

# WATER

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## CHAPTER 90

# WATER SERVICE SYSTEM

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**90.01 DEFINITIONS.** The following terms are defined for use in the chapters in this Code of Ordinances pertaining to the Water Service System:

1. "Combined service account" means a customer service account for the provision of two or more utility services.
2. "Customer" means, in addition to any person receiving water service from the City, the owner of the property served, and as between such parties the duties, responsibilities, liabilities and obligations hereinafter imposed shall be joint and several.
3. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the City water system or any duly authorized assistant, agent or representative.
4. "Water main" means a water supply pipe provided for public or community use.
5. "Water service pipe" means the pipe from the water main to the building served.
6. "Water system" or "water works" means all public facilities for securing, collecting, storing, pumping, treating and distributing water.

**90.02 SUPERINTENDENT'S DUTIES.** The Superintendent shall supervise the installation of water service pipes and their connection to the water main and enforce all regulations pertaining to water services in the City in accordance with this chapter. This chapter shall apply to all replacements of existing water service pipes as well as to new ones. The Superintendent shall make such rules, not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, as may be needed for the detailed operation of the water system, subject to the approval of the Council. In the event of an emergency the Superintendent may make temporary rules for the protection of the system until due consideration by the Council may be had.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])*

**90.03 MANDATORY CONNECTIONS.** All residences and business establishments within the City limits intended or used for human habitation, occupancy or use shall be connected to the public water system, if it is reasonably available and if the building is not furnished with pure and wholesome water from some other source.

**90.04 ABANDONED CONNECTIONS.** When an existing water service is abandoned or a service is renewed with a new tap in the main, all abandoned connections with the mains shall be turned off at the corporation cock and made absolutely watertight.

**90.05 PERMIT.** Before any person makes a connection with the public water system, a written permit must be obtained from the City. The application for the permit shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, the name and address of the person who will do the work, and the general uses of the water. If the proposed work meets all the requirements of this chapter and if all fees required under this chapter have been paid, the permit shall be issued. Work under any permit must be completed within 60 days after the permit is issued, except that when such time period is inequitable or unfair due to conditions beyond the control of person making the application, an extension of time within which to complete the work may be granted. The permit may be revoked at any time for any violation of these chapters.

**90.06 COMPLIANCE WITH PLUMBING CODE.** The installation of any water service pipe and any connection with the water system shall comply with all pertinent and applicable provisions, whether regulatory, procedural or enforcement provisions, of the *State Plumbing Code*.

**90.07 PLUMBER REQUIRED.** All installations of water service pipes and connections to the water system shall be made by a State-licensed plumber.

**90.08 EXCAVATIONS.** All trench work, excavation, and backfilling required in making a connection shall be performed in accordance with the *State Plumbing Code* and the provisions of Chapter 135 of this Code of Ordinances.

**90.09 TAPPING MAINS.** All taps into water mains shall be made by or under the direct supervision of the Superintendent and in accord with the following:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])*

1. Independent Services. No more than one house, building, or premises shall be supplied from one tap unless special written permission is obtained from the Superintendent and unless provision is made so that each house, building, or premises may be shut off independently of the other.
2. Sizes and Location of Taps. All mains six inches or less in diameter shall receive no larger than a three-fourths inch tap. All mains of over six inches in diameter shall receive no larger than a one-inch tap. Where a larger connection than a one-inch tap is desired, two or more small taps or saddles shall be used, as the Superintendent shall order. All taps in the mains shall be made in the top half of the pipe, at least 18 inches apart. No main shall be tapped nearer than two feet of the joint in the main.
3. Corporation Stop. A brass corporation stop, of the pattern and weight approved by the Superintendent, shall be inserted in every tap in the main. The corporation stop in the main shall be of the same size as the service pipe.
4. Location Record. An accurate and dimensional sketch showing the exact location of the tap shall be filed with the Superintendent in such form as the Superintendent shall require.

