

WATER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 90 - WATER SERVICE SYSTEM.....	441
CHAPTER 91 - WATER METERS	451
CHAPTER 92 - WATER RATES.....	459

CHAPTER 90

WATER SERVICE SYSTEM

90.01 Definitions	90.10 Installation of Water Service Pipe
90.02 Superintendent's Duties	90.11 Responsibility for Water Service Pipe
90.03 Mandatory Connections	90.12 Failure to Maintain
90.04 Abandoned Connections	90.13 Curb Valve
90.05 Permit	90.14 Interior Valve
90.06 Compliance with Plumbing Code	90.15 Inspection and Approval
90.07 Plumber Required	90.16 Completion by the City
90.08 Excavations	90.17 Shutting Off Water Supply
90.09 Tapping Mains	90.18 Operation of Curb Valve and Hydrants

90.01 DEFINITIONS. The following terms are defined for use in the chapters in this Code of Ordinances pertaining to the Water Service System:

1. "Combined service account" means a customer service account for the provision of two or more utility services.
2. "Customer" means, in addition to any person receiving water service from the City, the owner of the property served, and as between such parties the duties, responsibilities, liabilities, and obligations hereinafter imposed shall be joint and several.
3. "Superintendent" means the Public Works Director of the City or any duly authorized assistant, agent, or representative.
4. "Water main" means a water supply pipe provided for public or community use.
5. "Water service pipe" means the pipe from the water main to the building served.
6. "Water system" or "water works" means all public facilities for securing, collecting, storing, pumping, treating, and distributing water.

90.02 SUPERINTENDENT'S DUTIES. The Superintendent shall supervise the installation of water service pipes and their connection to the water main and enforce all regulations pertaining to water services in the City in accordance with this chapter. This chapter shall apply to all replacements of existing water service pipes as well as to new ones. The Superintendent shall make such rules, not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, as may be needed for the detailed operation of the water system, subject to the approval of the Council. In the event of an emergency the Superintendent may make temporary rules for the protection of the system until due consideration by the Council may be had.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

90.03 MANDATORY CONNECTIONS. All residences and business establishments within the City limits intended or used for human habitation, occupancy or use shall be connected to the public water system, if it is reasonably available and if the building is not furnished with pure and wholesome water from some other source.

90.04 ABANDONED CONNECTIONS. When an existing water service is abandoned or a service is renewed with a new tap in the main, all abandoned connections with the mains shall be turned off at the corporation stop and made absolutely watertight.

90.05 PERMIT. Before any person makes a connection with the public water system, a written permit must be obtained from the City. The application for the permit shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, the name and address of the person who will do the work, and the general uses of the water. If the proposed work meets all the requirements of this chapter and if all fees required under this chapter have been paid, the permit shall be issued. Work under any permit must be completed within 60 days after the permit is issued, except that when such time period is inequitable or unfair due to conditions beyond the control of the person making the application, an extension of time within which to complete the work may be granted. The permit may be revoked at any time for any violation of these chapters.

90.06 COMPLIANCE WITH PLUMBING CODE. The installation of any water service pipe and any connection with the water system shall comply with all pertinent and applicable provisions, whether regulatory, procedural, or enforcement provisions, of the *State Plumbing Code*.

90.07 PLUMBER REQUIRED. All installations of water service pipes and connections to the water system shall be made by a State-licensed plumber.

90.08 EXCAVATIONS. All trench work, excavation, and backfilling required in making a connection shall be performed in accordance with the *State Plumbing Code* and the provisions of Chapter 135 of this Code of Ordinances.

90.09 TAPPING MAINS. All taps into water mains shall be made by or under the direct supervision of the Superintendent and in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

1. Independent Services. No more than one house, building, or premises shall be supplied from one tap unless special written permission is obtained from the Superintendent and unless provision is made so that each house, building, or premises may be shut off independently of the other.

