branch service shall be placed as close as practicable to the curb. If the water main is located in an alley, the branch service shall be placed within one foot of the alley line.

Every service connection, and every branch service, shall have one or more stop cocks and waste cocks connected at some point between the water main and the meter, so that water to the property can be shut off and the meter and all plumbing fixtures entirely drained. The City will do locates of the City main water line and stop cocks and waste cocks used for shutting off the water. At their discretion, the City may give direction to the property owner as to where the owner's water line may run on their property. The City will not do any paint markings for locates on private property.

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Section 800.13: Connection and Maintenance Responsibility.

The property owner is responsible for the installation of all water lines from the main to the residence or other structure. If a service is existing, the connection shall be made at the curb stop. All connections and repairs shall be made according to City specifications and inspected by a City inspector or the City's Public Works Department. Repairs and maintenance of water lines from the main to the residence or other structure shall be the responsibility of the property owner, including any necessary upgrades and street repairs. The property owner is also responsible for maintaining the lines in a free-flowing condition from the main to the residence or other structure, including but not limited to, freeze-ups. Repairs from the main to the curb stop due to non-freeze-ups shall be the responsibility of the City. Any and all necessary repairs to the curb stop box shall be the responsibility of the City.

Section 800.14: No Wells.

No person may use any private well, sand point, or source of water other than water provided by the City municipal water system. Every residence, business, and structure shall connect to the municipal water supply system so long as it is available.

Section 800.15: Exceptions for Wells on Land Containing Harvestable Crops and Lawn Irrigation

An owner of property within the City that consists of a minimum of one (1) acre of land containing harvestable crops and/or an area of such size to be used as green space, shall make application on a form provided by the City requesting City Council approval to drill a private well; upon making the determination that the need to irrigate their property exists. The City Council shall take into consideration the extent to which supplying City water to the property for the purposes described in this section is considered to no longer be feasible and therefore not a beneficial use of treated water. Upon approval by the City Council, the applicant shall contact and make application to a Minnesota Department of Health licensed contractor and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The City must receive copies of all documents submitted and received by MDH and DNR. The applicant and contractor shall at all times remain in compliance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103I and Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 4725.

Such water supply must not be used for drinking water purposes.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in this section may result in suspension or revocation of the right to utilize the private well. The private well shall be properly abandoned if the property becomes residential in use.