

City of Vineland, NJ

ORDINANCE NO. 2014- 27

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 278 ESTABLISHING RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY.

WHEREAS, March 1, 1958, Vineland City Council adopted Ordinance No. 278 establishing rates, rules and regulations for the Water-Sewer Utility, also known as Chapter 687 - Utilities, Part 4 - Water-Sewer Utility of the Vineland City Code, said Ordinance having been heretofore amended; and

WHEREAS, it is considered in the best interest of the City to further amend Ordinance No. 278 to establish rates, effective August 1, 2014;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Vineland that the following Section of Ordinance No. 278 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY OF THE CITY OF VINELAND", also known as Chapter 687 - Utilities, Part 4 - Water-Sewer Utility of the Vineland City Code be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

**§687-138. Rate Schedules.**

The following rates shall be charged and paid for water services, **effective August 1, 2014:**

- 1. Schedule of flat water rates:
  - a. Fire hydrant services.
    - i. **\$165** per year for the use of each hydrant for fire purposes only on private property. Can be billed annually, bi-annually, or monthly at the utilities discretion.
    - ii. **\$27.50** per year for the use of each hydrant for fire purposes by the City on public highways. Can be billed annually, bi-annually, or monthly at the utilities discretion.
    - iii. **\$59** per fire flow test for each hydrant by appointment only.
  - b. Automatic fire sprinkler service. For service connections to an automatic fire sprinkler system for fire protection only:
 

Meter Size (inches)	Rate Per year
2	<b>\$323</b>
3	<b>\$323</b>
4	<b>\$382</b>
6	<b>\$441</b>
8 and larger	<b>\$441</b>
  - c. Building and construction purposes: When possible, water supplied for building and construction operations shall be metered and charged for at regular rates. The Water-Sewer Utility, however, shall have the option of charging any applicant for this service, but in no case where a meter is not installed shall the charge be less than the following:
    - i. Residential building: **\$30** per month.
    - ii. Nonresidential building: **\$60** per month.
- 2. Metered rates. The following rates shall be hereafter charged monthly for water supplied by metered measurement to consumers. The following rates apply on the consumption as registered by one or more meters. The consumption by multiple meters on an account will be combined in rendering the monthly statement of charges.

- a. Metered service rates. The following shall be the rates at which water will be furnished, the allowance of water for the said minimum charge to be deducted from the quantities shown below under minimum charges.

Gallonage per Month	Rate per Thousand Gallons
First 25,000 gallons	<b>\$2.35</b>
Next 225,000 gallons	<b>\$1.73</b>
Next 2,250,000 gallons	<b>\$1.33</b>
Next 2,500,000 gallons	<b>\$1.18</b>

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- b. Service charge. The Water-Sewer Utility reserves the right to impose a service charge on all meters if deemed necessary.
- c. Minimum charges. After a meter is installed, no bill will be rendered or payment accepted for less than the following minimum rates for each meter monthly:

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Gallorage Included</u>	<u>Monthly Rates</u>
Through 5/8	3,000	\$ <b>10.65</b>
Through 1	10,000	<b>28.50</b>
Through 1 1/2	16,000	<b>48.45</b>
Through 2	21,000	<b>59.85</b>
Through 3	25,000	<b>68.40</b>
Through 4	30,000	<b>92.60</b>
Through 6	80,000	<b>213.65</b>
Through 8	107,000	<b>284.85</b>
Through 10	133,000	<b>356.05</b>

- 3. Additional consumer units.
  - a. There shall be a monthly consumer unit charge for each additional unit (multifamily dwelling) served through the same meter as follows:

	<u>Equivalent Units</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
3 or more bedrooms	1	<b>\$4.30</b>
2 bedrooms	3/4	<b>\$3.25</b>
1 bedroom	1/2	<b>\$2.20</b>
Hotel/motel (per room)	1/4	<b>\$1.05</b>

- b. Examples of multifamily dwellings: (apartments, duplexes, mobile home parks, condominiums, senior complexes, townhouses, etc.)

