

## 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 and to describe procedures for reading water meters and billing water utility customers.

**91.02 WATER USE METERED.** All water furnished customers shall be measured through meters furnished by the City and installed by 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 Superintendent. 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.** The official water meter is located inside the house or building at the point where the water enters the house or building. There is a secondary water meter located on the outside of each house or building. The water meter inside shows the accurate reading for number of gallons used. The meter on the outside, in most cases, shows the accurate amount of water used, but in some cases the outside meter is not an accurate reading of the water used because of wear and tear, weather conditions, warping, intentional damage having been done to the meter, or insects in the water meter.

**91.05 ADJUSTMENTS TO METERS.** Each water utility customer shall be billed monthly based on the reading of the water meter located outside the house or building. This shall be a provisional bill; the final bill shall be determined with the City inspecting the water meter located inside the house or residence. Adjustments will be made between the outside water meter and the inside water meter. If the inside meter shows more gallons of water used than the outside meter, then the customer shall be billed for the additional amount. If the outside water meter shows more water consumed than the inside meter, then the City shall make a refund to the customer. When a customer moves from his or her residence, the City shall read the water meter located inside the house or building. The final adjustment shall go back in time no more than five (5) years from the date of the original provisional bill. Bills for sewer utility customers shall be provisional and subject to adjustment in the same manner as bills for the water utility.

**91.06 METER SETTING AND MAINTENANCE.** Meters shall be furnished and maintained by the City. All service pipes, connections and fixtures shall be furnished and installed by the customer at the customer's own expense, and the customer shall keep the same in good repair and prevent leakage and waste of water.

**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, or the meter is not owned by the City, 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 METER ACCURACY AND TESTS.** The Superintendent, or an assistant, shall calibrate meter equipment whenever requested by the customer, but not more frequently than once every twelve (12) months. The request shall be accompanied by a deposit of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). A meter registering not more than two percent (2%) above or below the test result shall be deemed to be accurate. The customer shall pay the City for the cost of testing. If the cost is more than the deposit, the customer shall pay the additional amount to the City. If the cost is less than the deposit, the City shall refund the difference to the customer. If the meter is found to overrun more than 2%, the City shall pay the cost of the test. The City shall pay a refund to the customer for the testing deposit and for overcharges collected for the three (3) months previous to such test in accordance with the percentage of inaccuracy found by the tests. If the meter is found to underrun more than 2%, the customer shall pay the cost of the test. The customer shall also pay for the undercharges for three months previous to such test in accordance with the percentage of inaccuracy found by the tests. If any meter fails to register for any period, the amount of water used during such period shall be deemed to be the amount of water delivered in the corresponding period immediately prior to the failure unless the City and customer agree upon a different amount.

**91.10 SEPARATE METER FOR OUTSIDE WATERING.** (Repealed by Ordinance No. 2022-01 – Sep. 22 Supp.)

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