

Ordinance No. 2022-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIESEL, TEXAS DECLARING THE AMENDING AND SETTING OF WATER RATES, SEWER RATES, ADDRESSING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CONNECTION, METER ACCURACY CHECKS, GARBAGE RATES, METER TAMPERING OR BYPASSING, DISCHARGE OF ILLEGAL WASTES, BILLING PROCEDURES, DISCONNECTING ORDINANCES, PROVIDING THAT VIOLATION OF ORDINANCE IS AN OFFENSE AND ESTABLISHING A CRIMINAL PENALTY THEREFORE, PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIESEL, MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS.

1.

WATER RATES

1.01 In this Ordinance, there be and there are hereby-established rates and charges for the water system of the City. Such rates or charges shall be based upon the amount of water supplied by the municipal waterworks as shown by the water meter, estimated usage or flat rate service, as applicable, for each month of each calendar year. All users of the municipal waterworks system shall be charged for each of the twelve (12) months of the calendar year the rates hereinafter set out as follows (per 1000 gallons):

(01)	Residential 3/4" Meter Water rates inside the City:	
	A. Monthly base rate	\$ 38.00
	B. 0 - 1,000 gallons (FREE)	\$ 0.00
	C. 1001 - 20,000 gallons	\$ 6.00
	D. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons	\$ 6.50
	E. 40,001 plus	\$ 10.00
(02)	School Water rates inside the City:	
	A. Monthly base rate	\$ 38.00
	B. 0 - 1,000 gallons (FREE)	\$ 0.00
	C. 1001 - 20,000 gallons	\$ 6.00
	D. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons	\$ 6.50
	E. 40,001 plus	\$ 10.00
(03)	Church Water rates inside the City:	
	A. Monthly base rate	\$ 38.00
	B. 0 - 1,000 gallons (FREE)	\$ 0.00
	C. 1001 - 20,000 gallons	\$ 6.00
	D. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons	\$ 6.50
	E. 40,001 plus	\$ 10.00

- (04) Fairground Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 38.00 |
| B. 0 - 1,000 gallons (FREE) | \$ 0.00 |
| C. 1001 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 6.00 |
| D. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 6.50 |
| E. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (05) Apartment Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 38.00 |
| B. 0 - 1,000 gallons (FREE) | \$ 0.00 |
| C. 1001 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 6.00 |
| D. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 6.50 |
| E. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (06) Commercial 3/4" Meter Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 56.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (07) Commercial 1" Meter Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 89.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (08) Commercial 2" Meter Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 118.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (09) Commercial 2" Multi User Meter Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 175.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (10) Commercial 3" Meter Water rates inside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$232.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |

- (11) Residential 3/4" Meter Water rates outside the City:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 44.00 |
| B. 0 - 1,000 gallons (FREE) | \$ 0.00 |
| C. 1001 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 6.00 |
| D. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 6.50 |
| E. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (12) Commercial 3/4" Meter Water rates outside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 62.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (13) Commercial 1" Meter Water rates outside the City:
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|----------------------------|-----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 105.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (14) Commercial 2" Meter Water rates outside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 133.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (15) Commercial 2" Multi User Meter Water rates outside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 205.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (16) Commercial 3" Meter Water rates outside the City:
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| A. Monthly base rate | \$ 261.00 |
| B. 0 - 20,000 gallons | \$ 8.62 |
| C. 20,001 - 40,000 gallons | \$ 9.20 |
| D. 40,001 plus | \$ 10.00 |
- (17) Bulk water provided to other public utility facilities shall be charged at a wholesale bulk rate negotiated by contract or at a bulk rate of \$38.00 base rate plus \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons. The collection of the water must be in accordance with the guidelines of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

