

TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 3 UTILITIES - WATER SYSTEM

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6-3-1 ENFORCEMENT. The Superintendent of Public Works shall supervise the installation of water service pipes and their connections to the water main and enforce all regulations pertaining to water services in this City in accordance with this chapter. This chapter shall apply to all replacements of existing service pipes as well as to new ones. The City Council shall make such rules, not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, as needed for the detailed operation of the waterworks. In the event of an emergency the Superintendent may make temporary rules for the protection of the system until due consideration by the City Council may be had.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-2 ADOPTION OF STATE PLUMBING CODE. The installation of any water-service pipe and any connection with the municipal water system shall comply with all pertinent and applicable provisions, whether regulatory, procedural or enforcement provisions, of the State Plumbing Code as amended and as published by the Iowa Department of Public Health, which is hereby adopted. An official copy of the State Plumbing Code as adopted and a certified copy of this Ordinance are on file in the office of the City Clerk for public inspection.

6-3-3 APPROVAL REQUIRED. All installation of water service pipes and connections to the municipal water system shall be made by a plumber approved by this City. The Superintendent shall have the power to suspend the approval of any plumber for violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance. A suspension, unless revoked, shall continue until the next regular meeting of the City Council. The Superintendent shall notify the plumber immediately by personal written notice of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension, and the time and place of the City Council meeting at which the plumber will be granted a hearing. At this City Council meeting the Superintendent shall make a written report to the City Council stating the Superintendent's reasons for the suspension, and the City Council, after fair hearing, shall revoke the suspension or take any further action that is necessary and proper.

6-3-4 MANDATORY CONNECTIONS. All residences and business establishments within the City limits intended or used for human habitation, occupancy or use shall be connected to the public water supply if it is reasonably available and if the building is not furnished with pure and wholesome water from some other source. No plumbing system shall be connected to both the public water system and a private water source.

6-3-5 PERMIT. Before any person, firm, corporation or other association shall make a connection with the public water system, a written permit must be obtained from the Superintendent. The application for the permit shall be filed with the Superintendent on blanks furnished by the Superintendent. The application shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, the name and address of the person who will do the work, and the general uses of the water. No different or additional uses shall be allowed except by written permission of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall issue the permit, bearing the Superintendent's signature and stating the time of issuance, if the proposed work meets all the requirements of this Ordinance and if all fees required under this Ordinance have been paid. Work under any permit must be begun within six (6) months after it is issued. The Superintendent may at any time revoke the permit for any violation of this Ordinance and require that the work be stopped. The owner or plumber may appeal such action in the manner provided in Section 6-3-3 of this Ordinance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-6 WATER SUPPLY CONTROL. The plumber who makes the connection to the municipal water system shall install a main shut-off valve of the inverted key type on the water-service pipe near the curb with a suitable lock of a pattern approved by the Superintendent. The shut-off valve shall be covered with a heavy metal cover having the letter "W" marked thereon, visible and even with the pavement or ground.

The plumber also shall install a shut-off valve and waste cock on every service pipe inside the building near the entrance of the water-service pipe into the building; this must be located so that the water can be shut off conveniently and the pipes drained. Where one service pipe is installed to supply more than one customer, there shall be separate shut-off valves inside the building for each customer so that service to one customer can be shut off without interfering with service to the others.

6-3-7 MAKING THE CONNECTION. Any connection with the municipal water system must be made under the direct supervision of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's authorized assistant. All taps in the water main must be at least (12) inches apart and on the side and near the top and not in any case within 18 inches of the hub.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-8 EXCAVATIONS. Excavations to do work under this Ordinance shall be dug so as to occasion the least possible inconvenience to the public and to provide for the passage of water along the gutter. All such excavations shall have proper barricades at all times, and warning lights placed from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. In refilling the excavation the earth must be laid in layers and each layer tamped thoroughly to prevent settlement, and this work, and any street, sidewalk, pavement or other public property that is affected, must be restored to as good a condition as it was previous to the excavation. The plumber must maintain the affected area in good repair to the satisfaction of the City Council for three months after refilling. All water service pipes must be laid so as to prevent rupture by settlement or freezing. No excavation shall be made within six (6) feet of any laid water or sewer pipe while the ground is frozen, and no water or sewer pipe shall be exposed to frost, except by special written permission of the Superintendent.