**90.10 INSTALLATION OF WATER SERVICE PIPE.** Water service pipes from the main to the meter setting shall be Type K copper. The use of any other pipe material for the service line shall first be approved by the Superintendent. Pipe must be laid sufficiently waving, and to such depth, as to prevent rupture from settlement or freezing.

**90.11 RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER SERVICE PIPE.** All costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection and maintenance of the water service pipe from the main to the building served shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation or maintenance of said water service pipe.

**90.12 FAILURE TO MAINTAIN.** When any portion of the water service pipe which is the responsibility of the property owner becomes defective or creates a nuisance and the owner fails to correct such nuisance the City may do so and assess the costs thereof to the property.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a & h])*

**90.13 CURB VALVE.** There shall be installed within the public right-of-way a main shut-off valve on the water service pipe of a pattern approved by the Superintendent. The shut-off valve shall be constructed to be visible and even with the pavement or ground.

**90.14 INTERIOR VALVE.** There shall be installed a shut-off valve on every service pipe inside the building as close to the entrance of the pipe within the building as possible and so located that the water can be shut off conveniently. Where one service pipe supplies more than one customer within the building, there shall be separate valves for each such customer so that service may be shut off for one without interfering with service to the others.

**90.15 INSPECTION AND APPROVAL.** All water service pipes and their connections to the water system must be inspected and approved in writing by the Superintendent before they are covered, and the Superintendent shall keep a record of such approvals. If the Superintendent refuses to approve the work, the plumber or property owner must proceed immediately to correct the work. Every person who uses or intends to use the municipal water system shall permit the Superintendent to enter the premises to inspect or make necessary alterations or repairs at all reasonable hours and on proof of authority.

**90.16 COMPLETION BY THE CITY.** Should any excavation be left open or only partly refilled for 24 hours after the water service pipe is installed and connected with the water system, or should the work be improperly done, the City shall have the right to finish or correct the work, and the Council shall assess the costs to the property owner or the plumber. If the plumber is assessed, the plumber must pay the costs before receiving another permit. If the property owner is assessed, such assessment may be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a & h])*

**90.17 SHUTTING OFF WATER SUPPLY.** The Superintendent may shut off the supply of water to any customer because of any violation of the regulations contained in these Water Service System chapters that is not being contested in good faith. The supply shall not be turned on again until all violations have been corrected and the Superintendent has ordered the water to be turned on.

**90.18 OPERATION OF CURB VALVE AND HYDRANTS.** It is unlawful for any person except the Superintendent to turn water on at the curb valve, and no person, unless specifically authorized by the City, shall open or attempt to draw water from any fire hydrant for any purpose whatsoever.

**90.19 PRIVATE WELLS.** No person shall install a private drinking or non-drinking water well, as defined in 567 Iowa Administrative Code Section 135.2, within City limits unless a determination has been made by the City Manager that: It is a closed loop system or the point of water use is greater than 1,000 feet from areas with identified contamination by contaminant maps provided by Iowa Certified Groundwater Professionals. In addition, drinking water wells outside the 1,000-foot restricted area shall not be installed within 250 feet from an accessible water distribution main owned and controlled by the City.

**90.20 LOCATION OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PUBLIC WATER WELLS.** No structure or facility of the type enumerated in Iowa Administrative Code Section 567-43.3(7)(455B) shall be constructed, located, or maintained within the distances set forth in Table A from the public water well in the City.