- (18) Water provided to property owners for clean-up or remodeling in regards to rent houses shall be charged a \$100 Water Customer Deposit for up to four (4) rent properties, a rate of \$38.00 water base for five (5) days or less up to 1,000 gallons, a rate of \$23.00 sewer base will apply if water is on for more than five (5) days, \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons after the initial 1,000 gallons, and garbage is optional as some property owners have their own means of disposal.
- (19) The Monthly Base Rate set forth above shall be paid each month if there is no water usage. Failure to pay the Monthly Base Rate will result in the disconnection of water service as set forth in Section 8.03 of this Ordinance, and a \$25.00 Reconnect Fee will be charged to restore service in accordance with Section 8.03. In addition, a customer who has had an inactive meter disconnected for failure to pay the Monthly Base Rate will be required to pay a water deposit in accordance with Section 3.01(2)(c) of this Ordinance to have the meter reconnected if there is not a water deposit associated with that meter on deposit with the City.
- (20) For a Rental Community Development where individual water meters are not provided for each unit, but, rather, are master-metered, the base rate is the Residential base rate set forth in subsection (01) multiplied by the number of rental units (example: 10 units x \$33.00=\$330) and the usage rate is the same as set forth in subsection (01) applied to the usage as shown by the master meter(s). For duplexes, triplexes and other shared-wall structures, each separate living unit within the structure is considered a separate rental unit.

If each unit has its own separate metered water, the water base and usage rates are the same as in subsection (01) above.

A Rental Community Development is a development that does not involve the subdivision of land into separate lots, but, rather contains permanent, residential structures for rent which have identified land as part of the premises for each unit as shown on a plan or condominium regime for the development. This does not include apartment complexes, manufactured home parks, recreational vehicle parks, motels, or hotels.

- (21) Except where the water is being used to serve residential dwelling units, unless otherwise specifically provided for in the above rates, Master Metered water customers are subject to the Commercial Multi-User rates for the applicable tap size and location, except where provision of water is governed by a separate agreement between the City and the customer, in which case the agreement controls.

2.

SEWER RATES

2.01 In this Ordinance, there be and there are hereby established rates and charges for the sewer system of the City. Such rates or charges shall be based upon the amount of water supplied by the municipal waterworks as shown by the water meter based on the average water usage for the months of December, January, and February. PROVIDED: THAT THE CUSTOMER IS TAPPED INTO THE SEWER SYSTEM. Monthly rates are as follows:

- (1) Commercial Sewer rates in the City:
 - A. Monthly base rate \$20.00
 - B. Monthly usage rate of \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons.

- (2) Residential Sewer rates in the City:
 - A. Monthly base rate \$15.00
 - B. Monthly usage rate of \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons.

2.02 Sewer services are not provided outside of the City.

2.03 Rental Community Developments in the City-Individual taps. If units within the Rental Community Development have individual water and sewer taps, the sewer base and usage charges for each unit shall be the same as the Residential Sewer Rates set forth in (2) above.

2.04 Rental Community Developments in the City-Master-Metered. Where a Rental Community Development is master-metered for water the base sewer rate shall be the monthly residential base rate in subsection (2) above multiplied by the number of rental units (example: 10 units x \$15.00 = \$150.00). The usage rate shall be the usage rate set forth in subsection (2) above multiplied by the water usage shown on the water master meter(s). For duplexes, triplexes and other shared-wall structures, each separate living unit within the structure is considered a separate rental unit.

3.

SERVICE CONNECTIONS

3.01 Water Service Connections:

- (1) Tap Fees. A tap fee will be charged for the initiation of services, where no service previously existed.

- A. An additional fee may be charged to a residential service applicant for a tap expense not normally incurred; for example, a road bore. The charge will be the additional cost actually incurred by the City.

Each rental unit in a Rental Community Development (even if master metered for water) must be *separately* connected to the City's water system. In addition, whether such connection is directly to a City main or by virtue of an internal development service line, a water tap fee must be paid for *each* rental unit. For duplexes, triplexes and other shared-wall structures, each separate living unit within the structure is considered a separate rental unit.

