

CHAPTER 91

WATER METERS

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91.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the conservation of water and facilitate the equitable distribution of charges for water service among customers.

91.02 WATER USE METERED. All water furnished customers shall be measured through meters furnished by the City and installed by the City, except for construction water paid for under a building permit.

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

91.03 FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS – EXCEPTION. Fire sprinkler systems may be connected to water mains by direct connection without meters under the direct supervision of the Superintendent. No open connection can be incorporated in the system, and there shall be no valves except a main control valve at the entrance to the building, which must be sealed open.

91.04 LOCATION OF METERS. All meters shall be so located that they are easily accessible to meter readers and repairmen and protected from freezing. A remote reader for the water meter shall be installed on all new homes on which construction has begun after the effective date of the ordinance codified herein (April 27, 1993). A remote reader shall also be installed on any pre-existing property whenever the meter is replaced and a remote reader is not currently installed. The property owner shall install a remote reader connected to the water meter and the remote reader shall be placed on the outside of the house immediately adjoining any other remote reader located on the outside of the house.

91.05 METER SETTING. The property owner shall provide all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including a globe type valve on the discharge side of the meter. Meter pits may be used only upon approval of the Superintendent and shall be of a design and construction approved by the Superintendent.

91.06 METER COSTS. With regard to any meter which is larger than necessary for single family dwellings (5/8 x 3/4" meter), the property owner or customer shall own the meter. The property owner or customer shall not be charged repair or maintenance fees by the City. However, the City has the right of access to inspect and read the meter during reasonable hours. The property owner is required to have the meter tested and certified at least once every five years by an approved testing service identified by the Council pursuant to resolution. The property owner or customer shall pay for testing and repair of the meter. The City reserves the right to require more frequent testing at intervals more frequent than every five years, if the City reasonably believes the meter is not correct or not functioning properly. In the event more frequent testing is requested by the City, the City shall pay for testing if the test determines that the meter is functioning properly. If the meter is in need of repair or replacement, the property owner or customer shall pay for the testing and repair or replacement. Radio-read meter permit cost \$150.00.

All property owners and customers utilizing water meters in the City shall be charged the following rate on a monthly basis for repair or replacement of their water meter:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
5/8 x 3/4"	\$ 1.62
Construction Water Permit	\$100.00

The construction water permit allows the user a maximum of five thousand (5,000) gallons of water to be used. All gallons used over and above five thousand (5,000) shall be billed at regular rates per Grimes Code Sections 92.02 and 96.02.

The repairs or replacement for single family dwellings shall be carried out pursuant to the terms of Section 91.07.

91.07 METER REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS. Whenever a 5/8 x 3/4" water meter owned by the City is found to be out of order the Superintendent shall have it repaired or replaced. If it is found that damage to the meter has occurred due to the carelessness or negligence of the customer or property owner, or the meter is not owned by the City, then the property owner shall be liable for the cost of repairs or replacement.

91.08 RIGHT OF ENTRY. The Superintendent or designee shall be permitted to enter the premises of any customer at any reasonable time to read, remove, change a meter or terminate water service.

91.09 IRRIGATION METERS. Irrigation meters may be installed by a plumber licensed by the City of Grimes to measure water use for irrigation or swimming pools, yards, gardens and other uses for which sanitary sewer charges are not applicable. The meter shall be permanently installed with backflow prevention as required by the latest edition of the plumbing code as adopted by the City of Grimes. The property owner shall bear all costs associated with the installation including reimbursing the City for the cost of the meter and remote reader assembly. The costs for the meter and remote assembly shall be financed by allowing ten equal payments payable over ten months. This charge shall be included as part of the monthly water bill and will be payable at the same terms of the water bill. A finance charge will not be added to this cost. Irrigation systems shall not be installed within the City Right-Of-Way.

91.10 HYDRANT METERS. Any person wishing to use a hydrant meter shall complete an application form, which will be made available to said person by the Superintendent. No meter may be attached to a hydrant except by a City employee or by authorization of the City. No hydrant meter will be installed before April 15 or allowed to remain on a hydrant after October 15 unless authorized by the City. The deposit to be charged for such use of said meters shall be at the same rate as the cost of the meter. All Grimes utility billing customers shall provide a deposit of the actual cost of the meter which deposit will be returned when the meter is returned to the Department Utility Billing Clerk at City Hall. If the meter is returned in a damaged condition, charges for repairs shall be deducted from the deposit. The fee for hookup, disconnection and administration is \$200.00, and users of hydrant meters shall be charged for all water used, based on meter readings. The following regulations apply to the use of hydrant meters:

1. Applicants shall notify the Water Department at least 24 hours before the meter is needed, and applicants shall provide their own hoses and fittings aside from the meter and valves.
2. The City will make a hydrant meter available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the meter shall be available to any one user for 15 calendar days. At the end of that time, the user may reapply. The City reserves the right to withdraw permission to use the meter in emergencies or if the meter is being used in violation of this section or extended to others not specified in the application.
3. Hydrant meters shall be connected to and used only on fire hydrants located within the City.

4. Users shall not tamper with or disturb meter devices or tamper with valves or other connections or appurtenances on the meter or on the City water system.

91.11 METER INSTALLATION FEE. The property owner shall pay an installation fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each new installation of a water meter and remote reader.

91.12 METER TESTING. Water meters will be tested by the use of a portable test tank or other approved means. A payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to cover costs before a test is made will be required. If the test shows the meter to be defective, resulting in an overcharge, the \$25.00 fee will be returned.

91.13 METER NOT REGISTERING. If a meter fails to register the quantity of water accurately, the quantity shall be determined and the charge made based upon the average quantity registered during such preceding period of time prior to the date of the meter's failure to register as the water billing department shall decide.