

CHAPTER 929
WATER REGULATIONS

929.01 IMPROPER CONNECTIONS.

(a) No firm, person, or corporation shall establish or permit to be established or maintain or permit to be maintained any connection whereby a private, auxiliary or emergency water supply other than the regular public water supply of Groveport, Ohio may enter the supply or distributing system of such municipality, unless such private, auxiliary, or emergency water supply and the method of connection and use of such supply shall have been approved by the Administrator.

(b) That it shall be the duty of the Administrator to cause surveys and investigations to be made of all industrial and other properties served by the public water supply where private, auxiliary or emergency water supplies other than the public water supply are known to exist or where such supplies are likely to exist. Such surveys and investigations shall be made a matter of public record and shall be repeated as often as the Administrator shall deem necessary.

(c) That the Administrator or his or its duly authorized representative shall have the right to enter at any time any property served by a connection to the public water supply or distribution system of Groveport, Ohio for the purposes of inspecting the piping system or systems thereof. On demand the owner, lessee, or occupants of any property so served shall furnish to the Administrator any information which he or it may request regarding the piping system or systems and any private, auxiliary or emergency water supply used or useful on such property. The refusal of such information, when demanded shall within the discretion of the Administrator be deemed evidence of the presence of improper connections as provided in this chapter.

(d) That the Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue after reasonable notice to the occupant thereof, the water service to any property wherein any connection in violation of the provisions of this chapter is known to exist, and to take such other precautionary measures he may deem necessary to eliminate any danger of contamination of the public water supply distribution mains water service to such property shall not be restored until such connection or connections shall have been eliminated or corrected in compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

929.02 AUTOMATIC READING WATER METERS..

(a) All water services for the Groveport Water System shall have automatic reading "SMART" meters.

(b) Each meter shall be added at the cost of the automatic reading meter to the property owner. The property owners may pay the above cost over a three month period if desired.

929.03 REPLACEMENT OF WATER METERS.

(a) The City shall replace a water meter, if in the opinion of the Public Works Superintendent:

- (1) The meter is not working properly.
- (2) The meter is in such a location that there is difficulty in access to it for reading purposes,
or
- (3) The meter has not been read because of absence of persons from the home for two consecutive billing periods.

(b) That each meter replaced under this chapter shall be at the cost of the automatic reading meter to the property owner, and in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by Council.

(c) Plumbing alterations required for the proper installation of such meter shall be subject to permit

and inspection by the City's Public Works Department and shall be performed by a licensed plumber.

(d) Any evidence of deliberate destruction of service connection shall be a violation of this section.

929.04 BACKFLOW REGULATIONS

(a) If, in the judgment of the Public Works Superintendent, an approved backflow prevention device is necessary for the safety of the public water system, the Public Works Superintendent will give notice to the water consumer to install such an approved device immediately. The water consumer shall, at his own expense, install such an approved device at a location and in a manner approved by the Public Works Superintendent and shall have inspections and tests made of such approved devices as required by the Public Works Superintendent.

(b) No person, firm or corporation shall establish or permit to be established or maintain or permit to be maintained any connection whereby a private, auxiliary or emergency water supply other than the regular public water supply of the City may enter the supply or distributing system of the City, unless such private, auxiliary or emergency water supply and the method of connection and use of such supply shall have been approved by the Public Works Superintendent of the City and by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Public Works Superintendent to cause surveys and investigations to be made of industrial and other properties served by the public water supply where actual or potential hazards to the public water supply may exist. Such surveys and investigations shall be made a matter of public record and shall be repeated as often as the Public Works Superintendent shall deem necessary.

(d) The Public Works Superintendent or his or its duly authorized representative shall have the right to enter at any reasonable time any property served by a connection to the public water supply or distribution system of the City for the purposes of inspecting the piping system or systems thereof. On demand the owner, lessees or occupants of any property so served shall furnish to the Public Works Superintendent any information which he may request regarding the piping system or systems or water use on such property. The refusal of such information, when demanded, shall, within the discretion of the Public Works Superintendent be deemed evidence of the presence of improper connections as provided in this section.