- B. The City shall bear the cost of the first 100 feet of any water main or line necessary to extend service to the applicant's property boundary, unless applicant fails to provide necessary facilities, fails to comply with local or state law, or defaults on the terms of a written agreement for the extension of service or other requirements. Developers must comply with City guidelines and seek approval from the City regarding any area within the City to be developed. The customer or developer shall bear all cost of the extension of the water main or line beyond 100 feet and within his/her property boundaries. The customer is responsible for the cost of any appurtenances necessary to specifically serve his/her property except as set forth above. Exception: The City will not bear the cost of the first 100 feet of water main or line necessary to serve a Rental Community Development or Commercial Multi-User Customer. IN NO CIRCUMSTANCE DOES THE CITY PAY FOR ANY CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE (CUSTOMER SIDE OF METER).

- C. Water Tap Fees are as follows:

<u>Line Size</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/4 inch	\$4,000.00
1 inch	\$4,500.00
2 inch	\$5,000.00
3 inch	\$5,500.00
above 3 inch	\$6,000.00

- D. All tap fees are to be paid in full before the tap is installed.

Ma

(2) Installation and Service Connections

- A. Service applicants are responsible for providing the City with connection requests in writing. An application must be completed and provided to the City. Application for connections shall be made at Riesel City Hall by the OCCUPANT(S). Connections will generally require the customer be at home to insure no leaks are present. Water will not be connected if leaks are detected.
- B. A service connection fee (applicable only if water is already in place) of \$100.00 is required for any service connection to be made.
- C. A utility deposit of \$100.00 will be required on all new and delinquent applicants.
- D. All connections shall be made under the supervision of the Public Works Director and no connection shall be covered until said Director inspects the work and approves the same.
- E. The customer shall be responsible for furnishing and laying the necessary customer service lines from the City's line to the service address.
- F. All lines provided by the customer outside of the boundaries of his/her property shall become the property of the City. The customer must procure all necessary easements for the line in favor of the City at his/her sole expense.
- G. The customer service line and appurtenances installed by the customer shall be constructed in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Texas governing plumbing practices, the City's requirements, the applicable plumbing code, and be approved by the City Public Works Director.
- H. The customer is responsible to maintain the customer's service line on his/her property and any appurtenances on his/her property in good operating condition. The lines and appurtenances on the customer's property shall remain the property of the customer for which the customer retains all obligations of repair and maintenance.
- I. The customer may be charged for moving a meter for the convenience of the customer. The customer may be charged should the customer request to replace a meter with a meter of another size or capacity. This included any necessary line enlargement. The charge will be the actual cost to the City of such work.
- J. Customers are required to have a "cut-off" outside the meter box for personal use.
- K. Except where approved in advance by the Utility Superintendent where unique circumstances exist, only 1 meter per house and lot is acceptable. Homes and lots with sprinkler systems are allowed to have a separate meter for operating the sprinkler system. Charges are based on usage. This restriction does not apply to Rental Community Developments, Manufactured Home Parks, and RV Parks where separate water metering for units is provided.

- L. Fences must be placed behind meters in order for City access.
- M. All customers receiving water and/or sewer service from the City shall affix to their residence or business the street number of their address at a place that can be seen from the street which is part of the street address. The numbers shall be at least 4 inches high. New customers must have the numbers in place before service is begun.
- N. Water meters are specifically for the property upon which they are initially located. A customer has no right to sell, barter, or exchange a water meter over to the owner of a different property, and any such purported sale, barter, or exchange will not be recognized by the City for purposes of municipal service.
- O. The Monthly Base Rate set forth above shall be paid each month if there is no sewer usage. Failure to pay the Monthly Base Rate will result in the disconnection of sewer service as set forth in Section 8.03 of this Ordinance, and a \$25.00 Reconnect Fee will be charged to restore service in accordance with Section 8.03. In addition, a customer who has had an inactive meter disconnected for failure to pay the Monthly Base Rate will be required to pay a sewer deposit in accordance with Section 3.01(2)(c) of this Ordinance to have the meter reconnected if there is not a sewer deposit associated with that meter on deposit with the City.

