

**ORDINANCE NO. 226, THIRD SERIES**

**CITY OF ORONO  
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
PERTAINING TO WATER METERS**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF ORONO ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1. Sec. 14-81. - Water meters** shall be amended by adding and deleting text to read as follows:

Sec. 14-81. - Water meters.

- (1) Requirement. All properties connected to the city water system must have a properly functioning and calibrated radio-read water meter of the appropriate size and type to obtain an accurate recording of the water used at the full range of anticipated flow rates. Maintenance, Repair and Replacement. The City shall maintain and repair or replace all meters when rendered unserviceable through ordinary wear and tear. Where replacement, repair or adjustment of any meter is rendered necessary by the act, neglect or carelessness of the owner or occupant of any premises, any expense caused by the City thereby shall be charged against and collected from the owner or occupant of the premises.
  - (2) City Property. Water meters shall be and remain the property of the City and may be removed or replaced or changed as to size and type by the City whenever deemed necessary.
  - (3) Access to Read Meters. City employees delegated for that purpose shall have free access at reasonable hours of the day to all parts of every building and premises connected with the municipal water supply system for reading of meters and inspections. The City shall be authorized to make adjustments in water charges where in their opinion the amount billed is erroneous due to meter deficiency or other mistake.
- (b) Meter Replacement. Installation of a radio-read capacity water meter shall be required on all structures served by the municipal water system. If a property owner does not authorize entry onto the property to allow installation of the meter within 60 days after the City requests entry, a surcharge fee as set forth in fee schedule will be applied.
  - (c) New Construction. A city provided water meter and remote reader is required before either a temporary or permanent certificate of occupancy will be issued for any building with city water service. The property owner shall be responsible for retaining the services of a licensed plumber for the installation of all required water meters and remote readers.
  - (d) Meter Reading. The city normally reads water meters and bills for water usage on a quarterly basis. If the city is unable to obtain an accurate water meter reading because of a nonfunctioning or inaccessible water meter or remote reader, the city will estimate the quarterly water bill based on the past water usage for the property.

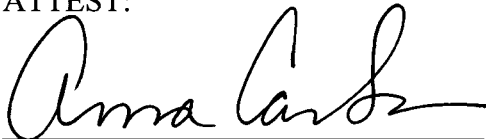
- (1) Failure to read. The city will provide notification to the property owner of the inability to obtain an accurate water meter reading and the city's need to obtain access to the property to allow for correction of the problem by the city. The property owner shall cooperate with the city to allow for correction of the situation in a prompt manner. If the property owner is nonresponsive or uncooperative in coordinating with the city to allow for repair of the water meter and remote reader, the city reserves the right to add a nonrefundable service charge for a nonfunctioning or inaccessible water meter to the next water bill.
- (2) Service charge. The amount of this service charge shall be determined by ordinance and listed in the city fee schedule. This service charge will be added to future quarterly water bills and the water bill estimated until the property has a properly functioning and accessible radio-read water meter. The city also reserves the right to shutoff water service to any property that has had a nonfunctioning or inaccessible water meter or remote reader for more than six months after the property owner is notified of the situation.

(Code 1984, § 3.10(10); Ord. No. 217 2nd series, 3-25-2002)

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE:** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication.

**ADOPTED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019 on a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays by the City Council of Orono, Minnesota.

ATTEST:



Anna Carlson, City Clerk



Dennis Walsh, Mayor

*Ordinance published in The Laker and The Pioneer newspapers the week of June 15, 2019.*