6-3-9 INSPECTION AND APPROVAL. All water-service pipes and their connections to the municipal water system must be inspected and approved in writing by the Superintendent before they are covered, and the Superintendent shall keep a record of such approvals. If the Superintendent refuses to approve the work, the plumber or owner must proceed immediately to correct the work so that it will meet with the Superintendent's approval. Every person who uses or intends to use the municipal water system shall permit the Superintendent or the Superintendent's authorized assistants to enter the premises to inspect and make necessary alterations or repairs at all reasonable hours and on proof of authority.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-10 COMPLETION BY THE CITY. Should any excavation be left open or partly refilled for twenty-four (24) hours after the water-service pipe is installed and connected with the municipal water system, or should the work be improperly done, the Superintendent shall have the right to finish or correct the work, and the City Council shall assess the costs to the property owner or the plumber. If the plumber is assessed, the plumber must pay the costs before the plumber can receive another permit, and the plumber's bond required by the Plumbing Ordinance shall be security for the assessment. If the property owner is assessed, such assessment shall be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12(3)(h))

6-3-11 METER ACCURACY AND TEST. All water shall be supplied through meters that accurately measure the amount of water supplied to any building. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's assistant shall make a test of the accuracy of any water meter at any time when requested in writing. If it is found that such meter overruns to the extent of two (2%) percent or more, the cost of the tests shall be paid by the City and a refund shall be made to the customer for overcharges collected since the last known date of accuracy but not for longer than six (6) months. If the meter is found to be accurate or slow less than two (2%) percent fast, the patron shall pay the reasonable costs of the tests.

Compulsory Check. Every meter shall be removed from service at least once each ten (10) years and thoroughly tested for accuracy. Any meter found inaccurate beyond a tolerance of one and one half (1.5%) percent shall not be returned to service until properly adjusted.

6-3-12 DAMAGING WATER PROPERTY. It shall be unlawful to break, injure, mar or deface, interfere with or disturb any building, machinery, apparatus, fixtures, hydrants, attachments or appurtenances of the waterworks or any public or private hydrant or water trough, or stop-cock box, meter, water supply or service pipe or any part thereof, or depositing anything in any stop-cock box, or commit any act tending to obstruct or impair the intended use of any of the above mentioned property, without permission of the proper authorities or excepting cases herein or otherwise provided by Ordinance.

6-3-13 AUTHORIZED USE OF HYDRANTS. All hydrants erected for the purpose of extinguishing fires are hereby declared to be public hydrants. No person except members of the fire department, or persons especially authorized by the water superintendent, and then only in the exercise of authority delegated, shall open any of said hydrants or attempt to uncover or remove any protection from or in any manner interfere with any of the hydrants.

6-3-14 CLEARANCE AROUND HYDRANTS. No person shall place or keep any post, fence, vehicle, growth, vegetation, trash, or storage of other materials that would obstruct a fire hydrant or fire protection appliance and hinder or prevent its immediate use by fire department personnel. There shall be a minimum of three (3') feet clearance, to any obstruction, around the circumference of each fire hydrant. Such fire hydrant or fire protection appliance shall be maintained readily visible at all times. A minimum of eighteen (18") inch clearance must be maintained from the ground to the center of the lowest discharge outlet.

6-3-15 PROPERTY OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY. The Owner of the property served by the municipal water system shall be responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, surface replacement, and any damage resulting from operation, maintenance and repair of said water system, from the point of connection at the curb stop and including all service to the structure, except the meter as described in 6-3-11. The City shall be responsible for the curb stop.

Footnote: See 384.38(3) concerning establishing districts and connection fees (H.F. 2343, 1994 legislative session).