2. Sizes and Location of Taps. All mains six inches or less in diameter shall receive no larger than a three-fourths inch tap. All mains of over six inches in diameter shall receive no larger than a one-inch tap. Where a larger connection than a one-inch tap is desired, two or more small taps or saddles shall be used, as the Superintendent shall order. All taps in the mains shall be made in the top half of the pipe, at least 18 inches apart. No main shall be tapped nearer than two feet of the joint in the main.

3. Corporation Stop. A brass corporation stop, of the pattern and weight approved by the Superintendent, shall be inserted in every tap in the main. The corporation stop in the main shall be of the same size as the service pipe.

4. Location Record. An accurate and dimensional sketch showing the exact location of the tap shall be filed with the Superintendent in such form as the Superintendent shall require.

90.10 INSTALLATION OF WATER SERVICE PIPE. Water service pipes from the main to the meter setting shall be Type K copper. The use of any other pipe material for the service line shall first be approved by the Superintendent. Pipe must be laid sufficiently waving, and to such depth, as to prevent rupture from settlement or freezing.

90.11 RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER SERVICE PIPE. All costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection, and maintenance of the water service pipe from the main to the building served shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation or maintenance of said water service pipe.

90.12 FAILURE TO MAINTAIN. When any portion of the water service pipe which is the responsibility of the property owner becomes defective or creates a nuisance and the owner fails to correct such nuisance, the City may do so and assess the costs thereof to the property.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a and h])

90.13 CURB VALVE. There shall be installed within the public right-of-way a main shut-off valve on the water service pipe of a pattern approved by the Superintendent. The shut-off valve shall be constructed to be visible and even with the pavement or ground.

90.14 INTERIOR VALVE. There shall be installed a shut-off valve on every service pipe inside the building as close to the entrance of the pipe within the building as possible and so located that the water can be shut off conveniently. Where one service pipe supplies more than one customer within the building, there shall be separate valves for each such customer so that service may be shut off for one without interfering with service to the others.

90.15 INSPECTION AND APPROVAL. All water service pipes and their connections to the water system must be inspected and approved in writing by the Superintendent before they are covered, and the Superintendent shall keep a record of such approvals. If the Superintendent refuses to approve the work, the plumber or property owner must proceed immediately to correct the work. Every person who uses or intends to use the municipal water system shall permit the Superintendent to enter the premises to inspect or make necessary alterations or repairs at all reasonable hours and on proof of authority.

90.16 COMPLETION BY THE CITY. Should any excavation be left open or only partly refilled for 24 hours after the water service pipe is installed and connected with the water system, or should the work be improperly done, the City shall have the right to finish or correct the work, and the Council shall assess the costs to the property owner or the plumber. If the plumber is assessed, the plumber must pay the costs before receiving another permit. If the property owner is assessed, such assessment may be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a and h])

90.17 SHUTTING OFF WATER SUPPLY.

1. The Superintendent may shut off the supply of water to any customer because of any violation of the regulations contained in these Water Service System chapters that is not being contested in good faith. The supply shall not be turned on again until all violations have been corrected and the Superintendent has ordered the water to be turned on.
2. The Superintendent shall shut off the supply of water to any customer because of failure to sign an easement in accordance with Chapter 95.05 as amended for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and Collection System Improvements scheduled to commence on or about July 31, 2013.
3. The Superintendent shall shut off the supply of water to any customer because of failure to provide the electrical hook-up at the time of construction and it will not be

reinstated until the homeowner has provided the electrical connection from the electric service to the box.

90.18 OPERATION OF CURB VALVE AND HYDRANTS. It is unlawful for any person except the Superintendent to turn water on at the curb valve, and no person, unless specifically authorized by the City, shall open or attempt to draw water from any fire hydrant for any purpose whatsoever.

