

ORDINANCE NO. 2724

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13.12 OF THE MOSES LAKE MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "WATER, SEWER, AND STORMWATER RATES"

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOSES LAKE, WASHINGTON ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 13.12 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Rates" is amended as follows:

13.12.053 Water Service Termination Procedures:

- A. The provisions of this section shall govern all terminations of water service for non-payment of City charge and/or installments and surcharges.
- B. If by the payment date shown on a water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, and stormwater bill, the City has not received complete payment of the amount shown on the bill the City shall mail to, or personally serve upon, the customer a notice of termination. The notice of termination shall be sent with the current month's bill. The notice shall indicate the amount past due.
- C. The notice of termination shall contain the following:
 1. The amount past due and the amount of the current month's billing.
 2. The date of the notice of termination.
 3. The date of termination, which shall be no less than ten (10) days from the date of the notice of termination.
 4. Notice that unless the City receives complete payment of the amount past due prior to the date of termination, water service shall be terminated.
 5. Notice that in lieu of paying the entire amount shown, a customer, prior to the date of termination, may notify the City that he disputes the correctness of all or part of the amount shown, if all or part of the amount shown was not the subject of a previous dispute.
 6. Notice that thirty dollars (\$30) will be assessed as a delinquent service charge if not paid and received by the Finance Department, Utilities Division, by 5 p.m. on the day prior to the date shown on the delinquent notice provided no formal dispute has been filed with the Finance Department as set forth in this section.
 7. An informational telephone number.
 8. Notice that eighty dollars (\$80) will be assessed as a service charge for all water turn-ons or turn-offs after 4:00 p.m. and before 8:00 a.m. and at any other time which is not a normal working day of the City, such as weekends or legal holidays.
- D. If the City receives payment of the past due amount shown on the notice of termination, such payment shall be considered a timely and complete payment for purposes of this ordinance.

13.12.060 Payment of Accounts:

- A. Water, sewer, garbage, and stormwater bills shall be the responsibility of and billed directly to the property owner, unless the property owner wishes the bill sent to another address, the same shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the billing date. If the property owner wishes the bill sent to another address, the property owner first must execute a form provided by the City of Moses Lake indicating the property owner's desires. The form shall include the

property owner's name and address, the address to which the bill shall be sent, and a statement that if the person at the address to which the bill is sent moves and leaves an unpaid balance, the property owner assumes responsibility for the bill. The billing dates for utility accounts shall be as follows:

Routes 1 through 15 on the 20th of each month
Routes 16 through 29 on the 30th of each month
Routes 50 through 60, 70, and 71 on the 10th of each month

- B. The property owners of commercial accounts and governmental agencies may sign agreements requesting that their monthly statements be mailed to service addresses. The statement will contain the same information referred to in subsection A.
- C. The City reserves the right to cut off the water supply from the premises. The water supply may be cut off if either the water charge, sewer charge, garbage charge, ambulance charge, or the stormwater charge is delinquent, and should the water supply be turned off for failure to pay either the sewer charge, water charge, garbage charge, ambulance charge, or stormwater charge when due, the water supply shall not be turned on until all delinquent charges have been paid in full. A service charge shall be assessed as set forth in Subsection B of 13.12.085 and shall be added to the amount past due and will be billed on the next month's statement.
- D. The City shall have a lien against the premises for unpaid water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, and stormwater charges as provided by the laws of the state.
- E. Advance payments may be made on any water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater account.
- F. Water service will not be terminated if there is a past due water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater charge of twenty dollars (\$20) or less, subject to subsection G.
- G. No water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater bills shall be allowed to be more than sixty (60) days past due regardless of the past due amount. If a water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater account is to become sixty (60) days past due, water service shall be terminated as provided herein before the sixtieth (60th) day ends.
- H. No water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater account will be transferred to another person, partnership, corporation, or other entity unless the account is brought current prior to the requested transfer.
- I. Property served by more than one (1) meter must keep all accounts current in accordance with this chapter in order to avoid water service being terminated to all meters serving the property.

13.12.085 Service Charge:

- A. The service charge for all water turn-ons or turn-offs after 4 p.m. and before 8 a.m. and at any other time which is not a normal working day for the City shall be eighty dollars (\$80). This fee is in addition to the fee imposed by this section.
- B. A delinquent service charge of thirty dollars (\$30) will be assessed on each water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater account or any combination of water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater service which is billed on one (1) account if not paid and received by the Finance Department, Utilities Division, by 5 p.m. on the day prior to date shown on the delinquent notice provided no disputes have been filed with the Finance Department as set forth in Section 13.12.053. The thirty dollar (\$30) service charge is subject to the limitations of Subsections F and G of Section 13.12.060. If water service is terminated for non-payment

of the account, the thirty dollar (\$30) charge shall include turning the water back on from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on normal City working days provided the occupant does not change. This fee is in addition to the fee imposed by Subsection C.

- C. A service fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be added to each new water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater account or any combination of water, sewer, garbage, ambulance, or stormwater service which is billed on one (1) account. A service fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be added for each change of service to another occupant. This fee shall include one (1) water turn-on if applicable from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on normal City working days.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage and publication of its summary as provided by law.

Adopted by the City Council and signed by its Mayor on August 26, 2014.



Dick Deane, Mayor

ATTEST:



W. Robert Taylor, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Katherine L. Kenison, City Attorney