

## 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 available through the City and installed by City personnel or an authorized agent.

**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 remain in the open position. The charge for a fire sprinkler system shall be set by Council resolution.

**91.04 LOCATION OF METERS.** All meters shall be so located that they are easily accessible and protected from freezing.

**91.05 METER SETTING.** The property owner shall provide all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including a valve on the discharge side of the meter. Meter pits will not be allowed unless prior written permission is given by the Superintendent.

**91.06 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. Service calls resulting from improper meter installation shall be billed to the customer or property owner, based on fees established by resolution of the Council.

**91.07 RIGHT OF ENTRY.** The Superintendent or designee shall be permitted to enter the premises of any customer at any reasonable time to read, remove, or change a meter. The City reserves the right to set or remove a meter or change its location whenever it is deemed advisable to do so.

**91.08 METER CONNECTION FEE.** There shall be a fee charged to the property owner for each new connection of a water meter in accordance with the schedule of such fees approved by resolution of the Council. Meter connection fees shall be billed when a meter is set by Water Department personnel or authorized agent unless other prior arrangements are made with the Superintendent.

**91.09 METER TESTING.** The Superintendent 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 set by resolution of the Council.

**91.10 OUTSIDE WATER USAGE METERS.** The City will install a second meter for outside water usage in accordance with the guidelines set by the City Administrative Policy for Water Meters and in such a way that it can be easily determined that only water used outside and not going into the sanitary sewer system is running through the meter. The plumber shall notify the Superintendent when the plumbing has been installed and is ready for meter installation by the City. No person shall intentionally break the seal on a water meter that has been sealed by the City Water Department. If a seal is accidentally broken, the owner shall report the incident to the City Water Department within twenty-four (24) hours. There shall be a fee charged to the property owner for this service in accordance with the schedule of such fees approved by resolution of the Council.

**91.11 CHARGES WHEN METERS FAIL TO REGISTER.** In cases where meters fail to register the amount of water passing through them by being stopped up or from any cause whatever, the quantity used shall be determined and the charge made based upon the same period from the previous year.

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