

CHAPTER 92

WATER RATES

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92.01 SERVICE CHARGES. Each customer shall pay for water service provided by the City based upon use of water as determined by meters provided for in Chapter 91. Each location, building, premises or connection shall be considered a separate and distinct customer whether owned or controlled by the same person or not. The service charges shall be billed as part of a combined service account which means a customer service account for the provision of two or more utility services.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.02 RATES FOR SERVICE AND METER RENTALS. Water service shall be furnished at the following monthly rates within the City:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384,84[1])

1. Residential and Commercial Rates. \$7.23 per each thousand gallons used with a minimum fee of \$7.23 per meter. In computing the minimum for a commercial apartment or a complex served by one water meter, monthly minimum charge will be based on the number of units per structure or complex. To arrive at the base, it will be the number of units times \$7.23. Gallons used in excess of the base rate shall be the number of units times 1,000 gallons. This shall be deducted from the total amount of water used. The amount shall be computed at the number of remaining gallons at \$7.23 per thousand gallons. The City will bill only one billing to a property owner of the apartment complex. The individual or company will be responsible for the payment of the full billing.
2. Water Used During Construction. The fee for a water construction permit is \$100.00.
3. Meter Rentals. Monthly meter rental rates are as follows:

<u>5/8" x 3/4" Positive Displacement</u>	\$1.62
<u>3/4" x 3/4" Positive Displacement</u>	\$1.78
<u>1" x 1" Positive Displacement</u>	\$2.34
<u>1 1/2" x 1 1/2" Positive Displacement</u>	\$3.26
<u>2" Positive Displacement</u>	\$4.65
<u>1 1/2" Turbo</u>	\$4.38

<u>2" Turbo</u>	\$5.36
<u>3" Turbo</u>	\$9.00
<u>4" Turbo</u>	\$19.45
<u>6" Turbo</u>	\$139.04
<u>2" Compound</u>	\$11.83
<u>3" Compound</u>	\$21.83
<u>4" Compound</u>	\$47.21
<u>6" Compound</u>	\$139.04

92.03 RATES OUTSIDE THE CITY. Water service shall be provided any customer located outside the corporate limits of the City which the City has agreed to serve at rates one and one-half times the rates provided in 92.02. No such customer, however, will be served unless the customer shall have signed a service contract agreeing to be bound by the ordinances, rules and regulations applying to water service established by the Council.

(Code Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.04 BILLING FOR WATER SERVICE. Water service shall be billed as part of a combined service account, payable in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Meters Read. Where remote readers are in place and there is a discrepancy between the remote reader and the actual meter reading, the physical meter reading will be the billed amount.
2. Bill Issued. The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the first working day of each month.
3. Bills Payable. Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk by the 20th day of the month.
4. Late Payment Penalty. Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A one-time late payment penalty of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the amount due shall be added to each delinquent bill.

92.05 SERVICE DISCONTINUED. Water service to delinquent customers shall be discontinued in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Notice. The Clerk shall notify each delinquent customer with a reminder notice that service will be discontinued if payment of the combined service account, including late payment charges, is not received. Such notice shall be sent by first class mail within seven (7) working days after the bill becomes delinquent.

2. Notice to Landlords. If the customer is a tenant, and if the owner or landlord of the property has made a written request for notice, the notice of delinquency shall also be given to the owner or landlord.
3. Service Discontinued. Disconnect notices will be sent six (6) days after the date that the reminder notice is sent. Such notice shall be sent by regular mail and shall inform the customer of the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance. The total bill, plus a five dollar (\$5.00) service charge for the expenses connected with the disconnect notice must be paid within five (5) working days of the date of the disconnect notice or service will be terminated per order of the Superintendent.
4. Hearing. If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shutoff, the City Administrator shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the disconnection is justified.
5. Fees. A turn-on fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) during regular working hours defined as the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. or fifty dollars (\$50.00) if not during regular working hours shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer. No turn-on fee or service fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

92.06 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. The owner of the premises served and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for water service charges to the premises. Water service charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the premises served and shall be certified by the Clerk to the County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

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

92.07 LIEN EXEMPTION. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to residential rental properties where water service is separately metered and the charges thereof are paid directly by the tenant, providing the landlord has given written notice to the Clerk that the tenant is liable for the charges and a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of ninety (90) days of water service is paid to the City. The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of occupancy and the date of occupancy. A change in tenant shall require a new written notice and deposit. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the Clerk shall refund the deposit if the water service charges are paid in full and the lien exemption shall be lifted from the rental property.

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

92.08 LIEN NOTICE. A lien for delinquent water service charges shall not be certified to the County Treasurer unless prior written notice of intent to certify a lien is given to the customer. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property has made a written request for notice, the notice shall also be given to the owner or landlord.

The notice shall be sent to the appropriate persons by ordinary mail not less than ten (10) days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.09 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS. There shall be required from every residential customer not the owner of the premises served a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for service. The deposit shall be refunded on notification in writing to the City that the property being serviced has been sold, transferred or conveyed, and a final reading of the meter has been made, a final bill submitted and payment received. The notice shall state the name, address, social security number or other Federal tax identification number of the person to whom the property has been sold, transferred or conveyed. Any person receiving water service who has been delinquent in paying for water service and has received a shutoff notice because of the delinquency twice shall be required to deposit \$100.00 with the City. This deposit shall be in addition to any other that has been made. The shutoff notice served shall have printed in bold face type a warning of the conditions under which the additional deposit will be required. If a \$100.00 deposit is required of a customer due to delinquent water payments, the \$100.00 deposit shall be refunded to the customer if the customer makes timely payments of his or her water bill for a period of two (2) years after the deposit of \$100.00 with the City.

92.10 WATER LEAKAGE. No reduction in billing will be made to water fees in the event of leakage after the water has passed through the meter. It is the owner's responsibility to maintain plumbing to prevent leaks. The property owner may petition the Council for a hearing regarding the possible reduction in sewer fees where there is evidence that the water did not enter the City Sewer System. If the Council grants a reduction in sewer fees, the credit given will be the difference between the actual consumption for the month in which the leakage occurred and the average of the last twelve months of consumption for that customer.

92.11 PROCEDURE FOR ADJUSTMENT. The City Council may, upon petition of a commercial or industrial entity, consider the reduction of water rates for said entity. Consideration shall be dependent upon the total usage of water and a complete cost benefit analysis reflecting the increase in the number of jobs the said entity is bringing to the City of Grimes, the wage rates of the employees, the increased valuation and the resulting tax revenue. Said reduction may be given as an economic incentive in addition to or replacement of other financial incentives. The Council may set a specified time frame for the reduction in rates. Said reduction shall not reduce the water user charges below the City's fixed cost for commodities and utilities for the additional water usage.