**TABLE A: SEPARATION DISTANCES**

SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM WELL, IN FEET	
	Deep Well <sup>1</sup>	Shallow Well <sup>1</sup>
<b>WASTEWATER STRUCTURES:</b>		
Point of Discharge to Ground Surface		
Sanitary and industrial discharges	400	400
Water treatment plant wastes	50	50
Well house floor drains	5	5
Sewers and Drains <sup>2</sup>		
Sanitary and storm sewers, drains	0 – 25 feet: prohibited 25 – 75 feet if water main pipe 75 – 200 feet if sanitary sewer pipe	0 – 25 feet: prohibited 25 – 75 feet if water main pipe 75 – 200 feet if sanitary sewer main pipe
Sewer force mains	0 – 75 feet: prohibited 75 – 400 feet if water main pipe 400 – 1,000 feet if water main or sanitary sewer pipe	0 – 75 feet: prohibited 75 – 400 feet if water main pipe 400 – 1,000 feet if water main or sanitary sewer main pipe
Water plant treatment process wastes that are treated onsite	0 – 5 feet: prohibited 5 – 50 feet if sanitary sewer pipe	0 – 5 feet: prohibited 5 – 50 feet if sanitary sewer main pipe
Water plant wastes to sanitary sewer	0 – 25 feet: prohibited 25 – 75 feet if water main pipe 75 – 200 feet if sanitary sewer pipe	0 – 25 feet: prohibited 25 – 75 feet if water main pipe 75 – 200 feet if sanitary sewer main pipe
Well house floor drains to sewers	0 – 25 feet: prohibited 25 – 75 feet if water main pipe 75 – 200 feet if sanitary sewer pipe	0 – 25 feet: prohibited 25 – 75 feet if water main pipe 75 – 200 feet if sanitary sewer main pipe
Well house floor drains to surface	0 – 5 feet: prohibited 5 – 50 feet if sanitary sewer pipe	0 – 5 feet: prohibited 5 – 50 feet if sanitary sewer main pipe
Land Disposal of Treated Wastes		
Irrigation of wastewater	200	400
Land application of solid wastes <sup>3</sup>	200	400
Other		
Cesspools and earth pit privies	200	400
Concrete vaults and septic tanks	100	200
Lagoons	400	1,000
Mechanical wastewater treatment plants	200	400
Soil absorption fields	200	400

SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM WELL, IN FEET	
	Deep Well <sup>1</sup>	Shallow Well <sup>1</sup>
<b>CHEMICALS:</b>		
Chemical application to ground surface	100	200
Chemical & mineral storage above ground	100	200
Chemical & mineral storage on or under ground	200	400
Transmission pipelines (such as fertilizer, liquid petroleum, or anhydrous ammonia)	200	400
<b>ANIMALS:</b>		
Animal pasturage	50	50
Animal enclosure	200	400
Earthen silage storage trench or pit	100	200
<b>Animal Wastes</b>		
Land application of liquid or slurry	200	400
Land application of solids	200	400
Solids stockpile	200	400
Storage basin or lagoon	400	1,000
Storage tank	200	400
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>		
Basements, pits, sumps	10	10
Cemeteries	200	200
Cisterns	50	100
Flowing streams or other surface water bodies	50	50
Railroads	100	200
Private wells	200	400
Solid waste landfills and disposal sites <sup>4</sup>	1,000	1,000

<sup>1</sup> Deep and shallow wells, as defined in IAC 567-40.2(455B): A deep well is a well located and constructed in such a manner that there is a continuous layer of low permeability soil or rock at least five feet thick located at least 25 feet below the normal ground surface and above the aquifer from which water is to be drawn. A shallow well is a well located and constructed in such a manner that there is not a continuous layer of low permeability soil or rock (or equivalent retarding mechanism acceptable to the department) at least five feet thick, the top of which is located at least 25 feet below the normal ground surface and above the aquifer from which water is to be drawn.

<sup>2</sup> The separation distances are dependent upon two factors: the type of piping that is in the existing sewer or drain, as noted in the table, and that the piping was properly installed in accordance with the standards.

<sup>3</sup> Solid wastes are those derived from the treatment of water or wastewater. Certain types of solid wastes from water treatment processes may be land-applied within the separation distance on an individual, case-by-case basis.

<sup>4</sup> Solid waste means garbage, refuse, rubbish, and other similar discarded solid or semisolid materials, including but not limited to such materials resulting from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic activities.

