

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
) TOWN OF SHARON
COUNTY OF YORK)

ORDINANCE 9 - WATER RULES AND REGULATIONS
Addendum to Ordinance – updated March 11, 2024

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to amend this ordinance to increase the fees charged to our town residents for meter installation. The town increased fees in 2023, however, the price for materials and labor has continued to increase. The new charges are as follows:

- Meter Tap Installation, currently \$1500.00 will increase to \$2,500.00, this is the price if water lines are on the same side of the road (this includes new tap, new meter box and new meter). Note, no T-Lines from one meter to another will be allowed for residential; commercial will be viewed on a case-by-case basis
- Bore under the road, current contractor price is \$1,000.00, this will be added to the base price of \$2500.00, for a total of \$3500.00. Note, no outside contractor will be allowed to tap into the Town’s water system – Only Town selected contractor doing work for the Town not the resident;

THEREFORE, this ordinance is being amended to increase revenue fees charged to town residents for meter tap installation. These changes will be effective March 11, 2024.

THE FOLLOWING ARE GENERAL REGULATIONS:

1. All wells and well houses, meters and meter boxes, pipes, shut-offs, valves, and the water tank are property of the Town of Sharon, and the town reserves the right to enter upon any property where these items are located for the purpose of maintaining the water system as needed. The town will restore any area to its original condition (within reason) where maintenance is necessary. Residents cannot install any plants that will interfere with the monthly meter reading or meter maintenance in any way. If any plant material is in the way of reading or maintaining the meter, the Town will send a letter to that resident asking for that plant material to be trimmed back or removed. If, by the next meter reading, the plant material is not trimmed back or removed, the Town will trim back or remove this plant material. Residents are discouraged from planting anything over water mains or service lines. This will cause roots to grow into these lines and may cause leaks. If the Town identifies plants that are causing damage to service lines or water mains, the resident will receive a letter asking for those plants to be removed. If the resident is unwilling or unable to remove the plant matter, the Town will remove it.
2. It shall also be unlawful to turn on or off the supply of water to any dwelling, business, or other structure at the meter without first having obtained permission from a town official to do so. Reference S. C. Code Section 5-31-1120.

3. New Customers – Will come to Sharon Town Hall and complete an application for water service. A copy will be given to the customer. The person who applies for water service will be the responsible person for paying all fees and monies due and for seeing that the water rules are followed by the household members.
4. The owner must put on a cut-off valve between the meter and the property to be used when the customer needs to cut the water off for repairs.
5. All hot water heaters must be protected by check valves to prevent water draining from the heater in the event water is cut off for any reason.
6. A 25% discount will be given one time per quarter to a customer who has a major leak of which he/she is not aware.
7. Tampering with the town water system without authorization or damaging water meters is a misdemeanor and said person(s) will be prosecuted by the Town via the York County Sheriff's Department. This includes turning your water on or off by the customer; this is to be done by town officials only. (See Violations, page 5). The only exception is in case of a major water leak where water must be cut off immediately.

WATER BILLING

1. Meters will be read around the 20th of the month.
2. Bills will be sent out before or around the first of the month.
3. Payment is due on the 20th of each month.
4. If payment for the current month is not received on the 20th, a \$15.00 late fee will be added to the bill amount. If payment is not received by the first of the following month when new bills are sent out, the bill will show the past-due amount and will note that payment of the past-due amount must be received by the 10th or water service will be disconnected on the 11th without further notice. (See Late Fee, #7 below.)

RATES AND CHARGES TO CUSTOMER

1. Meter Tap Installation – \$2500.00 for a new installation when water main is on the same side of the street as the new meter, this includes new tap, new meter box and new meter; When water meter is on the opposite side of the street and a new service line must be bored under the road, the price is an additional \$1,000, for a total of \$3500.00. Note, no T-Lines from one meter to another will be allowed for residential; commercial will be viewed on a case-by-case basis. No outside contractor will be allowed to tap into the Town's water system. The water main and easement is property of the Town and no other persons besides the Town or its designee will be allowed to perform work on it. Only a Town selected contractor doing the work for the Town not the resident will be allowed to install the new

meter tap and bore under the road; An Impact Fee of \$500.00 will be paid to the Town for any new water tap; \$250.00 for a re-installation to existing pipes and meter box.

2. Customer Deposit – This is payable before water service is connected and the balance is refundable at the time the customer moves and the total balance is paid in full. Homeowner deposit = \$50.00 and Renter deposit = \$100.00.

3. Water fees will be as follows: Until 2/28/2020, 0.35 cents per 100 gallons; starting 3/1/2020, 0.40 cents per 100 gallons; starting 4/1/2020, 0.45 cents per 100 gallons; and starting 5/1/2020, 0.50 cents per 100 gallons where it will remain until changed by the Sharon Town Council.

4. DHEC fee – A fee of \$5.50 will be charged to each customer to pay for the required SC DHEC tests that ensure that our drinking water is safe for human consumption. If there is more than one residence, business, or other structure receiving water through one meter, the DHEC fee will be charged for each residence, business, or structure.

