

REGULATIONS

§ 51.11 WATER METER REGULATIONS

- (A) Before any water conveyed through the City water system shall be used or utilized on the land or premises of any person, firm or corporation, there shall first be installed a water meter that will accurately measure the water consumed on the premises, except and unless such installation shall be exempted by the City.
- (B) All applicants for the installation, maintenance and repair of water meters shall be made to the Building Official, who shall proceed to comply with such application within a reasonable time thereafter. All meters installed shall be purchased from the City. Regulations for the cost of furnishing and use of water meters shall be established by Council resolution or ordinance.
- (C) For all new services the water meter shall be purchased from the City and installed by a licensed plumber. All meters, fittings, wiring and remote reading devices shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the water utility and the Building Official.
- (D) No person, firm or corporation other than the City or its designee shall install, maintain or repair any water meter within the City limits. Every water meter connected to the water system shall be sealed by or under the direction of the City Administrator or Public Works-Utility Department, and no person, firm or corporation shall break or remove such seal; provided, however, that a plumber licensed to do business in the city may break such seal or remove such meter if removed by a licensed plumber, such plumber shall notify the water utility of the fact within 24 hours after the seal is broken or the meter is removed. Whenever any seal attached to a water meter by or under the direction of the City Administrator or water utility is found broken, the broken condition of such seal shall be a prima facie evidence that such seal was broken contrary to the terms and provisions in violation of this chapter.
- (E) All water meters connected to the water system shall be accessible to the City Administrator or Public Works-Utility Department or designee at all hours between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. of any business day and the refusal of admission by any owner or occupant of any premises wherein a water meter is installed after such owner or occupant has been notified that admission is desired for the purpose of inspecting a water meter installed in the premises shall constitute a violation of this chapter.
- (F) Water meters shall be repaired or replaced from time to time as is necessary to insure accurate measuring of the flow of water. The cost of the repair or replacement shall be borne by the City, except that whenever a meter has been damaged due to negligence on the part of persons other than the employees of the City, the owner, occupant or user of the premises or such other person desiring the use of the water shall reimburse the City for the expense of repairing or replacing any such meter. Upon failure to reimburse the City within a reasonable time and upon demand therefore, the water service and supply to said premises may be shut off or discontinued as determined to be in the best interest of the City.

(G) It shall be unlawful for any person to tamper with, alter, bypass or in any manner whatsoever interfere with the proper use and functioning of any water meter within the City.

(H) Whenever a water user questions the accuracy of the meter and desires that his or her meter be tested, he or she shall pay a fee, the amount of which shall be established from time to time by Council resolution or ordinance, if the meter tests accurate within a range of minus 3% to plus 1½%. If it is not accurate within this range, no charge will be made for testing and an adjustment on the water bill will be made for the period of time that the meter is assumed to be inaccurate, not to exceed two billing periods.

§ 51.12 LIABILITY FOR REPAIRS

After the initial connection has been made to the curb stop, the applicant, owner or the occupant or user of the premises shall be liable for all repairs required to any Private Service Line necessary for connection of the premises to the street main, including any necessary street repairs. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant, owner, occupant or user to maintain the stop box at such height as will insure that it remains at the finished grade of the land or property.

§ 51.13 DEFICIENCY OF WATER

(A) *General requirements.* The City shall not be liable for any deficiency or failure in the supply of water to consumers, whether occasioned by shutting water off for the purpose of making repairs or connections or from any other cause whatsoever. In case of fire, or alarm of fire, or in making repairs or construction of new works, water may be shut off at such time and kept off as long as necessary. In addition, the City Council or City Administrator shall have the right to impose reasonable restrictions on the use of the city water system in emergency situations.

(B) *Irrigation and sprinkling restrictions.* The following irrigation and sprinkling restrictions shall apply to the use of the municipal water supply system. This does not apply to those persons who are irrigating and sprinkling from a private well.

(1) *Cross-connections prohibited.* No person shall construct, cause to be constructed or operate any device which provides a cross connection between the municipal water supply and a private well or the sewer system.

(2) *Waste of water prohibited.*

(a) Customers shall maintain taps, faucets, valves and other water facilities so that water waste is eliminated from seeps, dripping faucets, etc.

(b) No person shall waste water deliberately by allowing irrigation or sprinkling water to run off onto the street or into the drains.

(3) *Permission to use hydrant.* No person shall open, close or tamper with any fire hydrant except under the authorization of Cambridge Public Works Department or, in case of fire or emergency, authorization of the Cambridge Fire Department.

(4) *Odd-even day sprinkling.* Sprinkling will be curtailed from May 1 through August 31st. Even numbered addresses can sprinkle only on even numbered calendar days. Odd numbered addresses can sprinkle only on odd numbered calendar days.

(5) *Prohibited hours.* There shall be no sprinkling in the City of Cambridge by either even or odd numbered addresses, from the city water system, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.

(6) *Penalty.* Violations of these watering restrictions carry a \$50 fine per day of violation, which shall be collected on the customer's water bill. Unpaid fines may be collected as an assessment to the customer's property taxes, per Minnesota law.

