

Chapter 8

Controls of the Placement and Use of Potable Water

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Article I, Water Service in General

Sec. 8.1. Service

The Town shall provide necessary utility service to the customer at the point of street right of way or property line easement established for the utility service. Service lines and collection lines from the right of way or property line easement shall be installed, owned, and maintained by the customer subject to regulations given in this ordinance.

Sec. 8.2. Meter Responsibility

The Town shall be responsible for all damaged meters due to ordinary wear, improper installation or servicing by the Town. The customer shall be responsible for all damaged or destroyed meters resulting from negligence and shall be charged for repairs or replacement based on the current prevailing prices and repair rates.

Sec. 8.3. Tampering with Meter

It shall be unlawful for any person to alter, tamper with, "straight line" a water service, or bypass a meter which has been installed for the purpose of measuring water service. Any meter found in a condition which would cause such meter to inaccurately measure the use of water or the attachment to a meter or distribution wire of any device, mechanism or wire which would permit the use of unmetered water or would cause a meter to inaccurately measure the use thereof shall be evidence that either the person in whose name such meter was installed or the person for whose benefit it was diverted caused the water to be diverted from going through the meter or the meter to inaccurately measure the use of water.

It shall be unlawful for any person other than authorized Town personnel to restore water service when said service was discontinued for nonpayment. If any person other than authorized personnel causes water service to be restored prior to paying in full the outstanding balance, then it shall be evidence that either the person in whose name such meter was installed or the person who benefited caused the service to be restored. It shall be unlawful for any person, without first obtaining written permission from the mayor or his/her designated representative, to tamper with, adjust, turn on, turn off or exercise any control over any fire hydrant, water valve, water service except in case of extreme emergency which belongs to the Town and used to supply and distribute water.

Sec. 8.4. Utility Billing

All meters shall be read once a month and each monthly bill shall become due and payable in its entirety on the tenth. After the tenth day, a penalty shall be added. If any bill shall remain unpaid by the 20th of the month, all services to such user shall be forthwith discontinued, and shall remain discontinued until user has paid past due bill and a reconnection charge of \$45 in town and \$60 out of town is paid. If the town is requested to cut off the town valve for owner or renter to repair leaks, a service charge will be \$10.00.

All utility charges shall constitute a lien upon the property benefited by the utility service. In

the event such charges shall not have been paid, then the service shall be discontinued. A lien shall be a debt of the property receiving the benefit regardless of the owner or tenant. Utility services shall not be restored until such time as all liens are satisfied. Termination of utility service for failure to pay any other legally constituted fees, licenses or taxes shall be implemented at the discretion of council, and shall take effect as described in other fee or tax sections of this code. The termination shall be binding until all fees or taxes are fully paid. This shall apply to business license fees annually. (R3-08-10)

Sec. 8.5. Service to Two Lots.

No water service shall be furnished to any lot or house from an existing service on another lot. No water service shall be furnished free of charge to any person.

Sec. 8.6. Shortages

When it shall be determined by the town council that a water supply shortage is imminent for any reason, the council may, by resolution, restrict the quantity of water furnished to any customer and such restrictions may be imposed on customers outside the Town limits before restricting the quantity of water furnished within the Town limits.

Sec. 8.7. Maintenance, Operation, Service

The Town shall provide personnel to maintain, operate, and service the system as required by the rules and regulations of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Town agrees to use reasonable diligence in providing a regular and uninterrupted supply of potable water and services, but in case the supply of water shall be interrupted or fail by accident, deficiency, or any cause whatsoever, the Town shall not be liable for such interruption or failure and the Town shall not be liable for any damages sustained by the customer by reason thereof.

Sec. 8.8. Water Customer Accounts

All services will be metered and shall be read and billed monthly as previously stated. No adjustments shall be made to water bills unless there is an error in billing on the part of the Town.

Sec. 8.9. Right to Enter Property

Whenever it shall be necessary for the purpose of these rules and regulation, the Town utility department, upon the presentation of credentials, may enter upon any property or premises at reasonable times for the purpose of: (1) Disconnection or reconnection of service (2) Inspecting any water equipment or plumbing; (3) Sampling; and (4) Perform maintenance or repairs to the distribution system as needed. The Town utility department may enter upon the property at any hour under emergency circumstances. (R 3-8-10)

Sec. 8.10. Backflow Preventer

All water connections that meet the State Primary Drinking Water Regulations R.61-58.7 definition of a Low Hazard or High Hazard Cross Connection must be equipped with an approved backflow preventer valve installed at the customer's expense. A list of approved backflow preventer valves is available from the water department clerk at town hall. (R3-08-10)

Sec. 8.11. Hazardous Connections

The Town may make inspections of existing building's plumbing and if any condition is found which constitutes a health hazard or potential health hazard to the water supply, the Town shall require immediate corrective action be taken by the customer or sever the water connection until the hazard is corrected by the customer to the satisfaction of the Town.