(e) The Public Works Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue, after reasonable notice to the occupant thereof, the water service to any property wherein any connection in violation of the provisions of this section is known to exist, and to take such other precautionary measures as he may deem necessary to eliminate any danger of contamination of the public water supply distribution mains. Water service to such property shall not be restored until such conditions shall have been eliminated or corrected in compliance with the provisions of this section.

929.05 AUXILIARY METERS.

(a) Auxiliary meters may only be installed when it is determined that a portion of the water as measured by the water meter does not, and cannot, enter the sewage system either directly or indirectly.

(b) Application can be made through the Groveport Water Department for permission to obtain and install a water-only auxiliary meter.

(c) Such installation shall be at the owner's expense, and in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by Council.

(d) Plumbing alterations required for the proper installation of such meter shall be subject to permit

and inspection by the City's Public Works Department and shall be performed by a licensed plumber.

929.99 PENALTY

In addition to the civil penalties prescribed in this chapter and Chapter 925, whoever violates any provision of this chapter and Chapter 933 is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each day on which a violation occurs or continues shall be deemed a separate violation.

CHAPTER 933
WATER RATES, EXTENSIONS AND FEES

933.01 DEFINITIONS.

- (a) “Administrator” means the Administrator of Groveport or his authorized agent. Specific reference is made herein to the contract executed between the City and the City of Columbus for water service and the specific authorities vested therein to the Director of Public Service of City of Columbus. Authorized agent shall include the Director of Public Service of the City of Columbus.
- (b) “Available frontage” means the frontage for all parcels which abut on the water main. On corner parcels the frontage shall be the shortest frontage which abuts on the street right-of-way. Parcels which already abut on a water main shall not be considered as part of the available frontage.
- (c) “City” means the City of Groveport, the Administrator or his authorized agent.
- (d) “Corner parcel” means a lot or parcel abutting on two or more intersecting streets.
- (e) “Front foot” means the frontage which abuts on the street right-of-way. On corner parcels it shall be the shortest frontage so abutting. When the property to be served does not abut upon the street right-of-way, front foot shall mean the width of the parcel.
- (f) “Permit” means a legal instrument requiring execution prior to approving a new water service connection, a transfer of accounts or a change in meter size.
- (g) “Resident” means property owner within the City corporate limits. The words resident, owner, user, and consumer as used herein have the same meaning for purposes of this chapter.
- (h) “Service connection” means the connection of all or any part of the service line to the tap.
- (i) “Service line” means the line extending from the tap onto the premises to be served and shall include all the necessary pipes, lines and appurtenances from the tap to and including the meter.
- (j) “Tap” means the connection to the water main and the necessary pipes or lines extending from the water main to and including the curb stop or valve and box.
- (k) “Water service outside city” means water service furnished to consumers outside the corporate limits of the City. No new water service shall be extended outside the City limits without the express permission of the City of Columbus Director of Public Service.

933.02 RATES ESTABLISHED.

The rates and charges for water and service furnished by the City to users and consumers and the terms and conditions governing the construction and financing of new mains shall be established and fixed as set forth in this chapter.

933.03 RATES INSIDE CITY.

The rates for water supplied through meters to consumers within the Groveport Water System shall be determined based on the rates established by Ordinance by Council. The rates for water supplied by the City of Columbus shall be determined based on the rates established by the Columbus City Council.

933.04 RATES OUTSIDE CITY.

Water rates and other charges for outside the City shall be the inside City rates plus seventy-five percent (75%). Reference is made to Sections 933.03, 933.05, 933.06, 933.07, 933.08, 933.09 and 933.14.

933.05 METER SERVICE FEE.

(a) When a permit is issued for a service connection or a change in meter size, the meter shall be installed by the City, with a meter service fee of the actual cost of the automatic reading meter.

(b) Where the meter is two inches or larger in nominal diameter, the fee shall be equal to the cost of the meter with installation to be made by the applicant under the inspection and approval of the Division of Water.

