

SECTION 3

303.001

METERS.

- A. **Meter.** Prior to connecting to the City's water and sewer system, a water meter shall be installed on owner's source of water. The readings on said water meter shall be used by the City as one or all of the means of determining user's water and sewer bill.
- B. **Installation of a Radio Read Meter.** The City reserves the right to enter any property at any time to install a radio read meter for any property owner who fails to read their water meter at the cost of the property owner. The meter shall be installed at the discretion of the Public Works Department.
- C. **Fees.** The City Council shall establish meter fees to be charged to customers for water meters, and payment of the meter fee shall be made in advance before delivery and installation of the meter. Such fees shall not be refunded upon change of ownership of the property served, but may be transferred to a subsequent owner if the meter is in good operating condition. All water meters shall be and remain the property of the City and may be removed, replaced or changed as to size and type by the City whenever deemed necessary. Meters shall be available for inspection and testing at reasonable times by authorized City personnel.
- D. **Inspection.** Owner (s) shall allow an employee of the City or their designated representative, bearing proper credentials and identifications, to inspect at reasonable hours of the day to all parts of every building and premises connected with the City water supply system, in order to read meters, replace meters and make inspections. Any person refusing to allow their property to be inspected shall immediately become subject to all fees and charges as adopted annually by the City Council and water and sewer service will be shut off.
- E. **Meter Maintenance.** The City shall maintain and repair all meters when rendered unserviceable through ordinary wear and tear and shall replace them if necessary.
- F. **Damage to Meter.** Where replacement, repair or adjustment of any meter is rendered necessary by the act, neglect, or carelessness of the owner or occupant of the premises, the owner of the premises where such meter is installed shall pay for the cost of repairing such meter or for the cost of a new meter, whichever shall be less. If the owner is in default, the City may turn the water supply off at said property until the cause is corrected and charges collected.
- G. **Nonmetered Water, Estimated Amount.** If it is not possible to meter water used in certain circumstances such as, but not limited to, temporary disconnected or defective meters or use of water from City hydrants with permission of the City, the City Clerk-Treasurer or designee, may estimate the amount used during that period using any reasonable method for determining such amount, but in no event shall the charge be less than the minimum amount as established by the City Council.
- H. **Penalty.** No person, unless properly authorized by the City, shall connect, disconnect, remove, repair or otherwise disturb any water meter. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to intentionally remove the seal from a water meter. Any person, property owner or other legal entity violating any term or condition of this section may be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by such amount of jail time or fine, or both, as prescribed by law in Minnesota Statutes. In addition, violating any term or condition of this section, the violator(s) may be subject to additional fees and penalties, as prescribed by the City Council.