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**CHAPTER 91**  
**WATER METERS**

91.01 Purpose	91.05 Meter Setting
91.02 Water Use Metered	91.06 Meter Costs
91.03 Fire Sprinkler Systems- Exception	91.07 Meter Repairs
91.04 Location of Meters	91.08 Right of Entry
	91.09 Accuracy Test

**91.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the conservation of water and facilitate the equitable distribution of charges for water service among customers.

**91.02 WATER USE METERED.** All water furnished customers shall be measured through meters furnished by the City and installed by the City.

**91.03 FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS - EXCEPTION.** Fire sprinkler systems may be connected to water mains by direct connection without meters under the direct supervision of the Superintendent. No open connection can be incorporated in the system, and there shall be no valves except a main control valve at the entrance to the building which must be sealed open.

**91.04 LOCATION OF METERS.** All meters shall be so located that they are easily accessible to meter readers and repairmen and protected from freezing.

**91.05 METER SETTING.** The property owner shall provide all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including a valve on the discharge side of the meter. Meter pits may be used only upon approval of the Superintendent and shall be of a design and construction approved by the Superintendent.

**91.06 METER COSTS.** The full cost of any meter larger than that required for a single-family residence shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter by the City, or, at the sole option of the City, the property owner or customer may be required to purchase and install such meter in accordance with requirements established by the City.

**91.07 METER REPAIRS.** Whenever a water meter owned by the City is found to be out of order the Superintendent shall have it repaired. If it is found that damage to the meter has occurred due to the carelessness or negligence of the customer or property owner, or the meter is not owned by the City, then the property owner shall be liable for the cost of repairs.

**91.08 RIGHT OF ENTRY.** The Superintendent shall be permitted to enter the premises of any customer at any reasonable time to read, remove or change a meter.

**91.09 ACCURACY TEST.** The Superintendent shall make a test of the accuracy of any water meter at any time when requested in writing, but not more often than once in eighteen (18) months. If the meter is found to overrun to the extent of two percent (2%) or more, the cost of the test shall be paid by the City and a refund shall be made to the customer for overcharges collected since the last known date of accuracy but not for longer than six (6) months. If the meter is found to be accurate or slow, or less than two percent (2%) fast, the



customer shall pay, as the reasonable cost of the test, a fee established by the Council in the Schedule of Fees. The customer shall be liable for any deficiency over two percent (2%) up to six (6) months.

**CHAPTER 92**  
**WATER RATES**

92.01 Service Charges  
92.02 Rates For Service  
92.03 Rates Outside the City  
92.04 Billing for Water Service  
92.05 Service Discontinued

92.06 Lien for Nonpayment  
92.07 Lien Exemption  
92.08 Lien Notice  
92.09 Customer Connection Fee  
92.10 Temporary Vacancy

**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 following monthly rates within the City:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)*

Gallons Used Per Month	Rate
First 1,000	\$19.49 (minimum bill)
All over 1,000	\$4.76 per 1,000 gallons

Each customer will be charged a meter rate of \$3.00 per month. Customers that do not allow City workers in to repair a broken meter will be charged the highest water bill in their history each month until it is repaired.

**92.03 RATES OUTSIDE THE CITY.** Water service shall be provided to any customer located outside the corporate limits of the City which the City has agreed to serve at the same rates provided in Section 92.02. No such customer, however, will be served unless the customer shall have signed a service contract agreeing to be bound by the ordinances, rules and regulations applying to water service established by the Council.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.4 & 384.84)*

**92.04 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. **Bills Issued.** The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the fifth of each month.
2. **Bills Payable.** Bills for combined service amounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk by the twenty-fifth day of the current month.
3. **Late Payment Penalty.** Combined service account bills not paid by the twenty-fifth day of the month shall be considered delinquent. A one-time late payment penalty of one and one-half percent of the amount due shall be added to each delinquent bill.

