

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.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.02 RATES FOR SERVICE. Water service shall be furnished at the following quarterly rates within the City:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

Gallons Used Per Quarter	Rate
First 4,000	\$16.50 (minimum bill)
All over 4,000	\$2.23 per 1,000 gallons

92.03 RATES OUTSIDE THE CITY. Water service shall be provided to any customer located outside the corporate limits of the City which the City has agreed to serve at the same rates provided in Section 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 of Iowa, Sec. 364.4 & 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.** Water meters shall be read during the last month of each of the quarters consisting of the following months:
 - First Quarter – February, March and April
 - Second Quarter – May, June and July
 - Third Quarter – August, September and October
 - Fourth Quarter – November, December and January
2. **Bills Issued.** The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the fifteenth day of the first month of each quarter.
3. **Bills Payable.** Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk by the fifteenth day of the second month of each quarter.

4. Late Payment Penalty. Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A one-time late payment penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) 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 that service will be discontinued if payment of the combined service account, including late payment charges, is not received by the date specified in the notice of delinquency. Such notice shall be sent by ordinary mail to the customer in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred and shall inform the customer of the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance.
2. Notice to Landlords. If the customer is a tenant, and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises has made a written request for notice, the notice of delinquency shall also be given to the owner or landlord. If the customer is a tenant and requests a change of name for service under the account, such request shall be sent to the owner or landlord of the property if the owner or landlord has made a written request for notice of any change of name for service under the account to the rental property.
3. Hearing. If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shut off, the Superintendent shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the disconnection is justified. The customer has the right to appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Council, and if the Council finds that disconnection is justified, then such disconnection shall be made, unless payment has been received.
4. Fees. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer. No 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)

92.07 LIEN EXEMPTION.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Water Service Exemption. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to charges for water service to a residential or commercial rental property where water service is separately metered and the rates or charges for the water service are paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential or commercial rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of ninety (90) days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

2. Other Service Exemption. The lien for nonpayment shall also not apply to the charges for any of the services of sewer systems, storm water drainage systems, sewage treatment, solid waste collection, and solid waste disposal for a residential rental property where the charge is paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges for such service. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of ninety (90) days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

3. Written Notice. The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the residential or commercial rental property that the tenant is to occupy, and the date that the occupancy begins. Upon receipt, the City shall acknowledge the notice and deposit. A change in tenant for a residential rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within thirty (30) business days of the change in tenant. A change in tenant for a commercial rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within ten (10) business days of the change in tenant. A change in the ownership of the residential rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within thirty (30) business days of the completion of the change of ownership. A change in the ownership of the commercial rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within ten (10) business days of the completion of the change of ownership.

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 in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises 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 thirty (30) days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.09 UTILITY DEPOSITS. There shall be required from every customer a one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125.00) deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for utility service. Deposits paid by tenants are refundable when the tenant vacates the premises, and after one year for owners, if all utility bills have been paid in a timely manner.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.10 TEMPORARY VACANCY. A property owner may request water service be temporarily discontinued and shut off at the curb valve when the property is expected to be vacant for an extended period of time. There shall be a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee collected for restoring service. During a period when service is temporarily discontinued as provided herein there shall be no minimum service charge. The City will not drain pipes or pull meters for temporary vacancies.