

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 monthly rates within the City:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

Gallons Used Per Month	Rate
First 2,200	\$32.15 (minimum bill)
All over 2,200	\$1.75 per 100 gallons

92.03 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. Bills Issued. The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the first day of each month.
2. Bills Payable. Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk by the fifteenth (15th) day of the same month.
3. Late Payment Penalty. Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A one-time late payment penalty of fifteen percent (15%) of the amount due shall be added to each delinquent bill.

92.04 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 water service will be discontinued if payment of the combined service account, including late payment charges, is not received on or before the last day of the month. 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. The notice shall contain the language: "This is your final notice before utilities are shut off if payment or other

arrangements are not made by the delinquent due date.” If said bill is not paid on or before last working day of the month, the water will be disconnected the following day.

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 Clerk shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the disconnection is justified. The customer has the right to request to be put on the agenda for the next regular City Council meeting to appeal the Clerk’s decision. If the Council finds that disconnection is justified, then such disconnection shall be made, unless payment has been made.

4. Fees. If service is disconnected, a reconnection fee of \$25.00 during normal business hours will be charged before service is restored to a delinquent account. After 4:00 p.m. weekdays and on weekends or holidays, the reconnection fee is \$50.00. The reconnecting fee and the past due bill must all be paid in full prior to the water being reconnected. No turn-on fee or service shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

92.05 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)

92.06 LIEN EXEMPTION. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to a residential 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 rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges. In addition, a 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 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. The landlord’s written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the 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 shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within thirty (30) business days of the change in tenant. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. 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. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.07 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)

92.08 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS. There shall be required from every customer a fifty dollar (\$50.00) deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for service. There shall be an additional deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) from customers who are tenants in residential rental property if the landlord has given written notice to the City that the property is residential rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges for water service.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.09 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.

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