

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF
THE CITY OF PRAIRIE HOME, MISSOURI**

ORDINANCE NO. 264D

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING UTILITY RATES AND
APPLICABLE PAYMENT POLICIES FOR ALL PATRONS OF
THE CITY OF PRAIRIE HOME, MISSOURI**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Prairie Home, MO, as follows:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY UTILITY SERVICES.

Section 1.1. Security Deposit. All patrons establishing utility service with the City shall first deposit with the City a security deposit in the following amount, to be held by the City as security for the payment of the patron's utility bills, as follows:

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| a. Owner-Occupied Residential Dwellings: | One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) |
| b. Residential Rental Dwellings: | One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) |
| c. Commercial/Non-Residential Properties: | Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) |

Security deposits shall be applied to cover any unpaid utility bill immediately following the termination of service, with the remaining balance (if any) being refunded to the patron within thirty (30) days after receiving the patron's final payment for the account. Patrons are responsible for ensuring that the City has a forwarding address for return of the security deposit; otherwise, the remaining balance (if any) will be sent to the patron at his/her last-known address.

Section 1.2. Fee to Establish Water Service to an Existing Connection. The City shall charge a non-refundable service fee to establish water service to any existing connection to the municipal water system. Such fee shall be in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and shall be due and payable at the time service is requested. This fee shall apply for the establishment of new service, as well as the reconnection of service that was disconnected for a period of time at the patron's request. This fee shall not apply in the event of disconnection for non-payment; instead, refer to Section 4 below regarding fees after disconnection for non-payment.

Section 1.3. New Meter Set-Up. The City shall charge the following non-refundable fees to set up new water meters for the purpose of obtaining municipal water service, which amounts must be paid in full in advance:

- a. \$ 1,000 for ¾-inch pipe
- b. \$ 1,200 for 1-inch pipe

SECTION 2: SERVICE & USAGE FEES.

Section 2.1. Municipal Water Charges – Patrons Within City Limits and Subject to City Property Taxes. All municipal water sales to patrons within the city limits of the City of Prairie Home and/or who are subject to City property taxes are established as follows:

- a. Base Rate: There shall be a minimum charge of Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) for the first one thousand (1,000) gallons of water (or any fraction thereof) used in a calendar month.
- b. Additional Usage Rate: There shall be a charge of Nine Dollars (\$9.00) for each additional one thousand (1,000) gallons of water (or any fraction thereof) used in a calendar month.

Section 2.2. Municipal Water Charges – Patrons Outside City Limits and Not Subject to City Property Taxes. All municipal water sales to patrons outside the city limits of the City of Prairie Home and not subject to City property taxes are established as follows:

- a. Base Rate: There shall be a minimum charge of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for the first one thousand (1,000) gallons of water (or any fraction thereof) used in a calendar month.
- b. Additional Usage Rate: There shall be a charge of Nine Dollars (\$9.00) for each additional one thousand (1,000) gallons of water (or any fraction thereof) used in a calendar month.

Section 2.3. Sewer Service Charges. The charge for sewer service shall be Thirty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$37.50) per month.

Section 2.4. Solid Waste Collection Rates.

- a. For Residences. The charge for collection of residential solid waste (in bags) within the City of Prairie Home shall be Fourteen Dollars (\$14.00) per month.
- b. For Commercial Establishments. The charge for the collection of commercial solid waste within the City of Prairie Home shall be as follows:
 1. Bag Pick-up – Sixteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$16.50) per month
 2. 2-Yard Container – Sixty-One Dollars (\$61.00) per month
 3. 4-Yard Container – Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) per month
 4. 6-Yard Container – Ninety-Six Dollars (\$96.00) per month
 5. Prairie Home Manor – One Hundred Forty-Five Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$145.80) per month

Section 2.5. State Primacy Fee & Sales Tax. Each municipal utility patron shall be billed annually for the State Primacy Fee following assessment to the City. This Fee shall become a part of the patron's utility bill and is subject to the same payment terms. Any account subject to sales tax shall be billed for sales tax upon the State Primacy Fee in a like manner.

SECTION 3: PAYMENT TERMS.

