

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 monthly rate of \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons used per month. The minimum bill shall be \$5.50.

92.03 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. Meters Read. Water meters shall be read monthly either by a City employee or by the customer. Written requests for a meter reading shall be sent by the Clerk on the first day of the month for which the reading is to be made, and shall be returned by the customer so that it is received by the Clerk no later than the 25th day of the month for which the reading is to be made. Failure to return a written inquiry on or before the 25th day of the month for which the reading is to be made shall authorize an estimate for usage to be made by the Clerk, for which an additional \$10.00 fee shall be assessed.
2. Bills Issued. The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the first day of each month.
3. Bills Payable. Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk by the tenth (10th) day of the same month.
4. Late Payment Penalty. Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A one-time late payment penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount due shall be added to each delinquent bill.

92.04 SERVICE DISCONTINUED. Water service to delinquent customers shall be discontinued 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 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 and shall inform the customer of the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance.
2. Notice to Landlords. If the customer is a tenant, and if the owner or landlord of the property has made a written request for notice, the notice of delinquency shall also be given to the owner or landlord.
3. Hearing. If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shut off the Mayor, Clerk and Superintendent shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the disconnection is justified.
4. Fees. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be charged for service restoration between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and weekends. No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

92.05 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 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)

92.06 LIEN EXEMPTION. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to a residential 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 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 ninety (90) days of water service be paid to the City. The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the rental property and the date of occupancy. A change in tenant shall require a new written notice to be

given to the City within ten (10) business days of the change in tenant. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if the water service charges are paid in full. A change in the ownership of the residential rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within ten (10) business days of the completion of the change of ownership. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs to a water service.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.07 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. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property 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 thirty (30) days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.08 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS. There shall be required from every customer a fifty dollar (\$50.00) per meter deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for service.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

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