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ORDINANCE NO.: 2020-072

Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-144 Special water service fees (f)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 15th day of September, 2020, that the 1979 Code of Ordinances of The City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-144 Special water service fees (f), is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 23-144 Special water service fees.**

(a) *Fee for turning on water.* A fee of \$5.00 will be charged for turning on water, except for the first time after a new service is established.

(b) *Delinquency fee.* A fee of \$10.00 will be charged when service is discontinued for nonpayment, a past due bill is collected, or a delinquent notice is left.

(c) *Dishonored checks, credit card payments and electronic payments.* A charge in the maximum amount permitted by South Carolina law shall be added to a water account for each returned or bad check given on the account. If payment was made by electronic funds transfer or credit card and a chargeback is ordered, the same administrative fee applicable for returned checks shall be added to the water account for each chargeback.

Water service shall be terminated immediately upon dishonor of a check, credit card payment or electronic payment chargeback on an account which is two months in arrears.

(d) *Restoration of discontinued service; service calls in connection with delinquent account.* The following fees shall be charged for replacing a meter or removing a locking device to restore discontinued service, or for a service call involving a vehicle in connection with a delinquent account:

(1) Workdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: \$15.00.

(2) All other hours, holidays and weekends: \$30.00.

(e) *Installation of fire hydrant meter.* A fee of \$240.00 will be charged for installing all fire hydrant meters. No connection to a fire hydrant shall be made by any person other than an authorized employee of the city except through a permitted fire hydrant meter.

(f) *Charges to constitute lien; discontinuance of service authorized.* All fees and charges for water service shall be a lien on the property served as provided by contract with the water customer. Services shall be discontinued for any account which is two months in arrears; provided that the city manager or his designee may authorize continued service in a hardship case upon the execution of an acceptable payment schedule which will bring the account current in not more than twelve months with payment in full for continued service.


(g) *Testing of backflow devices.* A fee of \$45.00 per backflow device shall be charged for the annual testing and certification of reduced pressure backflow devices and double check valves. Testing and certification shall be performed by the city on all such devices. This fee shall be added to the charges for water service.

(h) *Locating and uncovering meter or backflow device.* The actual cost of locating, uncovering and inspecting any water meter or backflow device covered by grading or filling shall be added to the charges for water service.

This ordinance is effective as of final reading.

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Shealy

  
Mayor

Approved by:

  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

T. A. Knox  
City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

Introduced: 9/1/2020

Final Reading: 9/15/2020

Last revised: 8/10/2020  
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