Section 3.1. Monthly Bill. The charges for municipal utility services shall be presented to all patrons on or about the sixth (6th) day of each month. Failure to receive the monthly bill does not excuse a patron from paying the monthly charges when due.

Section 3.2. Cash Payments. Payment of municipal utility service fees with cash is discouraged. Patrons paying with cash shall present payment in person at City Hall during regular business hours and receive a pre-numbered receipt for such payment.

Section 3.3. Due Date; Delinquent Accounts. All utility bills are due and payable upon billing. Any utility bill not paid by the last day of the month in which the bill was due shall be considered "delinquent" and is subject to a monthly penalty equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the outstanding bill. Delinquency or non-payment of any amount of a combined monthly utility bill shall constitute delinquency or non-payment for any and all utilities and services for that patron. Non-payment of a utility bill within thirty (30) days of a *Notice of Delinquency* may result in the disconnection of all municipal utility services, unless a payment plan has been established.

Section 3.4. Returned Checks - Fees & Consequences. Payment of a municipal utility bill by check shall be conditional until same is paid, and any check returned to the City unpaid or dishonored for insufficient funds or other reasons shall be subject upon collection to an additional service charge of Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00). This service charge shall be added to and become a part of the utility account for which the returned check was tendered as payment to the City, and such account shall be considered delinquent until the balance of the utility account (including the \$35.00 returned check fee) is paid in full.

SECTION 4. DISCONNECTION FOR NON-PAYMENT; RECONNECTION FEES.

Section 4.1. Notice of Delinquency. When a utility account becomes delinquent, the City shall notify, at the last-known address, the owner of the property and the occupant of the property receiving services, of the delinquency and the amount thereof, including penalties. Said notice shall also inform the property owner and the occupant of the potential for termination of services in accordance with this Ordinance No. 264D.

Section 4.2. Disconnection for Non-Payment. Utility services shall be terminated if payment of the delinquent amount is not made in full within thirty (30) days after the *Notice of Delinquency* is sent to the owner and occupant (if applicable).

Section 4.3. Reconnection After Disconnection for Non-Payment. Any water service which has been disconnected shall not be reconnected until all outstanding municipal utility bills and applicable fees and penalties are paid in full, and a reconnection fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) has been paid to the City. Following payment, service will be reconnected as soon as possible on the same business day on which it is paid. Service will not be reconnected during non-business hours, except in emergency situations at the discretion of the Mayor or his/her designee. The Board has the authority (but not the obligation) to waive the reconnection fee one (1) time per account.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN UTILITY CHARGES.

Section 5.1. Owner and Occupant of Premises Jointly Liable for Sewer and Water Charges. Pursuant to §250.140 RSMo., sewer and water services provided to any premises within the City shall be deemed to be furnished to both the owner and the occupant of said premises, and both shall be jointly and severally liable to pay for all such services rendered to said premises.

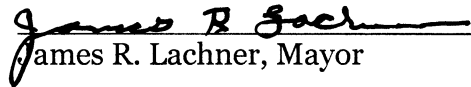
Section 5.2. City Action to Collect Utility Service Fees. Following setoff of any applicable security deposit, the City shall have the power to utilize a collections firm or to commence a civil suit in any Court of competent jurisdiction for any delinquent bill for utility services against any patron or property owner, plus the City's reasonable attorney fees incident to such collection, to be determined by the Court. Unpaid utility bills may be collected by or on behalf of the City by a civil action, and the City shall be entitled to a levy a lien on the real property to which the services were supplied.

SECTION 6: EFFECT.

Section 6.1. In General. This Ordinance No. 264D shall be in full force and effect from and after its date of passage.

Section 6.2. Applicability to Other Municipal Utilities. This Ordinance No. 264D replaces Ordinance No. 264C ("An Ordinance Establishing Utility Rates and Applicable Payment Policies for All Patrons of the City of Prairie Home, Missouri") from and after the date of passage hereof.

Having been previously made available, this Ordinance No. 264D was read two times by title only and passed this 18th day of July 2024.


James R. Lachner, Mayor

Attest: 
Mary Sue Fontana, City Clerk

SEAL: