

CHAPTER 7

UTILITIES

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SECTION 7.05. Repair of Damaged Services.

As leaking watermain presents a risk of infiltration into the public water system, causing potential contamination and damage to the citizens of the City of Waseca, and because leaking water systems may result in damage to roadbeds in the public rights-of-way, leaking water services are hereby declared to be a public nuisance and the City, in the exercise of its discretion, may enter upon private property to summarily abate the same.

A. The Water Utility may make necessary service repairs. A fee based on time, truck charges and material will be charged to the property owner.

B. The Water Utility will make necessary water service repairs to owner-occupied residential property up to and including four-plexes. The established fee in Section 7.12, Item 3, shall be a not-to-exceed amount based on actual expenses and shall apply only to such properties.

C. Pursuant to Section 7.08 A.2., the commercial and industrial property owner shall maintain the water service line. When the Water Utility effects emergency repairs, a fee based on labor, equipment charges, and material will be charged to the property owner.

SECTION 7.08. Provision of Water Service.

A. General Information

1. City Water Utility provides, installs and maintains all City-owned mains, valves, valve boxes, and hydrants.
2. Property owner owns, installs and maintains water service line from mains to building, including the outside water shutoff valve and box.
3. Whenever the owner of a lot or subdivision served by water service line(s) alters the use of the lot or subdivision causing existing water service line(s) to no longer be utilized, the owner is required to have the service line(s) disconnected as follows:
 - a. Any parcel of land where the use is changing where there is no need for a water service, such as a parking lot, the service(s) shall be disconnected at the City-owned water main. The tee shall be plugged or capped, rodded to the main and blocked according to "Standard Utility Specifications" as published by the City Engineers Association of Minnesota, except as modified by the City Engineer.
 - b. Any parcel of land where the use will involve the need for a water service(s), such as the construction of a new building, a service shall be disconnected at the curb-stop shut-off valve. The shut-off valve shall be in leak-proof operating order or shall be replaced at

the property owner's expense. The water service line shall be removed from the discharge end of the shut-off valve. The discharge end of the shut-off valve shall be sealed to prevent contamination from entering the shut-off valve. The extendible portion of the curb-stop box shall remain in place and the riser cap shall be flush with the grade. If the curb-stop box is inoperable or leaks, it shall be replaced at the owner's expense.

4. If the property owner fails to disconnect the service line(s) the City shall authorize the work and charge the cost back to the property owner.
5. Whenever it is desired to change the water service line(s), no connection shall be permitted until the old (pre-existing) water service(s) have been abandoned at the water main by removing the service line(s) at the corporation(s) and capping the corporation(s) or securing the tee, as appropriate.
6. Whenever a lead service is encountered, it shall be replaced from the main to the building at the property owner's expense.

(Jan 18, 2000)

B. Residential Water Metering

1. Property owner purchases meter mounting device from utility at time of plumbing and is furnished installation instructions. Property owner installs mounting device at his/her expense.
2. The water meter is furnished and maintained by the utility. A monthly meter rental fee may apply, based on the current utility billing fee schedule. The property owner installs the meter at his/her expense in new installations, except as provided in Section 7.09, Repair of Damaged Water Meters. Inaccurate or worn out City meters are repaired or replaced by the Water Utility at no cost to the property owner.

C. Commercial and Industrial Water Metering

1. Rental meters are furnished by the utility or a utility approved equivalent may be purchased by the customer. Monthly rental charges are based on meter size. Please refer to the current utility billing fee schedule.

D. Building Water During Construction

1. Building water during construction is charged on a one-time flat fee basis before meter is installed. Refer to Section 7.12, Item 7 for the appropriate fee. The fee shall be collected through the building permit administrative

process.

SECTION 7.09. Repair of Damaged Water Meters. In cases where a water meter freezes, repairs will be charged back to the customer. If the meter is beyond repair, the customer will be charged for materials and labor to install a new meter. In all other cases of meter damage, unless the utility is expressly at fault, the customer shall be charged a repair fee.

SECTION 7.10. Special Service Requests. Installation of seasonal meters will be provided by the utility at a fee determined by the existing labor wage schedule. Seasonal or temporary water shutoffs are the responsibility of the property owner or their plumber. Under emergency circumstances, the City will turn off water to a private property with no cost being charged to the property owner.

SECTION 7.12. Water Utility and Electric Utility Miscellaneous Fee Schedule

1. Electric Meter Connection Fee - Minimum \$10.00
2. Temporary electric service connection fee - \$10.00
3. Water service repair provided to properties described in Section 7.05.B shall not exceed \$420.00 and shall be based on actual costs. This fee may be billed to the homeowner in equal monthly installments at the homeowner's request. Late payment after the invoiced due date is subject to \$5.00 late payment penalty.
4. Weekend service call - No fee for property owners except as provided for under Section 7.09 Repair of Damaged Water Meters. The Utility reserves the right to schedule a service request during the Monday through Friday work week.
5. Rental meter fee - See current utility billing fee schedule.
6. Department Equipment Rental - See Section 7.16 Utility Equipment Rental Rates
7. Building water during construction - A one-time fee shall be twice the current residential minimum monthly bill for properties described in Section 7.05B or four times the current minimum monthly bill for other residential property and for commercial and industrial property. This fee shall be administered with the Building Permit administrative process.
8. Locating services will be done at no charge to the property owner.
9. In the event of a need to enter property on an emergency basis because of a leaking water service, the City will only repair the service and backfill any excavation. The property owner shall be responsible for landscape restoration. The City will not be liable for any damage or injury to any trees, shrubs, plantings, or landscaping installations such as borders, sprinklers, or walkways.

SECTION 7.13. Use of Water Hydrants. The following regulations apply:

1. Only City personnel are authorized to use City water hydrants for the filling of water tank trucks. Employees will of course follow all appropriate safety measures when doing so.
2. Contractors performing work for a City project are allowed to obtain water at the City Garage fire hydrant when said hydrant is equipped with a reduced pressure zone (RPZ) backflow preventer. The contractor is required to operate the RPZ valve and may not operate the hydrant valve. The hydrant valve shall be operated only by a City employee. Contractors will not be charged for this project service.
3. Contractors may have access to other hydrants at the direction of the Water Superintendent. It is the City project representative's responsibility to insure an approved RPZ unit is used. The contractor is required to operate the RPZ valve and may not operate the hydrant valve. Contractors working on City projects will not be charged for this project service. All other contractors will be charged in accordance with the existing labor wage schedule. **Special circumstances may allow use of an alternate backflow/back pressure preventer when authorized by the Water Superintendent or a designated representative.**
4. Private non-contractor requests to obtain City water shall be directed to a business with an appropriate overhead dispenser. The City RPZ unit located on the City Garage fire hydrant may be used to fill private tanks when the hydrant water meter is monitored by the City employee authorizing the hydrant use. Billing information and meter readings shall be forwarded to the Utility Billing Department by the City employee monitoring hydrant usage.

Should any of the officers of the Police Department observe use of our fire hydrants by non-city employees they are to advise individuals to cease and provide warning that future violations will result in a citation.

The reason for this regulation is the Minnesota Department of Health prohibits private parties from filling from City water hydrants because of the possibility of back-siphoning of chemicals or hazardous materials into the City Water system. In addition, individuals using the City's water system should be paying for the water used.

SECTION 7.19 LIMITING SEWER AND WATER SERVICES TO CITY LIMITS

The City shall limit the provision of City sanitary sewer and water utility services to properties within the City limits.

(Adopted 8/7/01)