3.02 Sewer Service Connections

(1) Tap Fees. A tap fee will be charged for initiation of service, where no service previously existed.

A. An additional fee may be charged to a residential service applicant for a tap expense not normally Incurred; for example, a road bore. The charge will be the additional cost actually incurred by the City.

Generally, absent unique circumstances, which do not include adding a second living area, only one sewer tap shall be allowed per lot having City water service. This restriction does not apply to Rental Community Developments, manufactured home parks or RV Parks.

Each rental unit in a Rental Community Development (even if master metered for water) must be *separately* connected to the City's sewer system. In addition, whether such connection is directly to a City main or by virtue of an internal development service line, a sewer tap fee must be paid for *each* rental unit. For duplexes, triplexes and other shared-wall structures, each separate living unit within the structure is considered a separate rental unit.

B. The City shall bear the cost of the first 100 feet of any sewer main or lateral necessary to extend service to an applicant's property boundary, unless the applicant fails to provide necessary facilities, fails to comply with local or state law, or defaults on the terms of a written agreement for the extension of service or other requirements. Developers must comply with City guidelines and seek approval from the City regarding any area within the City to be developed. The customer or developer shall pay the cost of any main or lateral extension beyond 100 feet or on his/her property. The City will not bear the cost of the first 100 feet of sewer main or line necessary to serve a Rental Community Development or Commercial Multi-User Customer. IN NO CIRCUMSTANCE DOES THE CITY PAY FOR ANY CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE.

C. Sewer Tap Fees are as follows:

<u>Line Size</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4 inch	\$4,500.00

D. The tap fee is to be paid in full before the tap is installed.

E. Each service address must have a sewer clean out on private property.

F. The customer shall be responsible for furnishing and laying the necessary customer service line from the City's line to the service address. The customer service line and appurtenances installed by the customer shall be constructed in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Texas governing plumbing practices, the City's requirements, the applicable plumbing code, and be approved by the City Public Works Director.

G. All clean-outs shall be covered by a tight-fitting lid to prevent storm water from entering the system. The customer shall install and maintain the lid on the clean-out; and shall only remove the same when necessary to clean-out the line, and replacing the same immediately thereafter.

H. All service lines provided by the customer outside the boundaries of his/her property shall become the property of the City. The customer must procure all necessary easements in favor of the City for the line at his/her sole expense to the extent the line cannot be laid in public right-of-way. The lines and appurtenances on the customer's property shall remain his/her property for which the customer retains all obligations of repair and maintenance.

I. Customers that are having sewer problems such as a backed up line must have the private lines checked. In the event that a problem still occurs the customer may call the City to the site of the problem to investigate. Customers are required to show adequate proof of service on the date of service. Service calls made by the City to customers where the problem is on

private line will be required to pay the bill for the service call. The City will send a separate bill for service calls.

- 3.03 The City reserves the right to decline to extend or provide water or sewer service to any applicant if the City is without adequate capacity to provide such service.

4.

EMERGENCY WATER

- 4.01 In the event of the complete inability of the City of Riesel's water system to function requiring the purchase of all of the water necessary to serve the City's customers from an emergency supplier, the Rate per 1,000 gallons to be charged to customers by the City of Riesel shall be the greater of the rate set by the City of Riesel for provision of water from the City's own sources, or the rate paid by the City of Riesel to the emergency supplier ("EMERGENCY WATER RATE").
- 4.02 In the event that the City of Riesel water system is not completely unable to meet demand, but must be supplemented by the purchase of water from an emergency supplier, and the rate charged to the City of Riesel by the emergency supplier for the water purchased by the City of Riesel is greater than the rate charged by the City of Riesel to its customers, the Rate per 1,000 gallons to be charged to customers by the City of Riesel shall be an effective blended rate arrived at by dividing the number of gallons of water purchased by the City of Riesel from the emergency supplier by the total gallons supplied to customers for the billing period to come to a percentage, then applying that percentage to each customer's usage to determine the portion of the customer's usage that will be billed at the City of Riesel's regular rate, and the portion that will be billed at the EMERGENCY WATER RATE.
- 4.03 The current rate charged by the City of Riesel's emergency supplier is \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons, which is hereby adopted at the EMERGENCY WATER RATE for purposes of this Ordinance, Subject to amendment should said rate increase or decrease.

