CHAPTER 13.14 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

13.14.010 Violation of System Ordinances or Rules

13.14.020 Meter - Consumer Interference Unlawful

13.14.030 Meter—Fraud Designated

13.14.040 Tampering with System Unlawful Without Permission

13.14.050 Other Violations or Unlawful Acts

13.14.060 Non-Compliance

13.14.070 Penalty

13.14.010 Meter - Consumer Interference Unlawful

Interference with installation of a water meter or refusal to allow installation of a water meter at the location on the premises selected by the water department may result in the water being turned off and not turned on again until a water meter is installed as required and a fee established by the City Council for turning the water on is paid. In addition the party interfering with installation of the meter, or refusing to allow installation of a meter may be punished as provided for a violation of this ordinance.

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998, Amended Ord 467 March 18, 2020

13.14.020 Meter - Fraud Designated

Persons who commit any of the following with intent to injure or defraud are guilty of meter fraud and may be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be fined not less than fifty (50.00) dollars nor more than five hundred (500.00) dollars:

1. Break or deface the seal of a water meter; or
2. Obstruct, alter, injure or prevent the action of a water meter or instrument used to measure or register the quantity of water supplied to a consumer thereof; or
3. Make a connection by means of a pipe, or otherwise, with the City water main or pipe used for delivery of water to a consumer thereof, in such a manner as to take water from said main or pipe without its passage through the meter or other instrument provided for registering the amount or quantity consumed, or use any water so obtained; or
4. Make a connection or reconnection with the City water main or pipe, or turn off or on, or in any manner interfere with valves, curb stops or other appliances connected therewith; or
5. Prevent free access to a water meter or other instrument for measuring the amount of water consumed, or interfere with, obstruct or prevent by any means reading or inspection of such meter or instrument by employees of the water/sewer department.

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998

13.14.030 Turning Water On or Off Without Authorization

When the water has been turned off at the curb box by the City, it may only be turned on by an employee of the water/sewer department. If the water is turned on by anyone other than an employee of the City water/sewer department or designated City representative, the water must immediately be turned off, and the property owner must pay a fee before the water may be turned back on. In addition, the party turning the water on is in violation of this ordinance and may be punished as provided in this chapter.

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998, Amended Ord 467 March 18, 2020

13.14.040 Tampering with System Unlawful Without Permission

It is unlawful to open, close, turn or interfere with, or to attach, or connect with fire hydrants, curb stops or valves without permission from the water/sewer department. It is unlawful to disturb or damage pipes, machinery, tools or other property of the water/sewer department, or to throw substances into reservoirs or water mains, or to deface or injure buildings belonging to or connected with said water system.

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998

13.14.050 Other Violations or Unlawful Acts

1. Using water without previously contracting for the same.
2. Vandalism. Maliciously, willfully, or negligently breaking, damaging, destroying, uncovering, defacing, or tampering with structures, appurtenances or equipment that is a part of the water and/or wastewater facilities.
3. Undue waste of water.
4. Bypassing water to another property.
5. Deception, misrepresentation or abuse of the privilege of connecting with the water system.

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998, Amended Ord 428 December 1, 2010, Amended Ord 467 March 18, 2020

13.14.060 Non-Compliance

A notice of non-compliance may be sent to persons or entities not complying with this ordinance. A reasonable time not to exceed sixty (60) days must be given to comply with the ordinance.

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998

13.14.070 Penalty for Violation

1. Water may be turned off and will not be turned on until the violation has been remedied, for the following reasons:
   1. Failure to comply with notices of deficiency or noncompliance with the water and/or sewer rules.
   2. For any violation of the rules or ordinances pertaining to the use of water and/or sewer system.
   3. No person, company, business, or corporation may knowingly take or use or allow to be used any water or sewer without previously contracted for the same.
   4. Failure to pay for services provided or charges imposed by the water/sewer department.
   5. Failure to correct deficiencies or make required payment of charges, and late fees after written notice as provided in Section 13.02.060(C) Billing Delinquency.
2. Persons or entities violating this ordinance are guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, may be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500.00).

History: Enc Ord 385 December 21, 1995, Amended Ord 395 July 1, 1998, Amended Ord 417 July 16, 2008, Amended Ord 428 December 1, 2010, Amended Ord 467 March 18, 2020