- 4. Tapping fees.
  - a. Tapping fees (piping to curblin complete) shall be charged as follows:

<u>Size of Tap (inches)</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1	<b>\$ 900.40</b>
1 1/2	<b>\$1,141.70</b>
2	<b>\$1,318.25</b>

- b. Taps larger than two inches in size shall be made only on special arrangement with the Water-Sewer Utility, and the applicant shall pay the full and actual cost of installation.
- c. All charges incident to tap applications shall be due and payable in advance.

- 5. Meter box or vault fees.
  - a. Meter box and vault fees shall be charged as follows:

<u>Size of Tap (inches)</u>	<u>Fee</u>
5/8	<b>\$ 900.40</b>
1	<b>\$ 1,135.25</b>
1 1/2	<b>\$ 1,800.80</b>
2	<b>\$ 1,920.85</b>

- b. Meter boxes and vaults for meters larger than two inches in size will be installed only on special arrangement with the Water-Sewer Utility, the applicant to pay the full and actual cost of the installation.
- c. All charges incident to the installation of meter boxes and vaults shall be due and payable in advance.

- 6. Combination tap and meter box fees.
  - a. Meter box follows: and vault fees shall be charged as follows:

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<u>Size of Tap (inches)</u>	<u>Fee</u>
5/8	<b>\$1,082.85</b>
1	<b>\$1,082.85</b>
1 1/2	<b>\$2,042.10</b>
2	<b>\$2,428.35</b>

- b. Meter boxes and vaults for meters larger than two inches in size will be installed only on special arrangement with the Water-Sewer Utility, the applicant to pay the full and actual cost of the installation.
  - c. All charges incident to the installation of meter boxes and vaults shall be due and payable in advance.
7. Street opening fees. A street opening fee in such amount as may be determined by ordinance or resolution of City Council shall be charged in addition to the above tap charges.
  8. Missed appointment charge. A charge of \$30 shall be debited to the account of a Water-Sewer Utility customer who fails to keep a prescheduled appointment for services to be performed or readings to be taken.
  9. Connection fee. A connection fee in such amount as determined by ordinance or resolution of City Council shall be charged.
  10. Recovery clause. The Water-Sewer Utility reserves the right to impose a recovery clause to adjust for the escalation in energy and treatment costs associated with the supply and distribution of City water.

**Assessment Fee.**

1. Assessment for water main extension shall be based on the number of properties in the project. The total cost for the project shall be divided by the number of properties that are serviceable by the water main extension.
2. Each property that is serviceable by the water main extension shall be provided with a standard 1-inch water tap. The owner of the parcel shall determine the location of the tap on the frontage of the property. The cost for the tap shall be included in the assessment. Any additional taps, or taps of increased size, requested by the property owner, must conform to all zoning and other regulations set forth by the City of Vineland and the Vineland Water-Sewer Utility. If permitted, additional and/or larger taps will be charged to the property owner and will not be included in the assessment. A connection fee, as established by this ordinance, shall be paid in advance before access is granted.
3. Easements/Right-of-Ways: No assessments shall be levied upon government or public utility easements/Right-of Ways.
4. Properties that are owned by government, utilities, schools, and other tax exempt properties are assessable.
5. Railroad property shall be exempt from assessment, with the exception of railroad properties that require a water tap.
6. Unique situations may be exempted from assessment upon approval by the Water-Sewer Utility Superintendent and the Business Administrator.
7. Any parcel that is subdivided to create a new parcel contained within the original project area and completed within the original period of the assessment (usually ten years) shall be subject to payment of the same lot assessment as if it had existed at the time of the construction of the project. This assessment shall be paid in full during the period of the original assessment and may be charged in annual assessments. Installation of new taps shall not be permitted until the street-opening moratorium has expired, usually five years.

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BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and all provisions thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect after final approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed first reading:

Passed second reading:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Approved by the Mayor:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



**MEMORANDUM**

June 5, 2014

**TO:** William Lutz, Business Administrator

**FROM:** Joseph A. Isabella, VMU Director

**SUBJECT:** Water Utility Rate Increase – Effective August 1, 2014

Attached, please find an ordinance amending Water Utility Rates. The proposed rates will take effect August 1, 2014.

An increase of water rates by approximately 5% is recommended due to an increase in operating expenses and declining sales due to weather conditions.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JAI/II

Cc: Michael Lawler  
Roxanne Tosto  
Yolanda Hill