

TITLE III - PUBLIC SERVICES
WATER SERVICE SYSTEM

CHAPTER 91
WATER METERS

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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 a plumber. The City shall furnish each customer with one water meter except as provided in this chapter for non-sewered industrial/commercial or subtraction water service meters.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84[1])

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. All new or replacement meters shall provide for remote reading.

91.05 METER SETTING. The property owner shall provide all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including a fullway gate or ball 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 a two-inch (2") meter shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter, or 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 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. Such request shall be accompanied by a refundable deposit of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) guaranteeing payment of costs if found due. 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, plus the meter test deposit. If the meter is found to be accurate or slow, or less than two percent (2%) fast, the customer deposit shall be forfeited as the reasonable costs of the test, and the customer shall be liable for any deficiency over two percent (2%) up to six (6) months.

91.10 OUTSIDE WATER SERVICE METERS. Customers may obtain a permit to have water used for lawn care, gardening or other outside purposes metered through a separate meter. An application for the permit shall be filed with the Clerk on forms furnished by the City.

91.11 INSTALLATION OF OUTSIDE SERVICE METERS. Upon issuance of the permit, the customer will install the following water meter package or its equivalent at the customer's expense:

1. 5/8 water meter with readout
2. Branch piece for the two meters
3. Two angle yoke valves
4. Two yoke bars
5. Two expansion connections
6. Backflow preventer
7. One straight yoke outlet.

Once installed, the outside water service meter shall be locked until the customer has completed the plumbing from the meter to the outside faucet. Upon completion, the plumbing must be inspected and approved by the City. The outside water service meter shall be sealed upon installation.

91.12 RESTRICTIONS ON OUTSIDE METERED SERVICE. The following restrictions apply to outside metered service:

1. During any period in which the City determines that it is necessary to conserve water, all outside metered services shall be disconnected immediately. Disconnection may be completed by the City. Reconnection shall occur only when the water conservation period is over, as determined by the City.
2. If at any time it is brought to the attention of the City that the customer is using the outside metered service to provide water for use in the house, the outside service meter shall be removed and the customer shall no longer be eligible for such service.
3. Any sign of meter tampering by the customer shall result in the immediate termination of the outside metering service.

91.13 RATES FOR OUTSIDE METERED SERVICE. Water service measured through outside service meters shall be billed at the same rates as established in Section 92.02 of this Code of Ordinances except that the minimum charge shall not apply. No sewer charge will be assessed to water usage measured through the outside service meter. (Amended by Ordinance No. 588)

91.14 RECONNECTION FEE FOR OUTSIDE METERED SERVICE. A customer requested disconnection of an outside metered service, shall be made at no charge, however if a customer requests reconnection of an outside metered service, a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) reconnection fee shall be assessed. In the event of mandatory disconnection during water conservation periods, the reconnection fee shall be waived.

91.15 WATER SERVICE METER PERMITS FOR NON-SEWERED INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS. Customers may obtain a permit to have water used for commercial or industrial purposes that does not enter the public sewer system metered through a separate meter. An application for the permit shall be filed with the Clerk on forms furnished by the City. (Added by Ord. No. 593)

91.16 INSTALLATION OF SUBTRACTION, INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SERVICE METERS. Upon issuance of the permit, the property owner or customer will be furnished with a meter by the City when the customer has completed the plumbing and it has been inspected and approved by the City. The furnished meter is subject to the provisions of Sections 91.02 through 91.09 of this chapter. Such meter shall be on a visible branch out of the water supply pipe before any other meter if possible. If such meter must be branched after another meter for any necessary permitted purpose, it shall be known as a subtraction meter which means that the usage reading on the second meter will be subtracted from the first meter to determine the usage of each meter.
(Added by Ordinance No. 593)

91.17 RATES FOR NON-SEWERED METER SERVICE. Water service measured through these permitted water service meters shall be billed at the same rates as established in Section 92.02 of this Code of Ordinances, except no sewer charge will be assessed.
(Added by Ordinance No. 593)

91.18 RESTRICTIONS ON NON-SEWERED METER SERVICE INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL APPLICATION. The following restrictions apply to non-sewered industrial/commercial metered service:

1. If at any time it is brought to the attention of the City that the customer is using this service to provide water for a non-permitted use, the non-sewered meter service shall be removed and the customer shall no longer be eligible for such service.
2. Such non-sewered system shall be closed in that it shall not allow backflow, shall not be connected to any other plumbing system except the supply and shall have no fittings for use other than the permitted use.
3. Any sign of meter tampering by the customer shall result in the termination of the non-sewered metering service.

(Added by Ordinance No. 593)

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