

CODE OF ORDINANCE—WATER METERS
20-MARCH-2012

Chairperson Mary Teicholz called the Committee meeting to order at 5:48 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Teicholz, Mike Haddad, and Paul Rotello.

ALSO PRESENT: Robin L. Edwards, Assistant Corporation Counsel; David Day, Superintendent of Public Utilities and interested members of the public.

After making introductions and stating the charge of the committee, Chairperson Teicholz asked Mr. Day to give the committee an overview of the requested changes. Mr. Day stated that they were asking the ordinance be amended so that the City through Public Utilities could replace and take ownership of any water meters which were greater than one inch. The goal of the change is to allow the City to ensure that these meters provide accurate usage measurements. He went on to state that currently 95% of the city's meters are owned by the city. Not all of the 5% have problems, there are some property owners who test and maintain their meters. These would not become City property. Finally, he stated that his department had investigated alternatives including fines and fees for meters that were not working properly, and it is in the City's best interest to own these meters, as the inaccurate measuring costs the City more revenue than the cost of a new meter.

Mr. Haddad asked a question regarding the language about new installations and existing meters. Mrs. Edwards clarified that language and different requirements for new versus existing and meters that were greater than one inch. Mr. Haddad then asked about the cost of the meters. Mr. Day explained the types of meters and associated costs and stated that accurate water measurement would cover the cost of the meter in the short-term, and that when City replaced, owned and maintained the meters it would ensure that there would be no further loss of revenue due to inaccurate measurement. A discussion ensued regarding the costs, sizes of meters and testing.

Mr. Rotello questioned whether or not the property owner should bear some or all of the cost of the new meter. Mr. Day restated that the goal was to get accurate water measurements. The cost of the water is greater than the cost of the meter. Replacing and taking ownership is the easiest way for this to happen due to additional billing and legal cost association with enforcement. Additional amendment options and the current ordinance were discussed further.

Chairperson Teicholz asked what was the real cost to the city. Mr. Day stated that the cost of inaccurate water measuring far outweighs that cost of the meter. He explained that old meter always run slowly and may not capture small flow events.

Mr. Rotello made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Haddad to recommend to the City Council the approval of the proposed changes to Ordinance 21-44 and proceed to a public hearing as required by statute. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business before the committee, Mr. Haddad made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotello. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Teicholz, Committee Chairperson

Mike Haddad

Paul Rotello



ORDINANCE

26-1

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT CITY COUNCIL

A.D. 2012

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Danbury:

THAT Section 21-44 of the Code of Ordinances of Danbury, Connecticut is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 21-44- Same—Ownership, installation, repair, testing, billing.

- (a) The water use of each consumer shall be metered. All piping for meters shall be plumbed by the customer at his own expense. For purposes of this section a "water meter" shall include any associated meter reading device.
- (b) The City shall furnish, install, maintain, test and repair all water meters one (1) inch or less in size and used by the City for the purpose of billing public water system customers. The City shall bear all costs so incurred.
- (c) The City shall furnish, install, maintain, test and repair all water meters exceeding one (1) inch in size and used by the City for the purpose of billing public water system customers for new water service initiated after July 1, 2005. The customer shall bear the expense of the new meter acquisition and installation and the City shall bear the expense of future maintenance, repair and if necessary, replacement of the meter.
- (d) In the event of a change of property use by a customer that results in the need for a replacement meter exceeding one (1) inch in size, the customer shall bear the expense of new meter acquisition and installation and the City shall bear the expense of future maintenance, repair and if necessary, replacement of the meter.
- (e) All customers owning water meters on the effective date of this section that are used by the City for the purpose of billing public water system, which are deemed necessary to be replaced by the Superintendent of Public Utilities or his designee, in his sole discretion, to be replaced for any reason including but not limited to old age, obsolescence and/or inaccuracy shall be furnished, owned, installed, and maintained by the City. As part of the meter installation, the City shall also install radio read devices and shut off valves, if necessary
- (f) All meters shall be subject to testing by the City at intervals as determined by the Superintendent of Public Utilities, as noted in the most current edition of the American Water Works Association publication entitled "Water Meters-Selection, Installation, Testing and Maintenance, and at such other times as deemed necessary by said Superintendent or his designee, in his sole discretion. Whenever the City conducts a test of a water meter pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the cost of the test shall be billed to the customer.
- (g) For purposes of this section, meter acquisition and installation costs shall be set by the Superintendent of Public Utilities and shall be generally equivalent to the cost of the meter, radio read device and any other parts required for installation, as paid by the City.

COPY SHOWING DELETIONS AND NEW LANGUAGE.

26-2

THAT Section 21-44 of the Code of Ordinances of Danbury, Connecticut is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 21-44- Same—Ownership, installation, repair, testing, billing.

(a) The water use of each consumer shall be metered. All piping for meters shall be plumbed by the customer at his own expense. For purposes of this section a "water meter" shall include any associated meter reading device.

(b) The CITY shall furnish, install, maintain, test and repair all water meters one (1) inch or less in size and used by the CITY for the purpose of billing public water system customers. The CITY shall bear all costs so incurred.

(c) The CITY shall furnish, install, maintain, test and repair all water meters exceeding one (1) inch in size and used by the CITY for the purpose of billing public water system customers for new water service initiated after July 1, 2005. The customer shall bear the expense of the new meter acquisition and installation and the CITY shall bear the expense of future maintenance, repair and if necessary, replacement of the meter.

(d) In the event of a change of property use by a customer that results in the need for a replacement meter exceeding one (1) inch in size, the customer shall bear the expense of new meter acquisition and installation and the CITY shall bear the expense of future maintenance, repair and if necessary, replacement of the meter.

(e) All customers owning water meters on the effective date of this section that are used by the CITY for the purpose of billing public water system, WHICH ARE DEEMED NECESSARY TO BE REPLACED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OR HIS DESIGNEE, IN HIS SOLE DISCRETION, TO BE REPLACED FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO OLD AGE, OBSOLESCENCE AND/OR INACCURACY, SHALL BE FURNISHED, OWNED, INSTALLED, AND MAINTAINED BY THE CITY. AS PART OF THE METER INSTALLATION, THE CITY SHALL ALSO INSTALL RADIO READ DEVICES AND SHUT OFF VALVES, IF NECESSARY.

(f) All meters shall be subject to testing by the CITY at intervals as determined by the Superintendent of Public Utilities, AS NOTED IN THE MOST CURRENT EDITION OF THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION ENTITLED "WATER METERS-SELECTION, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE, and at such other times as deemed necessary by said Superintendent OR HIS DESIGNEE, IN HIS SOLE DISCRETION. Whenever the CITY conducts a test of a water meter, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the cost of the test shall be billed to the customer.

(g) For purposes of this section, meter acquisition and installation costs shall be set by the Superintendent of Public Utilities and shall be generally equivalent to the cost OF THE METER, RADIO READ DEVICE AND ANY OTHER PARTS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION, as paid by the City.

Note: New language is indicated by CAPITALIZATION COMBINED WITH UNDERLINING except that capitalization is not utilized for the letters in parenthesis which indicate subsections. Deleted language is indicated ~~strikeouts~~.