

CHAPTER 90

WATER SERVICE SYSTEM

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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 FEE FOR PERMIT AND CONNECTION CHARGE. Before any permit is issued the person who makes the application shall pay \$10.00 to the Clerk to cover the cost of issuing the permit and supervising, regulating, and inspecting the work. In addition there shall be a connection charge in the amount of \$200.00 paid before issuance of a permit to reimburse the City for costs borne by the City in making water service available to the property served.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

90.07 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*.

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

90.09 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.

90.10 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.

90.11 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.

90.12 RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER SERVICE PIPE. The City shall install and maintain at its expense that portion of the service line from the main to the curb valve, including the necessary tap, fittings and shut-off valve; and the customer shall install and maintain that portion of the service from the curb valve to the customer's premises.

90.13 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])

90.14 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.

90.15 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.

90.16 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.

90.17 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])

90.18 SHUTTING OFF WATER SUPPLY. 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.

90.19 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.

90.20 CROSS CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED. Connection, cross connection, or permitting the same of any separate water supply to premises which receive water from the City is prohibited.

90.21 CONSTRUCTION USE. Water for building or construction purposes will be furnished by meter measurement, only after suitable deposit has been made, the minimum deposit being \$10.00, and the amount to be determined by the City depending upon the size of the construction work contemplated; and all water for building or construction purposes, as set forth in the permit, must pass through one and the same meter. Water so supplied shall be discharged through a hose or pipe directly upon material to be wet, or into a barrel or other container, and in no case upon the ground or into or through a ditch or trench and all use of water by other than applicant or use of water for any purpose or upon any premises not so stated or described in the application must be prevented by the applicant, or water service may be discontinued without notice.

90.22 BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS. Customers having boilers or pressure vessels receiving a supply of water from the City must have a check valve on the water supply line and a vacuum valve on the steam line to prevent collapse in case the water supply from the City is discontinued or interrupted for any reason, with or without notice.

90.23 LINE EXTENSIONS. The City will construct extensions to its water lines to points within its service area, but the City is not required to make such installations unless the customer pays to the City the entire cost of the installation. All line extensions shall be evidenced by a contract signed by the City and the person advancing funds for said extension. If refund of the advance is to be made, the following method shall apply: 20 percent of the total gross revenue of water sales per year for each service connected to the new extension described in the agreement, for a period not to exceed five years, provided that the aggregate payments do not exceed the total amount deposited. No refund shall be made from any revenue received from any lines leading up to or beyond the particular line extension covered by contract. All decisions in connection with the manner of installation of any extension and maintenance thereof shall remain in the exclusive control of the City, and such extension shall be the property of the City and no other person shall have any right, title, or interest therein.

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CHAPTER 91

WATER METERS

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91.10 Estimated Readings

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 TESTING. Upon the written request of any customer, the meter serving said customer shall be tested by the City. Such test will be made without charge to the customer if the meter has not been tested within 12 months preceding the requested test; otherwise, a charge of \$2.00 shall be made, and then only if the test indicates meter accuracy within the limits of two percent.

91.10 ESTIMATED READINGS. Estimated readings will be allowed for use of billing purposes when deemed necessary by the Superintendent or the Mayor.

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CHAPTER 92

WATER RATES

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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)

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Rate per 1,000 gallons	\$16.00	\$16.32	\$16.65	\$16.98	\$17.32	\$17.67
Minimum Bill	\$20.00	\$20.40	\$20.81	\$21.22	\$21.65	\$22.08

These rates will be mandatory for all premises with water service. The owner or renter of each premises will pay a minimum monthly billing each month for that premises whether there is usage of any water or not, unless the owner of any such premises has voluntarily requested disconnection of the water service, or the water service has been disconnected for nonpayment or any other violation.

92.03 RATES OUTSIDE THE CITY. Water service shall be provided to any customer located outside the corporate limits of the City which the City has agreed to serve at the same rates provided in Section 92.02. No such customer, however, will be served unless the customer shall have signed a service contract agreeing to be bound by the ordinances, rules, and regulations applying to water service established by the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.4 and 384.84)

92.04 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 tenth day of each month.
3. Late Payment Penalty. Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A late payment penalty of 10 percent of the amount due shall be added to each delinquent bill.

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

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Notice. 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 the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance or disconnection.
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 Mayor, Council, and Clerk shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the discontinuance or disconnection is justified.
4. Fees. For the first time service is discontinued or disconnected, a fee of \$25.00 shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer, and \$100.00 shall be charged for the second time. No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

92.06 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)

92.07 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.

92.08 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)

92.09 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS. There shall be required from every owner of real estate which has water service, a \$150.00 deposit per water meter, intended to guarantee the payment of bills for service. There shall be required from every renter of real estate which has water service and who wants to have the water service placed in the renter's name, a \$150.00 deposit per water meter, intended to guaranteed the payment of bills for service. Upon the termination of the use of the water service, any balance of the deposit shall be returned without interest.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.10 REQUESTED DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE. Any customer desiring to discontinue the water service to said customer's premises for any reason must give notice of discontinuance in writing at the business office of the waterworks system; otherwise, the customer shall remain liable for all water used and service rendered in the City until said notice is received by the City. A charge of \$25.00 will be made for disconnection of water service voluntarily discontinued, and a fee of \$100.00 shall be charged to restore service.

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