[The next page is 451]

CHAPTER 91

WATER METERS

91.01 Purpose	91.06 Meter Costs
91.02 Water Use Metered	91.07 Meter Repairs
91.03 Fire Sprinkler Systems; Exception	91.08 Right of Entry
91.04 Location of Meters	91.09 Meter Inaccuracy
91.05 Meter Setting	

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 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 other open, unmetered connection shall 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. All meters shall be so located that they are easily accessible to meter readers and repairmen 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 may be used only upon approval of the Superintendent and shall be of a design and construction approved by the Superintendent.

91.06 METER COSTS. The full cost of any meter larger than that required for a single-family residence shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter by the City, or, at the sole option of the City, the property owner or customer may be required to purchase and install such meter in accordance with requirements established by the City.

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 INACCURACY. In cases where the remote meter becomes damaged and stops metering water usage, the customer will be charged for the water metered on the main meter inside the premises.

[The next page is 459]

CHAPTER 92

WATER RATES

92.01 Service Charges
 92.02 Rates For Service
 92.03 Billing for Water Service
 92.04 Service Discontinued
 92.05 Lien for Nonpayment
 92.06 Lien Exemption

92.07 Lien Notice
 92.08 Customer Connection Fee
 92.09 Temporary Vacancy
 92.10 Partial Month Water Billing
 92.11 Special Rates

92.01 SERVICE CHARGES. Each customer shall pay for water service provided by the City based upon use of water as determined by meters provided for in Chapter 91. Each location, building, premises, or connection shall be considered a separate and distinct customer whether owned or controlled by the same person or not.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.02 RATES FOR SERVICE. Water service shall be furnished at the following monthly rates within the City:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

	Rate		
Gallons Used Per Month	August 1, 2023	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2025
First 2,200 (Minimum Bill)	\$47.50	\$49.88	\$52.37
Usage over 2,200 gallons	\$2.16	\$2.26	\$2.37

92.03 BILLING FOR WATER SERVICE. Water service shall be billed as part of a combined service account, payable in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. **Bills Issued.** The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the first day of each month.
2. **Bills Payable.** Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk by the fifteenth day of each month.
3. **Late Payment Penalty.** Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A one-time late payment penalty of 15 percent of the amount due shall be added to each delinquent bill.

92.04 SERVICE DISCONTINUED. Water service to delinquent customers shall be discontinued or disconnected in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. The Clerk shall notify each delinquent customer that service will be discontinued or disconnected if payment of the combined service account, including late payment charges, is not received by the date specified in the notice of delinquency. Such notice shall be sent by ordinary mail to the customer in whose name the delinquent

charges were incurred and shall inform the customer of delinquent charges incurred, the nature of the delinquency, and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance or disconnection. If not paid by the twenty seventh of the month, a notice will be posted on the door stating the service will be disconnected or disconnected on the last business day of the month. With this extra notice, there will be an added posting fee of \$10.00. The notice shall contain the language "This is your final notice before utilities are shut off if payment or other arrangements are not made by the delinquent due date.

2. Notice to Landlords. If the customer is a tenant, and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises has made a written request for notice, the notice of delinquency shall also be given to the owner or landlord. If the customer is a tenant and requests a change of name for service under the account, such request shall be sent to the owner or landlord of the property if the owner or landlord has made a written request for notice of any change of name for service under the account to the rental property.

3. Hearing. If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shut off, the Clerk shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the discontinuance or disconnection is justified. The customer has the right to request to be put on the agenda for the next regular City Council meeting to appeal the Clerk's decision. If the Council finds that discontinuance or disconnection is justified, then such discontinuance or disconnection shall be made, unless payment has been made.

4. Fees. If service is discontinued or disconnected a fee of \$50.00 will be charged to the customer and a reconnection fee of \$50.00 during normal business hours will be charged before service is restored to a delinquent account. After 4:00 p.m. weekdays and on weekends or holidays, the reconnection fee is \$75.00. The disconnecting, reconnecting fees, and the past due bill must all be paid in full prior to the water being reconnected.

