



CITY OF DANBURY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CT 06810

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(203) 797-4637
FAX: (203) 796-1590

January 30, 2012

Honorable Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
Honorable Members of the City Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Re: Amendments to Code of Ordinances Section 21-44

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council:

Code of Ordinances Section 21-44, provides for ownership, installation, repair, and testing of water meters that are used for billing customers for water and sewer use. Our Department proposes that certain amendments be made to the existing ordinance which will result in the City eventually owning all of its water meters so that accurate meter operation and readings can be assured. This is extremely important because for a water utility, the water meter is the sole source of revenue. Accurate meter operation is essential to insure maximum revenues. For large volumes of water, even small errors in measurement can add up to significant financial losses.

Currently the City Of Danbury owns 95% of the water meters used by the Public Utilities Department to bill customers for water and sewer usage. The remaining 5% of the water meters are larger meters measuring large volumes of water, thus in order to maximize revenue it behooves the City to own and maintain these larger meters as well.

In addition to maximizing revenue:

A] Water is a precious resource, thus regulatory agencies put a high priority on insuring unaccounted for water is kept to a minimum. The key to this is accurate metering of water consumption.

B] Accurate water consumption information is also critical to future planning for facilities to insure an adequate quantity of quality water is provided to meet the needs of the City Of Danbury.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that an Ad hoc Committee be formed to review the proposed ordinance changes. The Office of the Corporation Counsel has prepared a proposed draft ordinance which is attached hereto.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me, or the Office of the Corporation Counsel with any questions.

Sincerely yours,

David Day, P.E.
Superintendent of Public Utilities

Enclosure
cc:

Laszlo L. Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Robin L. Edwards, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Antonio Iadarola, P.E., Director of Public Works

ORDINANCE

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.

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~~.