

ORDINANCE NO.: 2021-042

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 18th day of May, 2021, 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, 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 \$40.00 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.* A fee of \$80.00 will 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:
- (e) *Installation of fire hydrant meter.* A fee of \$1000.00 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. If hydrant meter is returned undamaged within 3 years, the applicant is eligible to receive a credit up to \$700.00.
- (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 12 months with payment in full for continued service.
- (g) *Testing of backflow devices.* A fee of \$200.00 per backflow device shall be charged for the annual testing and certification of reduced pressure backflow devices and double check valves if the customer does not provide the City with annual testing results. 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.
- (i) *Unauthorized use fee (straight connection to hydrant):* A fee of \$150.00 shall be charged.
- (j) *Unauthorized use fee (straight connection to waterline):* A fee of \$500.00 shall be charged.
- (k) *Fees associated with meters:*
 - 1. Meter Test: One test every 3 years at the customer's request. Over one test within 3 years, the following fees will be charged:
 - a. \$100 for ¾" meter
 - b. \$200 for 1"-2" meter
 - c. No charge if testing results indicate inaccurate meter reading in accordance with industry standards.

2. Meter Replacement: \$300 for ¾"-1" meter at customer request if meter is functioning properly.
 3. Lock Meter: \$40 fee will be charged for locking meter or lock replacement.
- (l) *Utility Review Fee:* A fee of \$250.00 shall be charged for review of water and sewer plans. Any complete redesign submittals for the same site shall be charged \$250.00.

This ordinance is effective as of July 1, 2021.

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Shealy




Mayor

Approved by:

Jenise B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

ATTEST:


City Attorney

Erika D. M. Hammond
City Clerk

Public Hearing: 5/11/2021
Introduced: 5/11/2021
Final Reading: 5/18/2021