

CHAPTER 52: SEWER RATES

Section

- 52.01 Sewer service rates
- 52.02 Disconnection for late payment
- 52.03 Collection from tax roll
- 52.04 Fiscal year
- 52.05 Supervision of system
- 52.06 Definitions
- 52.07 Application to Connect to City Sewer Supply
- 52.08 Sewer tap and service lead
- 52.09 Sewer service line
- 52.10 Restoration fees
- 52.11 Sewer Capital/Impact Fees

§ 52.01 SEWER SERVICE RATES.

Each premises connected to the system shall be billed at the rates from time to time established by resolution of the City Commission.

(Prior Code, § 2.131)

§ 52.02 DISCONNECTION FOR LATE PAYMENT.

(A) It is the policy of the city to discontinue utility service to customers by reason of nonpayment of bills only after notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard on disputed bills. The city's form for application for utility service and all bills shall contain, in addition to the title, address, room number, and telephone number of the official in charge of billing, clearly visible and easily readable provisions to the effect:

- (1) That all bills are due and payable on or before the date set forth on the bill; and

(2) That if any bill is not paid by or before that date, a second bill will be mailed containing a cutoff notice that if the bill is not paid within ten days of the mailing of the second bill, service may be discontinued for nonpayment; and

(3) That if any bill is not paid within 15 days after the billing date on the statement, then a penalty of 10% shall be added thereto and commencing 90 days after the due date such charges shall draw interest at the rate of 6% per annum; and

(3) That any customer disputing the correctness of his or her bill shall have a right to a hearing at which time he or she may be represented in person and by counsel or any other person of his or her choosing and may present orally or in writing his or her complaint and contentions to the city official in charge of utility billing. This official shall be authorized to order that the customer's service not be discontinued and shall have the authority to make a final determination of the customer's complaint.

(B) Requests for delays or waiver of payment will not be entertained; only questions of proper and correct billing will be considered. In the absence of payment of the bill rendered or resort to the hearing procedure provided herein, service will be discontinued at the time specified, but in no event until the charges have been due and unpaid for at least 30 days.

(C) When it becomes necessary for the city to discontinue utility service to a customer for nonpayment of bills, service will be reinstated only after all bills for service then due have been paid, along with a turn-on charge as set by the City Commission.

§ 52.03 COLLECTION FROM TAX ROLL.

Charges for services furnished by the system to any premises shall be a lien thereon as of the due date thereof, and on June 1 of each year the City Clerk shall certify any such charges which have been delinquent 90 days or more, plus penalties and interest accrued thereon, to the City Assessor who shall enter the same upon the next tax roll against the premises to which such service shall have been rendered, and said charges, with penalties and interest accrued thereon, shall be collected and said lien shall be enforced in the same manner as provided in respect to taxes assessed upon such roll.

(Prior Code, § 2.133)

§ 52.04 FISCAL YEAR.

The system shall be operated upon the basis of a fiscal year beginning on July 1 of each year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(Prior Code, § 2.134)

§ 52.05 SUPERVISION OF SYSTEM.

The operation, maintenance and management of the system shall be under the immediate supervision and control of the City Commission.

(Prior Code, § 2.135)

§ 52.06 DEFINITIONS

SEWER TAP AND SEWER SERVICE LEAD. A “Sewer tap” is the physical cut in made into an existing sewer main when there is not an existing tap and lead for the lot already in place.

The “sewer service lead” is the portion of a customer’s sewer service line from the sewer main to the proper line riser.

RISER. It is a piece of sewer service lead pipe located at the customers property line, usually after a 45° upward bend in the lead, it can have either a sewer, cap or plug called a cookie that is removed by the contractor when they connect the customer service line into it.

SEWER SERVICE LINE. Is the portion of a customer’s sewer service that extends from the riser at the property line into the customer’s home.

It’s common for a contractor to say “tap the sewer” when referring to connecting the customers sewer service line into an existing riser, there is no tap fee for this, but capital/impact fees do still apply!

§ 52.07 APPLICATION TO CONNECT TO CITY SEWER SUPPLY

- 1) The applicant must fill out an application along with the DPW department head with all information required.
- 2) The DPW department head will determine along with their recommendations for approval or denial of the application.
- 3) The DPW department head will then establish the necessary payment required for each connection if approved. The city treasurer will then collect the necessary funds from the applicant.

§ 52.08 SEWER TAP AND SERVICE LEAD

- 1) If a sewer lead is not already installed for the customers lot a tap will need to be made.

2) Sewer tap connections shall only be made installed by a DPW department head approved contractor, this consists of tapping into the sewer, main and running a lead to the property line with a riser and a plug.

3) After completion the city will receive an invoice from the contractor and the customer is responsible for reimbursing the contractor in full with 15 days to avoid penalties and either an interruption of water service or disconnection of the sewer.

4) Sewer tap fees do not include capital/impact fees or any inspection fees associated with the service lead.

5) Restoration fees will be billed to the customer once the work can be completed and will be required to pay in full within 15 days to avoid interruption of service

§ 52.09 SEWER SERVICE LINE

1) All service lines from the house to the riser at the property line must meet code and the city's current requirements for sewer line installation and materials.

2) The service line from the riser on the property line into the house shall be installed by the homeowner at their expense and their responsibility to find their own contractor.

3) An inspection of the sewer service line is required by the city DPW prior to backfilling.

4) It is the responsibility of the customer to protect, repair and maintain the sewer service line.

5) Service lines with known damage such as sink holes or damage cleanout must be repaired within 30 days to avoid penalties and or possible water service interruption until the repair is made, video and jetting of service line and city sewer main could be billed at the customers expense in some situations deemed negligent.

§ 52.10 RESTORATION FEES

1) Anytime a new water or sewer tap is made onto an existing main it shall be the responsibility the customer to pay the cost of restoration and any associated cost with it.

2) After a tap has been made by the city DPW head will get us, estimates from a qualified contractor to replace anything removed or damage that was necessary to make a tap into a main. This tap included, but not limited to concrete or asphalt road surfaces, Phil, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and lawn.

3) Estimates are not actual cost, they are only intended to give a rough idea of what the contractor believes the finish work will be, the actual could come in more or less than the original estimate within reason.

4) Once contractor invoices the city for completed work, the customer will be notified and have 15 days to reimburse the city to avoid penalty or interruption of service.

§ 52.11 SEWER CAPITAL/IMPACT FEES

1) This is a fee that's part of the water and sewer capital/impact fees. It's a one-time fee that applies to new taps into the city's water and sewer supply that helps recover the cost of investing into capacity for new customers.

2) Money collected will be used in the investment of water and sewer, pumps, valves and other associated cost to the water and sewer infrastructure for expansion and upgrades needed to provide a quality service and supply to the residents of Auburn.

3) These fees are applied to new sewer customers who needed to make a physical sewer tap into the Sewer main service didn't previously exist or no home previously existed.

4) This fee is also applicable to someone who purchased vacant land with a sewer tap and riser already existing on the property, this includes contractor-built, subdivisions, where they pre-installed the service lines to all the lots during initial construction unless the contractor prepaid the capital/impact fees for every lot.

5) This fee does not apply to a property owner who built and already paid capital/impact fees or his slot or who bought the property with an existing house or building already connected to the water and sewer who tears the home or building down and rebuilds and re-connect to the existing lines.

Effective as of January 15th 2025