4. **Rate Adjustment.** On or before February 1 of each year, the City Clerk shall compute an adjustment to the water rates based on the multiplication of the current rate by a factor equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as established by the federal government for the preceding 12-month period of January 1 through December 31. This adjustment shall be submitted to the City Council at the first Council meeting in February. This increase shall go into effect on the succeeding March 5. Increases made hereunder shall be approved by resolution of the Council, which resolution shall be set out in the published proceedings of the Council.

**92.05 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 to the customer in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred and shall inform the customer of the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance. A fee in accordance with the Schedule of Fees established by the Council will be attached to the customer's bill for 24-hour posting fee for utility bills not paid in the period extending past the 12-day second notice period.

2. **Notice to Landlords.** If the customer is a tenant, and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises has made a written request for notice, the notice of delinquency shall also be given to the owner or landlord. If the customer is a tenant and requests a change of name for service under the account, such request shall be sent to the owner or landlord of the property if the owner or landlord has made a written request for notice of any change of name for service under the account to the rental property.

3. **Hearing.** If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shut off, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the disconnection is justified. The customer has the right to appeal the hearing officers' decision to the Council, and if the Council finds that disconnection is justified, then such disconnection shall be made, unless payment has been received.

4. **Fees.** A fee in accordance with the Schedule of Fees established by the Council shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer. No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

5. **Co-Occupants of Property Disconnected for Nonpayment.** No other permanent resident and/or co-occupant living with the person on the property with the disconnected account may reconnect utilities in the co-occupant's or other permanent resident's name until the disconnected account is paid in full.

**92.06 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)*

#### 92.07 LIEN EXEMPTION.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)*

1. Water Service Exemption. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to charges for water service to a residential or commercial 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 or commercial 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 90 days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

2. Other Service Exemption. The lien for nonpayment shall also not apply to the charges for any of the services of sewer systems, storm water drainage systems, sewage treatment, solid waste collection, and solid waste disposal for a residential rental property where the charge is 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 for such service. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of 90 days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

3. Written Notice. The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the residential or commercial rental property that the tenant is to occupy, and the date that the occupancy begins. Upon receipt, the City shall acknowledge the notice and deposit. A change in tenant for a residential rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within 30 business days of the change in tenant. A change in tenant for a commercial rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within 10 business days of the change in tenant. A change in the ownership of the residential rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within 30 business days of the completion of the change of ownership. A change in the ownership of the commercial rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within 10 business days of the completion of the change of ownership.

4. Mobile Homes, Modular Homes, and Manufactured Homes. A lien for nonpayment of utility services described in subsections 1 and 2 of this section shall not be placed upon a premises that is a mobile home, modular home, or manufactured home if the mobile home, modular home, or manufactured home is owned by a tenant of and located in a mobile home park or manufactured home community and the mobile home park or manufactured home community owner or manager is the account holder, unless the lease agreement specifies that the tenant is responsible for payment of a portion of the rates or charges billed to the account holder.

*(Ord. 210 – Mar. 17 Supp.)*

**92.08 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 in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises 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 30 days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)*

**92.09 CUSTOMER CONNECTION FEE.** There shall be required from every customer without a proven positive payment history with the City a non-refundable hook-up fee in accordance with the Schedule of Fees established by the Council. Existing utility customers with no delinquencies during the past consecutive 12-month period are not required to pay a connection fee if the service is already connected at the new location. When water connection is required, a non-refundable connection fee in the amount specified in the Schedule of Fees will be required.

**92.10 TEMPORARY VACANCY.** A property owner may request water service be temporarily discontinued and shut off at the curb valve when the property is expected to be vacant for an extended period of time. There shall be a fee collected for restoring service according to the Schedule of Fees established by the Council. During a period when service is temporarily discontinued as provided herein, there shall be no monthly minimum service charge. The City will not drain pipes or pull meters for temporary vacancies.

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