

Section 615 – Water Charges and Rates

Section 615:00. Water Charges and Rates Established.

Subd. 1. Rates and charges for water use and services are hereby established for connection into the municipal water system and the use thereof in the amounts set forth in the subdivisions which follow.

Subd. 2. The following quarterly water rents and rates shall be, and the same hereby are continued as heretofore adopted, for usage of municipal water works:

- (a) Minimum for up to 7,000 gallons ----- \$35.70
- (b) Excess over 7,000 gallons ----- \$00.51 per 100 gallons or  
portion thereof.

Subd. 3. The procedure for measuring the usage of water shall be as follows.

- (a) The usage shall be measured by meters.
- (b) The procedure for determining method of meter readings, and estimate billings shall be left to the office of the City Clerk-Treasurer.

Subd. 4. Accounts in the name of owner. All accounts shall be carried in the name of the owner. The owner shall be liable for water supplied to his property, whether he is occupying the property or not and any charges unpaid shall be a lien upon the property.

Subd. 5. Bills for Service. Water and sewer service charges shall be billed together. Bills shall be mailed to the customers quarterly and shall specify the water consumed and the sewer and water charges in accordance with the rates set out in this chapter.

Subd. 6. Delinquent Accounts. All charges for water and sewer services shall be due on the quarterly due date, that is stamped on the billing, and shall be delinquent 30 days thereafter. The City shall endeavor to collect delinquent accounts promptly. In any case, where satisfactory arrangements for payment have not been made, the maintenance department may, after the procedural requirements of Subdivision 7 have been compelled with, discontinue service to the delinquent customer by shutting off the water at the stop box. When water service to any premises has been discontinued, a \$50.00 disconnect fee shall be applied to the service bill. Service shall not be restored except upon payment of all delinquent bills including the \$50.00 disconnect fee and a reconnection fee of \$50.00. Delinquent accounts shall be certified to the City Clerk-Treasurer who shall prepare an assessment roll each year providing for assessment of the delinquent amounts against the respective properties served. The assessment roll shall be delivered to the Council for adoption on or before October 1 of each year for certification to the County Auditor for collection along with taxes. Such action is optional and may be subsequent to taking legal action to collect delinquent accounts.

- (a) As an alternative, the City may, at its discretion, file suit in a civil action to collect such amounts as are delinquent and due against the occupant, owner, or user of the real estate, and shall collect as well as all attorney’s fees incurred by the City in filing the civil action. Such attorney’s fees shall be fixed by order of the court.
- (b) In addition to all penalties and costs attributable and chargeable to recording notices of a lien or filing a civil action, the owner or user of the real estate being serviced by the water department shall be liable for interest upon all unpaid balances at the rate of 10% per annum.

Subd. 7. Procedure for shutoff of service. Water shall not be shut off under Subdivision 6 or for violation of rules and regulations affecting utility service until notice and an opportunity for a hearing have been given the occupant of the premises involved. The notice shall be personally served or sent by certified mail, and shall state that if payment is not made before a day stated in the notice but not less than 10 days after the date on which the notice is given, the water supply to the premises will be shut off. The notice shall also state that the occupant may, before such date demand a hearing on the matter, in which case the supply will not be cut off until after the hearing is held. If the customer requests a hearing before the date specified, a hearing shall be held on the matter by the City Council at least one week after the date on which the request is made. If as a result of the hearing, the City Council finds that the amount claimed to be owing is actually due and unpaid and that there is no legal reason why the water supply of the delinquent customer may not be shut off in accordance with this ordinance, the City may shut off the supply.

Subd. 8. Effective date of water rates. The water rates described above shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 227, adopted on November 21, 1989.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 237, adopted on September 16, 1991.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 249, adopted on September 8, 1992.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 274, adopted on October 1, 1996.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 293, adopted on September 7, 1999.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 308, adopted on November 7, 2000.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 326, adopted on September 3, 2002.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 340, adopted on September 2, 2003.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 352, adopted on August 31, 2004.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 366, adopted on September 20, 2005.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 368, adopted on August 29, 2006.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 379, adopted on August 29, 2007.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 384, adopted on September 16, 2008.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 403, adopted on August 21, 2012.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 411, adopted on November 5, 2013.

Section 615:00 was amended by Ordinance Number 424 adopted on December 6, 2016.