(c) The meter service fee, as set forth above, shall be reviewed each year by the Administrator who shall determine any needed adjustments based upon actual cost.

(d) All water meters, exclusive of deducting meters, shall be maintained by and remain the property of the City.

933.06 WATER TAP CHARGE.

(a) For taps larger than two inches in nominal diameter, the charges shall be actual cost plus thirty-seven and one-half percent (37.5%). A cash deposit equal to the estimated charge shall be required. Any excess deposit shall be refunded and any deficiency shall be paid.

(b) The water tap charges, set forth above, shall be reviewed each year by the Administrator, who shall recommend to Council any needed adjustments based upon actual cost.

(c) All water taps in subdivisions or developments shall be installed at the time the water mains are installed.

(d) Every property owner shall be required to install a tap for each lot or parcel immediately prior to the paving of any street when ordered by the Administrator.

(e) Taps may be installed by a qualified contractor upon approval of the Administrator. Such installation shall conform to the Standards and Specifications of the City and shall be approved by the City.

933.07 SPECIAL CHARGES.

The following charges shall be paid for the specified special services furnished by the City:

(a)	Trip to turn off service for non-payment of account or as a result of fraud	30.00	
(b)	Trip to notify of non-payment (door hanger)		5.00
(c)	Trip to turn on or off service at curb box at request of consumer		
	(1) During working hours		No Charge
	(2) After regular working hours		30.00

933.08 PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE.

(a) For all fire protection service installations made after the effective date of this chapter requiring a separate fire service line the consumer shall install at his expense, subject to the inspection and approval

of the Administrator, all of the piping system necessary to extend from the consumer's system and connect to the City's existing water main.

(b) All separate fire service lines shall have installed, before service is established, an approved meter installation. Such meter and the installation shall meet the specifications and approval of the City and the entire installation shall be at the expense of the consumer. The applicable rates as prescribed in Section 933.03 and 933.04 shall be paid for metered fire service lines.

(c) The City reserves the right to order installation of a meter on an existing fire protection line upon violation of applicable ordinances and the rules and regulations of the City.

(d) No charge except the minimum charge shall be made for any measured water flow resulting from the use of water for fire-fighting purposes when such fire has been reported to the fire department serving the area involved.

(e) When a property is served with both a fire protection service and water service, the amount to be paid for the combined service shall be the charge computed by using the applicable commodity rate established in Section 933.03 and 933.04 and the minimum fire protection charge established in this section.

(f) When a property is served by more than one fire protection service and such service provides water to a common interconnected fire protection service, the service shall be considered a single fire protection service with the rates or charges to be based on the largest tap or meter.

(g) When a property is served with one or more fire protection services and one or more water services, the owner or contract holder may notify the Administrator at the time of application for service or as of January 1, of each year which commodity service shall be combined with such fire protection services for billing purposes. In the event no such notice is received, the Administrator shall make such determination.

(h) All outlets, except sprinkler heads, on unmetered fire protection service shall be sealed under the supervision of the Administrator. No person shall break a seal or withdraw water from any unmetered fire protection system, except in the case of a fire, without prior approval of the Administrator.

(i) Any additional amount of water capacity charge caused by the installation of residential fire protection sprinkling systems shall be abated and only the normal charge for residential water tap shall be made.

933.09 WATER MAIN FRONT FOOT CONNECTION CHARGE.

Each applicant for a water tap at the time of application shall pay the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00) per front foot of the property to be served if located within the City and ten dollars (\$10.00) per front foot of the property to be served if located outside the City provided that this charge shall not be imposed for the replacement of a tap or increase in size of an existing tap and provided further that this charge shall not be imposed if the owner of the property concerned can show that he or his predecessor in title paid, or is paying a special assessment for the construction of any of the water mains which provide such service or at his own expense constructed any of the water mains which provide such service.

933.10 BILLING, METER READING, TERMS OF PAYMENT.

(a) Billing. The City may render bills for water service on a quarterly basis. Payment of water and sewer bills shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

- (1) Billing dates shall be January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1, with rates established by Council.
- (2) A penalty of ten percent (10%) will be added if not paid by the third day of the first month after billing date.