5.

METER ACCURACY CHECKS

- 5.01 Customers are responsible for all water usage as indicated by the meter reading. If a customer requests a meter to be removed or checked for accuracy, the customer will be required to complete a water meter accuracy request form available from the City. Meters removed for testing by an independent entity, and an accuracy report is returned to the City. Customers will be billed \$25.00 if test results indicate that the meter was working within the acceptable limits of AWWA (American Water Works Association). Meters that indicate a percentage read of 105% or more will be given a credit equal to the amount of overage for the previous month billing and the meter will be repaired or replaced. The City reserves the right to replace water meters for any reason.
- 5.02 Customers that request meters to be re-read after the City has already verified the reading will be charged a \$10.00 fee for re-reads when there is no indication to City staff from the re-read(s) that the

meter is not accurate. The customer must complete a water meter re-read request form available from the City.

6.

GARBAGE RATES

- 6.01 Residential and commercial garbage service is provided by the City through negotiated contracts with independent carriers at the rates set forth in those contracts, plus any applicable administrative costs. The current rate and any future rate changes shall be an addendum to this Ordinance. The current contract is available to any customer at any time during the normal working hours at the City Hall.

7.

METER TAMPERING OR BYPASSING

- 7.01 Meter tampering, bypass or diversion is defined as tampering with a water meter, sewer tap or equipment causing damage or unnecessary expense to the City, bypassing the same, or other instances of diversion, such as physically disorienting the meter, objects attached to the meter to divert service or to bypass, insertion of objects into the meter, other electrical and mechanical means of tampering with, bypassing or diverting City service removal or alteration of City owned equipment or locks, connection or reconnection of service without City authorization, or connection into the service line of adjacent customers or of the City is strictly prohibited by the Ordinance, and is considered theft of service and criminal mischief punishable under the *Texas Penal Code*. Provided that the City has evidence, direct or circumstantial, of such prohibited activities, the service will be terminated immediately without notice. Service will not be restored until the meter tampering or bypass situation has been eliminated under the supervision of the Public Work Director. In addition, a reconnect fee and deposit will be required as if new service was being initiated. Moreover, any damages to the City equipment and any estimated loss in revenue will be assessed and paid by the customer before service is restored. The City will charge for labor, materials, equipment and all other actual costs necessary to repair or replace all equipment damaged due to negligence, meter tampering or bypassing or service diversion. Furthermore, such prohibited tampering, damage, and/or diversion is a violation of this Ordinance and a criminal offense under this Ordinance.

8.

CONNECTION TO CITY SYSTEM

- 8.01 Except where City water or sewer services are determined by the City Administration not to be available because of the lack of City lines or circumstances which prevent service, every building or structure designed for human habitation or occupancy, and so used, shall be connected to the City water and sanitary systems.
- 8.02 Where connection to the City sanitary sewer is not available, the structure may be served by an on site sewage facility which is designed in accordance with applicable Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations and has received all necessary permits. However, if that on site facility fails at a future date when sanitary sewer service is available to the structure, the structure

must be connected to the City's sewer system even if this requires extension of lines from the boundary of the premises to the City's lines at the landowner or land occupier's expense. All applicants for water service to whom connection to the City's sanitary sewer system is not available must submit proof that any septic tank system installed has been inspected and permitted by the Waco-McLennan County Public Health Department. The system permitted by the Waco-McLennan County Public Health Department must have future inspections in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations.

