

Sec. 58-136. - Water meters.

- (a) Except for extinguishment of fires, no person, except authorized city employees, shall use water from the water system or permit water to be drawn therefrom, unless the same is metered by passing through a meter supplied or approved by the city.
- (b) No person not authorized by the city shall connect, disconnect, take apart, or in any manner change, or cause to be changed, or interfere with any such meter or the action thereof, or break any meter or valve seal
- (c) A user charge, in an amount established by city council resolution, shall be paid by customers to the city for water meters, and payment for the same shall be made in advance of installations. This payment shall be made only once, subject to the following:
 - (1) Where a consumer has need for a larger line in addition to his domestic line, as in the case of a commercial consumer who needs a one-inch line for normal use and a six-inch or eight-inch line for a fire sprinkler system, he will be permitted to run one line into the premises and Y off into two lines at the building. When this is done, the meter will be attached to the small or domestic line and a check valve as well as a one-inch detection meter shall be put on the large line;
 - (2) The city shall maintain and repair all meters when rendered unserviceable through ordinary wear and tear and shall replace them if necessary. When replacement, repair, or adjustment of any meter is rendered by the act, neglect (including damage from freezing or hot water backup) or carelessness of the owner or occupant of the premises, any expense caused the city thereby shall be charged against and collected from the water consumer;
 - (3) A consumer may, by written request, have his meter tested. In case a test should show an error of over five percent of the water consumed, a correctly registering meter will be installed, and the bill will be adjusted accordingly if the meter is in error in favor of the city. Such adjustment shall not extend back more than one billing period from the date of the written request;
 - (4) All water meters and remote readers shall be and remain the property of the city; and
 - (5) Authorized city employees shall have free access at reasonable hours of the day by appointment to all parts of every building and premises connected with the water system for the reading of meters and inspections. The city council may, by resolution, require and order the installation of such meter on any such lot, parcel, premises or unit or class thereof, where it shall determine that the equitable administration and application of utility rates requires the metering of water used on the premises.
- (d) The city shall from time-to-time update and replace the water meter. The city shall notify the property owner of the need to set-up an appointment to have the meter replaced. The property owner shall have ten days to contact the city to set up an appointment. If the property owner fails to set up an appointment, the city shall send notice by either:

- (1) Certified mail;
- (2) Substantial similar certified notice; or
- (3) By published notice twice in the city's official newspaper, and once by physically attaching a notice on the door of the property. If the property owner does not respond to the notice within 30 days to set up an appointment for the meter replacement, and therefore the work is not completed within 45 days of the notice, the city may charge a non-refundable fee as established in chapter 22 until such time as the meter is replaced. Fees charged by the city shall be collected in accordance with section 58-111 of this Code.

(Code 1977, § 15-229; Ord. No. 841, 4-26-2021; Ord. No. 844, 8-9-2021)