

TITLE II - UTILITIES AND SERVICES

CHAPTER 21 CITY WATER UTILITY

2.1. Definitions. In the interpretation of this Chapter the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) The term "water main" shall mean that part of the water distribution system located within the easement lines of streets designed to supply more than one (1) water connection.
- (2) The term "water connection" shall mean that part of the water distribution system connecting the water main with the premises served.
- (3) The term "Department" shall mean the City Department of Water. "Superintendent" shall mean Superintendent of the Department.

2.2. Service Connections. Applications for water connections shall be made to the Department on forms prescribed and furnished by it. Water connections and water meters shall be installed in accordance with rules and regulations of the Department and upon payment of the required connection fee and meter installation fee. All meters and water connections shall be the property of the City. Connection fees shall not be less than the cost of materials, installation and overhead attributable to such installations.

The connection fee shall be as established by Council resolution.

2.3. Turning on Water Service. No person, other than an authorized employee of the Department, shall turn on or off any water service, except that a licensed plumber may turn on water service for testing his work (when it must be immediately turned off) or upon receiving a written order from the Department; provided, that upon written permit from

the Department, water may be turned on for construction purposes only, prior to the granting of a certificate of occupancy for the premises, and upon payment of the charges applicable thereto.

2.4. Water Meters. All premises using water shall be metered, except as otherwise provided in this Code. No person except a Department employee shall break or injure the seal or change the location of, alter or interfere in any way with any water meter.

2.5. Access to Meters. The Department shall have the right to shut off the supply of water to any premises where the Department is not able to obtain access to the meter. Any qualified employee of the Department shall at all reasonable hours, have the right to enter the premises where such meters are installed for the purpose of reading, testing, removing, or inspecting same and no person shall hinder, obstruct, or interfere with such employee in the lawful discharge of his duties in relation to the care and maintenance of such water meter.

2.6. Reimbursement for Damage. Any damage which a meter may sustain resulting from carelessness of the owner, agent, or tenant or from neglect of either of them to properly secure and protect the meter, as well as any damage which may be wrought by frost, hot water, or steam backing from a boiler, shall be paid by the owner of the property to the City on presentation of a bill therefor; and in cases where the bill is not paid, the water shall be shut off and shall not be turned on until all charges have been paid to the City.

2.7. Meter Failure. If any meter shall fail to register properly, the Department shall estimate the consumption on the basis of former consumption and bill accordingly.

2.8. Inaccurate Meters. A consumer may require that the meter be tested. If the meter is found accurate, a charge of three (\$3.00) dollars will be made. If the meter is found defective, it shall be repaired or an accurate meter installed and no charge shall be made.

2.9. Accuracy Required. A meter shall be considered

accurate if, when tested it registers not to exceed two (2%) per cent more or two (2%) per cent less than the actual quantity of water passing through it. If a meter registers in excess of two (2%) per cent more than the actual quantity of water passing through it, it shall be considered "fast" to that extent. If a meter registers in excess of two (2%) per cent less than the actual quantity of water passing through it, it shall be considered "slow" to that extent.

2.10. Bill Adjustment. If a meter has been tested at the request of a consumer and shall have been determined to register "fast" the City shall credit the consumer with a sum equal to the per cent "fast" multiplied by the amount of all bills incurred by said consumer, within the three (3) months prior to the test, and if a meter so tested is determined to register "slow", the Department may collect from the consumer a sum equal to the per cent "slow" multiplied by the amount of all the bills incurred by the consumer for the prior three (3) months. When the Department on its own initiative makes a test of a water meter, it shall be done without cost to the consumer, other than his paying the amount due the City for water used by him as above provided, if the meter is found to be "slow".

2.11. Hydrant Use. No person, except an employee of the City in the performance of his duties, shall open or use any fire hydrant except in case of emergency, without first securing a written permit from the Department and paying such charges as may be prescribed.

2.12. Additional Regulations. The Superintendent may make and issue additional rules and regulations concerning the Water Distribution System, connection thereto, meter installation and maintenance, connection and meter installation fees, hydrants and water mains and the appurtenances thereto, not inconsistent herewith. Such rules and regulations shall be effective upon approval by the City Council. The rules and regulations now in effect shall continue until changed in accordance with this section.

2.13. Injury to Facilities. No person, except an employee of the City in the performance of his duties, shall wilfully or carelessly break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance or

equipment which is a part of the City Water Distribution System.

2.21. Cross Connections.

- (1) The City of Bessemer adopts by reference the Water Supply Cross Connection Rules of the Michigan Department of Public Health being R 325.431 to R 325.440 of the Michigan Administrative Code.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the City to cause inspection to be made of all properties served by public water supply where cross connections with the public water supply is deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and reinspections based on potential hazards involved shall be as established by the City and as approved by the Michigan Department of Public Health.
- (3) Representatives of the City shall have the right to enter at any reasonable time any property served by a connection to the public water supply system of the City thereof for cross connections. On request, the owner, lessees or occupants of any property so served shall furnish to the inspection agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property. The refusal of such information or refusal of access, when requested, shall be deemed evidence of the presence of cross connections.
- (4) The Department is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue water service after reasonable notice to any property wherein any connection in violation of this section exists, and to take such other precautionary measures deemed necessary to eliminate any danger of noncompliance with the provisions of this section.
- (5) The potable water supply made available on the properties served by the public water system supply shall be protected from possible contamination as specified by this section and by the State Plumbing Code. Any water outlet which could be used for potable or domestic purposes and which is not

supplied by the potable system must be labeled in a conspicuous manner as:

WATER	UNSAFE
FOR	DRINKING

- (6) This section does not supersede the State Plumbing Code or other provisions of this Code relating to plumbing.
- (7) Any person or customer found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this section, or any written order of the City Manager, in pursuance thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a violation of this Code, punishable as prescribed in Chapter 1 hereof.