

ORDINANCE NO. 2712

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 13.44 of the Camas Municipal Code by revising the procedures for billing and collection of water and sewer charges.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section I

Section 13.44.010 of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.010 - Charges—Metered Service—Billing Intervals

- A. All residential and most commercial water services shall be billed at regular intervals and shall be due and payable on the 5th day of the month following billing. Such billings shall be delinquent on the 26th day of the month following billing.
- B. All industrial and some commercial services shall be billed monthly, and shall be due and payable on the 5th day of each month following billing. Such billing shall be delinquent on the 26th day of each month following billing.
- C. A customer shall be charged the sum of \$20.00 for each non-sufficient fund check, or a check written on a closed account and returned by the bank to the City.
- D. There shall be a penalty fee on all delinquent accounts assessed at the rate of five percent of the outstanding balance with a minimum of \$8.00 per utility account.

Section II

Subsection 13.44.020(D) of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.020(D) - Nonpayment—Shutoff—Hearing—Disconnection Fees.

- D. In the event a hearing is requested, the amount tendered by the customer shall be deposited into the customer account. At the hearing, the person requesting the hearing shall be entitled to give testimony, call and cross-examine witnesses, and present any relevant documentary evidence. Following the hearing, the Board of Adjustment shall render its decision in writing. If all or a portion of the charges are found not to be owing, such amount shall be refunded to the customer or credited to the customer's account.

Section III

Subsection 13.44.020(E) of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.020(E) - Nonpayment—Shutoff—Hearing—Disconnection Fees.

- E. Whenever a disconnection is made, a \$35.00 fee shall be charged. If a request to reconnect the service occurs after 4:00 p.m., then an additional charge shall be made as follows:
 - 1. A request for reconnecting service between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. that requires an employee to work past regular working hours causing overtime pay, shall be charged the disconnection fee plus an additional \$5.00.
 - 2. At all other times and on holidays, the customer shall be charged the disconnection fee plus an additional \$55.00.

Section IV

Subsection 13.44.020(G) of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.020(G) - Nonpayment—Shutoff—Hearing—Disconnection Fees.

- G. There shall be an additional charge of \$18.00 for each time a service is found wrongfully or illegally reconnected after being disconnected for nonpayment.

Section V

Subsection 13.44.020(H) of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.020(H) - Nonpayment—Shutoff—Hearing—Disconnection Fees.

- H. If a meter or spacer must be removed, padlocked, or other means used to prevent illegal reconnection of a service, then there shall be an additional charge of \$40.00 for removal of such meter or spacer.

Section VI

Section 13.44.030 of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.030 - Adjustments for Broken Pipes.

When a property owner, in any given billing period because of a broken water pipe on the owner's premises, has used, according to the meter, a quantity of water which is more than double the average amount of water used on such premises in similar billing periods in prior years, a written application may be made to the finance director, for a reduction to said billing. If the application states that there was a broken pipe on the owner's premises which caused the large consumption of water, upon verification by inspection by public works employees of such fact and it is established that such broken pipe has been repaired and approved by the director of public works, the finance director shall authorize a credit to such billing as follows:

Average water consumption will be determined by adding the consumption of the prior two billings and dividing by two. If the prior two months include summer months and there appears to be sprinkling occurring, then the average water consumption will be calculated on the two prior billings that did not include sprinkling.

The average consumption will then be deducted from the consumption which occurred at the time of the broken water pipe. The difference will be divided in half and multiplied by the current water rate to determine the credit.

If the broken pipe occurs on commercial property, a sewer credit may also be granted based on the above formula multiplied by the current sewer rate.

The credit shall apply to a maximum of two billings and only up through the day of repair. No additional credit shall be given for a delay in repair of pipes beyond one billing period.

The reduction provided for by this section shall not be allowed if such excess water consumption is due to the owner's neglect or failure to repair the water system of the premises. A reduction shall not be permitted if such excess consumption is due to leaking faucets, other plumbing fixtures or irrigation systems.

Section VII

Section 13.44.040 of the Camas Municipal Code is amended to provide as follows:

13.44.040 - Service Termination.

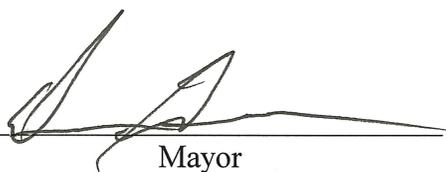
Each customer about to vacate any premises supplied with water service by the city shall give notice of his intended removal at least two days prior thereto; specifying the date change-in-ownership actually occurred, otherwise, he will be responsible for all water supplied to the premises until the city water department has notice of such removal.

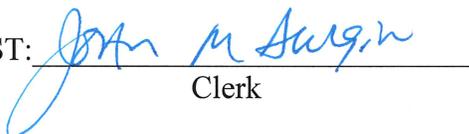
At the time specified by the customers of the termination of their water service, a reading of the water meter will be made and a bill shall be rendered based on the proportionate days of usage.

Section VIII

This ordinance shall take force and be in effect five (5) days from and after its publication according to law.

PASSED by the Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 26th day of July, 1999.

SIGNED: 
Mayor

ATTEST: 
Clerk

APPROVED as to form:


City Attorney