92.05 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. The owner of the premises served and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for water service charges to the premises. Water service charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the property or premises served and shall be certified by the Clerk to the County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.06 LIEN EXEMPTION.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Water Service Exemption. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to charges for water service to a residential or commercial rental property where water service is separately metered and the rates or charges for the water service are paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential or commercial rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of 90 days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

2. Other Service Exemption. The lien for nonpayment shall also not apply to the charges for any of the services of sewer systems, stormwater drainage systems, sewage

treatment, solid waste collection, and solid waste disposal for a residential rental property where the charge is paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges for such service. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of 90 days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

3. **Written Notice.** The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the residential or commercial rental property that the tenant is to occupy, and the date that the occupancy begins. Upon receipt, the City shall acknowledge the notice and deposit. A change in tenant for a residential rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within 30 business days of the change in tenant. A change in tenant for a commercial rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within 10 business days of the change in tenant. A change in the ownership of the residential rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within 30 business days of the completion of the change of ownership. A change in the ownership of the commercial rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within 10 business days of the completion of the change of ownership.

4. **Mobile Homes, Modular Homes, and Manufactured Homes.** A lien for nonpayment of utility services described in Subsections 1 and 2 of this section shall not be placed upon a premises that is a mobile home, modular home, or manufactured home if the mobile home, modular home, or manufactured home is owned by a tenant of and located in a mobile home park or manufactured home community and the mobile home park or manufactured home community owner or manager is the account holder, unless the lease agreement specifies that the tenant is responsible for payment of a portion of the rates or charges billed to the account holder.

92.07 LIEN NOTICE. A lien for delinquent water service charges shall not be certified to the County Treasurer unless prior written notice of intent to certify a lien is given to the customer in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises has made a written request for notice, the notice shall also be given to the owner or landlord. The notice shall be sent to the appropriate persons by ordinary mail not less than 30 days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.08 CUSTOMER CONNECTION FEE. There shall be required from every new customer a non-refundable customer water connection fee in amount of \$50.00 for property owners and \$150.00 for tenants.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.09 TEMPORARY VACANCY. A property owner may request water service be temporarily discontinued and shut off at the curb valve when the property is expected to be vacant for an extended period of time. There shall be a \$25.00 fee collected for restoring service. During a period when service is temporarily discontinued as provided herein there shall be no minimum service charge. The City will not drain pipes or pull meters for temporary vacancies.

92.10 PARTIAL MONTH WATER BILLING.

1. For customers receiving their final bill for voluntary disconnection of service and customers in their first partial month of service, the water bills of water utility customers will be prorated for persons who do not have service for the entire billing period as follows:

A. The minimum water bill is as set by Section 92.02 herein, based on a minimum usage of 2,200 gallons within the service period. If the utility customer's usage for the service period meets or exceeds 2,200 gallons, there will be no proration, and the customer will be billed their actual water usage.

B. For the water utility customer who does not have water service for the whole period, whose water usage for the partial billing period does not meet or exceed 2,200 gallon, the customer will be charged a per diem rate for the days for which the customer has service. The per diem rate will be the minimum monthly charge (see Section 92.02), divided by the number of days in the service period (which varies), and then multiplied by the number of days for which the customer had service. The service period varies and depends on the dates that the meters are read each month and the number of days between those meter readings.

2. Nothing in this section shall restrict the Council from modifying the minimum water service usage rate, as permitted by this chapter. Changing such rates, as permitted by ordinance, shall not otherwise invalidate this policy. Where such minimum rates are modified by the Council, absent further action by the Council, the new minimum rates shall be substituted into the policy for the existing rates, as applicable, without further amendment of this ordinance. Absent gross mistake, the records of the city as to usage, service days, and billing period, and the results produced by the City's computer billing program will be final. Customers concerned about a gross mistake may request to be heard at the next Council meeting.

92.11 SPECIAL RATES. In the instance of those properties which do not have a water meter accessible to public works employees to read, a special rate shall be charged of double the minimum rate, to those property owners each month they are not compliant with this section, commencing with the November 1, 2021, billing.

[The next page is 473]