

ORDINANCE NO. 2924

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2901 THEREBY AMENDING CHAPTER 16, SECTION 16-3 OF THE CITY CODE, REVISING BILLING AND COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS; BY REPLACING SECTION 16-3; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY AND REVISING THE PENALTY STATED IN ORDINANCE NO. 2901; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the Code of the City of Mesquite is hereby amended by deleting Section 16-3 and adding a new Section 16-3 of Chapter 16 as follows; in all other respects said Code and Chapter to remain in full force and effect:

Sec. 16-3. Billing and collection procedure. The meter for each water-utility customer shall be read monthly, and the customer shall be billed for the water used since the last previous meter reading. There shall be a period of fifteen (15) days from the billing date within which time the customer may pay the actual (net) amount of his bill.

If the bill is not paid by the due date as set out on the face of the bill, a penalty of ten (10%) per cent is added, and the gross amount is then due. Should any customer's bill remain unpaid on the billing date for the next month's bill, the unpaid amount will appear on the bill as being in "previous balance". The customer shall receive a written notice stating that the total amount of the bill (shown as net amount) shall be due and payable within fifteen (15) days from the billing date, and that if not paid within fifteen (15) days, water service shall be disconnected.

If the water service is disconnected, the customer must pay the total bill due, plus an additional deposit according to Section 16-2 (a) or (b), plus a re-connection fee before water service will be re-connected. The re-connection fee is as follows:

7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday	\$ 20.00
After 6:00 p.m. or on weekends and holidays	25.00

If the customer pays the Customer Serviceman when he goes to the house or business to disconnect the service for non-payment, the customer must pay the total bill due plus the additional deposit according to Section 16-2 (a) or (b) plus a service fee of Five (\$5.00) Dollars.

A service charge of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars will also be charged for each service call that a Customer Serviceman makes to a customer that has been disconnected

for non-payment when a customer re-connects his water service himself without paying the total amount due or if a customer has moved into a house and turned the water on without placing a deposit with the City.

A service charge of Twenty (20.00) Dollars will be charged if a meter has been removed for non-payment of a water-utility bill.

A service charge of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars will be charged when a jumper is removed.

Water may be turned on for cleaning purposes for ten (10) days with an advance payment of Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$7.50).

When and if a customer pays his water-utility bill by check and the customer's bank will not honor the check, the check is returned to the City and written notice is mailed to the customer giving five (5) days in which to redeem the check. If the returned check is not redeemed by the customer by 3:00 p.m. on the fifth (5th) day, the customer's service shall be disconnected. The requirements for an additional deposit as stated in Section 16-2 (a) or (b) plus the re-connection fee as stated in paragraph 3 of this section must be paid before the customer's water service is re-connected.

A service charge of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars will be charged for a transfer of service within Mesquite.

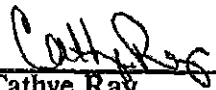
A service charge of Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars will be charged each time a check is returned from the bank.

SECTION 2. That should any word, sentence, clause, paragraph or provision of this ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. That any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this ordinance or Ordinance No. 2901 shall be deemed to be guilty of a Class C Misdemeanor and upon conviction in the Municipal Court shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Five (\$500.00) Dollars for each offense.


SECTION 4. Whereas, the water-utility rates, meter deposits and policy for billing and collection are inadequate and in order to protect the public interest, comfort, and general welfare of the City of Mesquite, creates an urgency and an emergency and in the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare requires that this ordinance shall become effective immediately from and after its passage and the publication of caption, as the law in such cases provides.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite,
Texas, on the 4th day of October, 1993.




Cathye Ray
Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynn Prugel
City Secretary

APPROVED:



B.J. Smith
City Attorney

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