- 8.03 Before any person or firm shall be issued a building permit or certificate of occupancy for new construction or addition to existing structures, or for moving into the City limits a pre-built or partially built structure, the applicant for permit must first agree in writing to provide for connections to the City water supply and sanitary sewer system if such are available in the area.
- 8.04 Sanitary Facilities Required. It shall be unlawful for any person to reside in, lease for human habitation, or conduct business at a building or structure designed for human habitation or occupancy within the City limits where there is no sanitary toilet meeting applicable state health standards available and accessible to residents or persons conducting business on the premises.
- 8.05 Unsanitary Disposition Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain on his/her property a dry closet or privy for the receiving of human waste, or to dispose of such substances in any manor other than a properly sewered water closet.
- 8.06 Small privately owned lift stations that are connected to the City sewer system shall be designed in accordance with applicable Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations. There lift stations shall be maintained and inspected according to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations. The City shall require the privately owned lift station's owner to sign a written statement that they agree to maintain and have inspections according to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations at their expense.

9.

BILLING PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

9.01 Deposits

- A. Service applicants are required to pay a **deposit of \$200.00 for water and \$100.00 for sewer** service.
- B. Every service applicant who has previously been a customer of the utility and whose service has been disconnected for nonpayment of bills, meter tampering, bypassing of meter or failure to comply with applicable state and municipal regulations will be required, before service is resumed, to pay all amounts in full due the City. A deposit will be required for the current service address.
- C. A receipt of deposit shall be issued to each service applicant from whom a deposit is received.

D. The City will keep records to show:

1. The name and address of each depositor
2. The amount and date of the deposit
3. Each transaction concerning the deposit
4. A record of unclaimed deposits shall be kept for seven year, thereafter transferred to the City.

E. If service is not connected or after disconnection of service, the City will automatically refund the service applicant's or customer deposit or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bill of service.

9.02 Billing

A. Bills for service shall be rendered monthly and shall be calculated according to the rates approved by the City Council and the meter readings at the service locations (unless the City is authorized or finds it necessary to use estimates).

B. The date the bill is posted to the mail is the date of its issuance. Bills will be past due of not paid by 3:00pm by the 10th day after issuance (unless such a day falls on a holiday or a weekend, in which case the time that the bill must be paid to prevent it from becoming past due is by 3:00pm the next work day after the deadline).

B. A customer whose bill is delinquent shall be charged a late penalty of ten percent (10%). The late penalty is a charge that is required to be paid, and if the customer pays the past due amounts, but doesn't pay the late penalty, the bill may be considered delinquent and the customer subject to disconnection of service in accordance with this Ordinance.

D. A record of bills mailed and their mailing dates will be maintained at the City offices.

E. A deferred payment plan may be considered for delinquent accounts in special circumstances where a customer has unforeseen financial hardships due to medical or health conditions. The City Administrator may approve a deferred payment plan where such special circumstances exist subject to the following conditions.

1. The delinquency must be paid in full within four months.
2. All current bills must be paid prior to becoming past due.
3. Persons with more than one disconnection in the prior twelve month period will not be eligible for a deferred payment plan.

9.03 Discontinuance of Service

A. Any person who fails to pay the water and/or sewer charge billed to that person shall be subject to having his or her water and sewer service discontinued by the City.

B. If a water and/or sewer customer fails to pay his or her bill when due, the City Secretary shall send or cause to be sent to the customer a notice entitled "Final Notice" notifying the customer that if he or she fails to pay the past due water and/or sewer service charges and late fee(s) within ten days after the date of the notice being posted to the mail, water and sewer service will be discontinued. The notice shall state the termination/disconnection date. The notice shall contain the office hours, telephone number and address of the City office where payments of utility billings are received. The notice shall set out the total of all past due charges and late fees, and shall set forth the reconnect fee that will be charged to restore water and/or sewer service if service is disconnected.