(b) Nonpayment Notice. The bill sent to the customer will indicate the date the bill is due. If payment is not received by the date the bill is due, a “door tag” will be placed on the customer’s door showing the intent for the City to disconnect service to the Groveport Water System.

(c) Meter Readings. No meter readings shall be combined for billing purposes. All meter readings and billings shall be in units of 1,000 gallons and there shall be no proration of rate blocks or minimum charges. All meters shall be sealed and any evidence of deliberate destruction of service connection shall be a violation of this section. Meter readings shall begin the fifteenth of the month prior to billing date.

- (1) All meters shall be read by personnel authorized by the City.
- (2) No meter shall be estimated for more than one billing cycle. In this case, provisions must be made by the owner or tenant for meter to be read by authorized personnel. Any denial from consumer to permit authorized person to enter premise for meter reading or repair shall result in service being discontinued until such readings or repairs are made.

Estimated meter reading shall not extend beyond a period of one billing period.

(d) Terms of Payment. Because water to residents of the City of Groveport is supplied by both the City and the City of Columbus and further because billing and collection practices widely differ, terms of payment as contained hereinafter are established for the two municipal practices as they are now established.

(1) Services derived from Groveport’s water supply system. The water rates prescribed in Sections 933.03, 933.04 and 933.09 are net. If accounts are not paid within one calendar month from the date of billing, a gross rate, which is the net rate plus ten percent (10%) shall apply. TBD The bills on overdue accounts shall be prepared and transmitted to all overdue accounts based on gross rates. If the rebilled gross rate is not paid within fifteen days from the rebilled date, the City shall have the right to shut off water services without notice, and

(2) Services derived from City of Columbus water supply system. Those residents on the City of Columbus water system shall be billed according to the most recent City of Columbus water billing regulations.

933.11 OWNER’S RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) It is the owner’s responsibility to protect the meter and service box from damage. Any time damage occurs, it shall be repaired or replaced by persons authorized by the Administrator at the owner’s expense.

(b) Only one minimum bill shall be rendered per meter, depending on meter size.

933.12 WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS

The Administrator is authorized to provide water service to new consumers when he determines that the water main extension is feasible both economically and from an engineering point of view and shall not be detrimental to the best interest of the City having given consideration to the overall effect on the total water system and to the long term plans and probable future growth of the water system of the City.

933.13 CHARGE FOR EXTENSION OF WATER MAINS WITHIN THE CITY.

(a) All water main extensions in the City shall be paid for by the applicants or developer requesting such extension.

(1) Where a water main extension is required to a residential customer(s) by the City to be installed larger than twelve inches in nominal diameter, the City shall pay one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the difference in the material cost of the pipe, fittings, and valves between the installation of a twelve inch water main and the water main installed.

(2) Where a water main extension is required by the City to be oversized to industrial or commercial customer(s) or is required to be installed through an industrial or commercial customer's property to serve adjacent properties, the City shall pay one hundred ten percent (110%) of the difference in material cost of the pipe, fittings, and valves between the water main installed, sized as requested by the City, and the size determined by the Administrator as the size necessary to serve the industrial or commercial property but in no case less than twelve inches in diameter.

(b) The Administrator shall determine from the City records, or other sources, the cost of the pipe, fittings and valves and this determination is final.

(c) The Administrator may authorize water main extensions to be installed by a qualified developer and he shall determine whether the water main shall be installed by the City or be the applicants or developer.

(d) For each water main extension requested and installed by the City, the City Engineer shall make an estimate of the total costs involved and the applicants or developer shall make a deposit to the City that is sufficient to cover the estimated costs of the water main extension. If the actual cost of the extension is higher or lower than the deposit, the applicants or developer shall be refunded the amount of any excess deposit or shall pay to the City any deficit that may exist in the deposit as the case may be.

(e) When water main extensions are installed by the City, the cost may be assessed against the abutting property owners, with the approval of Council. Such assessment shall be in an amount equal to the total installation cost unless the line is required to be oversized by the City.