5. Maintenance Fee – A fee of \$10.00 will be charged to each customer for the upkeep and maintenance of the water system. If there is more than one residence, business, or structure receiving water through one meter, the Maintenance Fee will be charged for each residence, business, or structure.

6. Water Tank Fee – A fee of \$5.00 will be charged to each customer. This is to cover the cost of SC DHEC's requiring the water tank to be placed under a maintenance contract. The cost of this contract is \$8,000 per year.

7. Late Fee - \$15.00 will be added on or around the 21st to any account that has a balance of \$10.00 or more if the bill is not paid by the due date of the 20th. When the bill is not paid by the end of the current month, the bill for the next month will be sent to the customer showing the past-due amount along with the currently due amount. The customer will have until the 10th of the new current month to pay the past-due amount or water service will be disconnected on the 11th for failure to pay the past-due amount unless the 11th falls on a Saturday or Sunday; then water service will be disconnected on the following Monday (the 12th or 13th). A reconnect fee of \$50.00 will then apply.

8. Returned Check Fee - \$35.00

9. Reconnect Fee - \$50.00 when existing service has been interrupted for non-payment of water bill and must be turned back on. See Disconnection of Water Services.

10. Absolutely no filling of pools is allowed from the Town's water system. We do not have enough water to provide for pool filling. We also ask that customers conserve their outside

usage such as watering grass, washing cars and watering flower gardens. There will be a Fee Structure for excessive usage as follows:

<u>Residents</u>	<u>Businesses</u>
20,000 gallons - \$25.00 added to water bill	30,000 gallons - \$25.00 added to water bill
25,000 gallons - \$50.00 added to water bill	35,000 gallons - \$50.00 added to water bill
30,000 gallons - \$100.00 added to water bill	40,000 gallons - \$100.00 added to water bill

If excessive usage is due to a leak that the customer is unaware of, there will be a 25% reduction in the fee for water and no additional fees added. Customer must show proof of leak. If a resident or business has excessive usage for an additional month during the same calendar year, an additional \$100.00 will be added to each month of excessive usage in addition to the excessive usage fee.

If a resident or business has a leak, it must be fixed within 5 days of being notified. If the leak is not fixed within that time period, the Town will cut the water off if the leak is large enough that it is compromising the system. A cut-off notice will be posted on the door of residence, not mailed.

DISCONNECTION OF WATER SERVICES

1. Disconnection due to non-payment – If water is disconnected due to #4 in Water Billing section above, a reconnect fee of \$50.00 will be added to the bill. Customer must pay the past-due amount, the \$15.00 late fee and the \$50.00 reconnect fee; this must be paid in full **IN CASH** before water service is restored.
2. Disconnection due to moving – Customer must report to the town clerk as soon as possible the date the residence will be vacated so the meter can be read. Customer will need to provide a forwarding address.
3. Disconnection for any other reason – If the water service is disconnected for any other reason than #1 or #2 above, the town reserves the right to remove the meter from the property.

REMOVAL OF METERS

Any time a customer goes off the water system, the meter will be removed from the meter box.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Rental property – When renters move out and there is a lapse between another renter moving in, the water bill will be sent to the landlord.
2. When the responsible party dies – The bill will be sent to “The Estate Of” unless we are notified of whom the new responsible person will be. If payments cease to be made for two months, the meter will be removed at that time.
3. When property is up for sale – The meter will be left in as long as the bill is being paid. When payments cease for two months, the meter will be removed.
4. Any situation where there is no responsible person to pay the bill, the meter will be removed.

BUYING WATER FROM THE TOWN

The town has a well that is not connected to the town water system from which water may be sold if conditions permit, i.e., we are not in a drought situation. Water can be purchased for 10 cents per gallon. Customers must provide their own tanker. The town reserves the right to refuse the sale of water to anyone for any reason.

INTERFERING WITH OR OPENING FIRE HYDRANTS

It shall be unlawful for any person not connected with The Town of Sharon or the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department to interfere with or open for any purpose whatsoever any of the fire hydrants on the mains of the water works system of the Town of Sharon. Any unauthorized person found tampering with the Fire Hydrants in any way, including filling tankers, will be charged a \$1,000.00 fine payable to the Town of Sharon and enforced by the York County Sheriff.

INTERFERING WITH TOWN OF SHARON’S WELLS

It shall be unlawful for any person not connected with The Town of Sharon to interfere with the wells operating the Town’s water system for any purpose whatsoever. Any unauthorized person found tampering with the Town’s wells in any way, will be charged a \$1,000.00 fine payable to the Town of Sharon and enforced by the York County Sheriff.

CLIMBING OR DEFACING THE WATER TANK

Only authorized personnel shall climb the water tank and will be required to wear the harness and safety apparatus provided by the Town of Sharon. Any person violating any provision of

this ordinance, including defacing, or vandalizing the water tank in any way will be charged a \$1,000.00 fine payable to the Town of Sharon and enforced by the York County Sheriff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the Town of Sharon in council duly assembled,

DONE AND RATIFIED this 11th day of March 2024, as witness our hands and seals, in Council done at Sharon, South Carolina.