C. Water and/or sewer service may be disconnected for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to pay past due service charges or failure to comply with the terms of a deferred payment agreement.
 - (i) Payment by check which has been rejected for insufficient funds, closed account, or for which a stop payment order has been issued is NOT deemed to be payment to the City. A \$25.00 returned check fee will be charged for all returned checks.
 - (ii) Payment at the City's office is considered payment to the City.
 - (iii) The City is not obligated to accept payment of a bill when a City employee is at the location of service to disconnect service.
2. Violation of the City's rules pertaining to use of water and/or sewer service in a manner that interferes with the service of others.
3. Operation of non-standard/non-conforming equipment if a reasonable attempt has been made to notify the customer and the customer has been given a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation.
4. Failure to comply with deposit requirements of this Ordinance.
5. Other reason allowed by law.

D. A disconnection shall be preceded by notice as required under 8.03(A) above, except that inapplicable provisions may be so noted. If the potential disconnection is for a reason other than failure to pay past due charges and fees, the notice shall set out that reason in sufficient detail to put the customer on notice of what must be done to remedy the situation and avoid termination of service.

E. Disconnection may be carried out by the City without prior notice for the following reasons:

1. Where a known and dangerous condition related to the type of service provided exists. Where reasonable, given the nature of the reason for disconnection, a written notice of the

disconnection, explaining the reason service was disconnected, shall be posted at the entrance to the property, the place of common entry or upon the front door of each affected residential unit as soon as possible after service has been disconnected.

2. Where service is connected without authority by a person who has not made application for service.
3. Where service has been reconnected without authority following termination of service for non-payment.
4. In instances of tampering with the City's meter or equipment, bypassing the same, or other instances of diversion of service.

F. A reconnect fee of \$25.00 will be charged to the customer for restoring service if service has been physically disconnected, or where the City has attempted to disconnect service and the customer prevented the disconnection by some means.

G. A customer who believes that the billing on which the disconnection is warned, or other basis on which a disconnection notice has been received, is incorrect may request a hearing before the Mayor or his designee in writing within the 10 day period. If a hearing is requested, service shall not be disconnected until the Mayor or his designee holds the hearing with the customer, and then only if the Mayor or his designee finds that the disconnection should proceed. This provision does not apply to disconnection without notice under 8.03(E).

10.

IMPROPER USE OF SYSTEM

- 10.01 The City of Riesel will charge a customer for all labor, materials, equipment and all other actual costs necessary to repair or replace all system elements damaged due to the customer's negligence, service diversion, or the discharge of wastes into the sewer system which the sewer system cannot properly treat or handle.
- 10.02 Industrial/Commercial users of the City's sewer system must comply with all state, federal and local laws and regulations regarding discharge of wastes and pre-treatment programs where applicable to such user's operations.

11.

OFFENSE/PENALTY

- 11.01 Violation of a prohibition set forth in this Ordinance shall be an offense (class C misdemeanor) punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 except as set forth below. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

- 11.02 Violation of a prohibition in this Ordinance against unsanitary discharge of sewage or waste, or the refusal to connect to the City's sewer and water systems where required is a violation of a health and sanitation provision punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000.00. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.
- 11.03 The Public Works Director shall be the enforcement officer under this Ordinance, with the power and authority to issue citations for violations of this Ordinance.

12.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

- 12.01 If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unlawful, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, and all the remainder of this Ordinance not so declared to be invalid shall continue to be in full force and effect. The City Council of the City of Riesel, Texas, hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clause or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

13.

EFFECTIVE DATE

- 13.01 This Ordinance shall be effective from the date of enactment, and after publication in accordance with the *Local Government Code*; except that water rate adopted herein shall take effect on April 1, 2022 for March 2022 usage.

14.


REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

- 14.01 This Ordinance repeals any conflicting ordinances or conflicting parts of ordinances of the City of Riesel.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of March, 2022.

ATTEST:


Alisha Flanary
City Secretary


Kevin Hogg
Mayor