(7) *Exemptions.*

(a) Newly sodded or seeded yards will be exempt from the odd-even restriction for a period of six weeks only. Over seeding or spot patching of existing established yards can be watered every day with a hand controlled hose. No watering will be allowed between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.

(b) Car washing, filling of children's swimming pools, and children playing with a hose operated sprinkler or water toy are exempt from these restrictions.

(8) *Additional restrictions.*

(a) Additional restrictions on the use of water during periods of dry weather may be enacted by order of the City Administrator by publication in the official newspaper of the city. When restricted, no person shall water for the purpose of watering lawns, shrubs, trees, washing cars or structures. All unnecessary use of water is prohibited for the duration of the imposed restriction.

(b) If more drastic restrictions are necessary, orders may be issued by the City Administrator to take necessary action to protect the water system so that ample water may be available for health, sanitation and fire protection.

§ 51.14 LEAK IN SERVICE LINE

Any owner, occupant or user of a premises who shall discover a leak in a service line to the premises shall notify the Public Works Department within 24 hours. Any water wasted due to failure of such person to comply with this regulation shall be charged against the owner of such premises at the established rate.

§ 51.15 PRIVATE WATER NOT PERMITTED IN CITY SYSTEM

Whenever any premises are connected to the City water system there shall be maintained a complete physical separation between the City water supply system and the private water supply system so that it is impossible to intentionally or unintentionally allow any water produced by a private system to be introduced in the supply line from the City system.

§ 51.16 CONNECTION TO MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM REQUIRED

(A) Where a parcel of property in the City has connected to the City water system, no owner or occupant of the property or any other person shall:

(1) Construct any private water supply or well on the property; or

(2) Make use of any existing private water supply or well on the property for human consumption or commercial purposes.

(3) There shall be no connection, either directly or indirectly, to the plumbing system for service within the structure or to the City sanitary sewer system. The parcels shall also be prohibited from disconnecting from the City water system.

(B) Where a parcel of property in the City is using any private water supply or well and where the city water system is available to a parcel of property existing on the effective date of this chapter, the parcel of property shall be required to connect to the City water system at such time the private water supply or well is abandoned or is in need of replacement or at the point of sale of the property. The private water supply or well shall not connect, either directly or indirectly, to the City water system.

(C) All new residential, commercial or industrial construction on a parcel of property within the City where the municipal water system is available to a parcel of property shall be required to connect to the City water system.

(D) In cases of extreme hardship, an owner may request an exemption from the City Council to construct a private well. For the purposes of this chapter, **Hardship** shall be defined as the City's water main being greater than 300' feet away from the parcel. In allowing an exemption, the City Council may apply special conditions as benefits the health and safety of the City. The hardship will no longer exist once the water main is extended past the property and the owner will be required to connect to the City's water public supply.

(E) Any person convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penalty, see § 10.99)

§ 51.17 INDIVIDUAL CONNECTIONS TO CITY WATER SYSTEM

(A) *Definition.* For the purposes of this section, the term **Combined Connection** means a single connection to the municipal water system that serves:

- (1) Two or more residential units; or
- (2) Two or more commercial or industrial lots or separate parcels of record.

(B) *Combined connection after effective date.* Unless permitted for a hardship situation in accordance with division (E), no combined connection may be made after the effective date of this section.

(C) *Combined connections discontinued.* Unless permitted to continue for a hardship situation in accordance with division (E), combined connections in existence on the effective date of this section shall be discontinued and replaced with individual connections in accordance with this section.

(1) Owners of properties using a combined connection must replace such connection with an individual connection within three years of the date of notice from the City that replacement is required.

(2) Owners of the properties using a combined connection may use those parts of the connection lying within their property or in the public right of way between their property and the public water pipe, but must otherwise disconnect from the common connection and construct a new individual connection.

(D) *Exceptions.* The requirements of division (C) do not apply to:

(1) Multi-family residential rental properties where all units served by a combined connection are under the same ownership; or

(2) Multiple industrial or commercial lots or parcels of land that are adjacent, under the same ownership, and used for a single, unified business enterprise; or

(3) Combined connections where there is not an individual service from the main to the edge of the right-of-way available for each property using the combined connection.

(E) *Variations.* The City Council may grant variations from the requirements of division (C) upon a finding that there are unique or unusual physical constraints on constructing an individual connection that make such connection impractical from an engineering perspective.

(F) *Notice.* Notice to owners provided for in this section shall be by certified mail to the person or persons whom tax statements are to be sent according to the records of Isanti County.

(G) *Penalties.* Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Violation of this section is also grounds for termination of sewer or water service and the imposition of such penalties or charges as may be imposed by City Council resolution.

§ 51.18 OTHER REMEDIES

In addition to any procedures or penalties provided for this ordinance if any person, firm or corporation fails to comply with any provision of this ordinance, the council or any City official designated by it may institute appropriate proceedings at law or at equity to procure payment and or enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

§51.19 SEVERABILITY

If any section of this chapter is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other sections or provisions which can be given force and effect without invalidating the section or provision.