Sec. 8.12. Cross Connections

Under no circumstances shall any part of the water system be cross connected in any way with any other water source except as specifically approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Any hazardous cross connection between the water system and any source of contamination is prohibited.

Sec. 8.13. Public Health and Safety

In the interest of the public health and safety, the Town shall be permitted to take such emergency action as may be deemed necessary in the operation of the water system including the right to close down any water line or portion of the water system for the purpose of making corrections, alterations, or repairs.

Sec. 8.14. Records and Billing

While the Town will make every reasonable effort to see that each customer receives his bill, no responsibility will be assumed for non-delivery where the bill has been mailed at the post office, provided the bill has been mailed to the address which the customer has reported to the Town. All records of business transactions, billings, and receipt of funds shall be maintained by the town clerk and treasurer.

Sec. 8.15. Laterals within the Town or Public Right of Way

The Town shall own all lines within public rights-of ways by adverse possession and shall maintain same at no cost to the individual customer. The ownership by the Town shall be up to and including the meter and meter box. The customer shall own and be responsible for all portions of the system beyond the meter box. Any lines that may create a difficulty in the ownership pattern delineated herein shall be individually addressed by council after review by the mayor or his designee at the mayor's discretion.

Section 8.16. Private Wells

Except for non-potable uses such as irrigation, private wells are not allowed within the Town's water service area. For purposes of this section, water service area is defined as any property serviced by the Town's water system within or outside of the Town's limits. Prior to installing a well, the property owner must obtain a release letter from the Town's Water Department. The property owner must then submit the release letter to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to receive a well drilling permit.

A non-potable well may not be connected in any manor to the plumbing of a house, dwelling or building which is serviced by the Town's water system. The Town's water personnel must conduct a final inspection prior to an irrigation well being placed in service to insure a cross connect is not occurring. The Town will periodically inspect irrigation wells to insure cross connections have not been installed. Water produced from irrigation wells may not be discharged into the Town's sewer system under any circumstances. (A 3-8-10)

Sec. 8.17. Reserved

Article II , Water Rates, Tap Fees, Deposits, Etc.

Sec. 8.18. Setup Fees

A one-time non-refundable setup fee of \$60.00 is required for service. Upon payment of the deposit, the customer shall enter into a meter contract acknowledging responsibilities and provisions of this ordinance.

Sec. 8.19 Reserved

Sec. 8.20 Reserved

Sec. 8.21. Metered Water Rates Inside Town

Minimum \$20.97 up to 2,000 gallons
All over 2,000 @ \$3.39 per 1000 gallons

All commercial entitles that exceed 10,000 gallons per billing cycle will be assessed a system impact fee of 80 percent of water usage based on current water billing cost.

Sec. 8.22. Sewer Rates Inside Town

Base cost \$13.73
All flow @ \$1.72 per 1000 gallons

Sec. 8.23. Metered Water Rates Outside Town

Minimum \$29.98 up to 2,000 gallons
All over 2,000 @ \$4.80 per 1000 gallons

Commercial entitles that exceed 10,000 gallons per billing cycle will be assessed a system impact fee of 80 percent of water usage based on current water billing costs.

Sec. 8.24. Sewer Rates Outside Town

Base cost \$22.61
All flow @ \$2.69 per 1000 gallons

Sec 8.25. Reserved

Sec. 8.26. Reserved

Sec. 8.27. Reconnection Fee

This fee is activated when water is turned off for non-payment of bills. This fee is \$45.00 in town and \$60.00 out of town

Sec. 8.28. Fire Hydrants

\$3.60 per month for all customers

Sec. 8.29 Other Fees

Meter deposit (property owners) \$200.00

Returned Check fee \$36.00

Sec. 8.30 Setup Fee

A one time set-up fee of \$60.00 per account is required for service.

Sec. 8.31 Reserved

Sec. 8.32 Tap Fees

	In Town	Out of Town
Water meters: ¾"	\$960.00	\$1,644.00
1"	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00
1 ½"	\$1,500.00	\$2,250.00
2"	\$2,160.00	\$2,880.00
4" compound	\$9,600.00	\$14,400.00
6" compound	\$14,400.00	\$21,600.00
8" and larger	Actual cost plus \$700.00	
Sewer taps: 4"	\$2,538.00	\$2,885.00
6"	\$2,880.00	\$4,320.00
8"	\$4,320.00	\$6,480.00
10"	\$5,760.00	\$8,640.00
12" and larger	Actual cost plus \$1,600.00	