(1) When the oversized water main extension is for residential use and is required by the City to be installed larger than twelve inches, the amount assessed shall be the total installation cost less one hundred ten percent (110%) of the difference in the cost of the pipes, fittings and valves between the installation of a twelve inch water main and the water main installed.

(2) When the oversized water main extension is for industrial or commercial use or is required to be installed through an industrial or commercial customer's property to serve adjacent properties, the amount assessed shall be the total installation cost less one hundred ten percent (110%) of the difference in the cost of the pipes, fittings, and valves between the water main installed as requested by the City and the size water main determined by the Administrator as the size necessary to serve said industrial or commercial property. In no case shall the size determined by the Administrator as necessary to serve the property(s) be less than twelve inch nominal diameter.

(f) The specifications and standards of construction for all water main extensions, all plans and installations shall be subject to approval of the City Engineer.

(g) Unless otherwise required by the Administrator no water main shall be smaller than eight inches nominal diameter.

(h) All extensions of water mains shall include the installation of all tap valves and fire hydrants. The number and location of fire hydrants, taps and valves shall be in accordance with the requirements of the City Engineer..

(i) All water mains and appurtenances shall be owned, operated and maintained by the City, with title to be vested in the City upon completion of the water main.

(1) No water mains shall be installed except by the City unless authorized by an agreement between the City and the developer or applicants. Where water mains are installed by a developer or applicants and abut on parcels not owned by the developer or applicants not included in the agreement, the developer or applicants shall be entitled to reimbursements when such parcels are connected to the water main within ten years after the completion of the water main from the funds collected by the City for such connections pursuant to Section 933.10. The amount of the reimbursement shall be determined by dividing the cost of the water main paid by the developer or applicants by the available front footage abutting on the water main provided that the total amount of reimbursement shall not exceed six dollars (\$6.00) per front foot of property served.

(2) To be eligible for this reimbursement, the developer or applicant shall file with the Administrator within ninety days after the completion of the water main or such further time as may be authorized by the Administrator in accordance with the Standards and Specifications receipts for all labor and material used in connection with the construction of the water main, together with final, as-built plans, properly referenced for future location of the work.

933.14 SYSTEM CAPACITY RATES.

The following rates shall be charged for each service connection made to any property and shall be paid at the time a permit is issued for the service connection. No person shall make a service connection or any part thereof, unless he has been issued a permit therefor by the Administrator. In the event a tap is subsequently enlarged, the difference between the charges for the two sizes shall be paid.

For that portion of the City served by the Groveport water system:

Size of Water Tap	Charge
3/4"	\$2,170.00
1"	3,900.00
1-1/2"	8,568.00
2"	15,400.00
3"	34,500.00
4"	47,775.00
6"	108,529.00
8"	191,100.00
10"	297,670.00
12"	428,749.00
16"	477,749.00

For that portion of the City served by the Columbus Water System, the Columbus rate plus the following surcharge.

Size of Water Tap	Charge
¾"	\$220.00
1"	395.00
1-1/2"	878.00
2"	1,570.00
3"	3,535.00
4"	6,280.00
6"	14,120.00
8"	25,100.00
10"	39,220.00

When there are separate taps for domestic and fire protection, the City collects the full tapping application fee for the domestic tap and five percent (5%) of the regular tapping fee for the fire line.

933.15 CHARGES FOR RENEWAL OF SERVICE.

In all cases where the Administrator has ordered a discontinuance of water service for a violation of any rule or regulation there shall be charged the fees prescribed in Section 933.07 for renewal of the water service.

933.16 RATES FOR USERS ON COLUMBUS WATER LINE.

The City of Columbus is hereby authorized to directly bill those users within the City who are on the Columbus water system at the regular Columbus rate plus a fifteen (15%) surcharge.

933.99

In addition to the civil penalties prescribed in this chapter and Chapter 929, whoever violates any provision of this chapter and Chapter 929 is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each day on which a violation occurs or continues shall be deemed a separate violation.