

ORDINANCE NO. 34

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE WATERWORKS OF THE CITY OF PLATO, INCLUDING A CHARGE FOR THE USE OF WATER, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE AND REPEALING ANY OTHER ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

The City Council of the City of Plato ordains as follows:

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. That the waterworks of this City shall be known and designated as the City Waterworks of the City of Plato, Minnesota.

Section 2. That all hydrants erected within and by said City, for fire extinguishing purposes, are hereby declared to be public hydrants; and excepting the City Council, or its duly authorized agent, no person or persons other than members of the Fire Department of said City, and then only for the uses and purposes of such department, shall ^{open} any such hydrant, or draw or attempt to draw any water therefrom, nor shall any person or persons, at any time uncover any such hydrant, or remove or attempt to remove therefrom any matter or thing designed or intended for the protection thereof, or in any manner intermeddle with any such hydrant.

Provided, that the City Council or its duly authorized agent may grant to any suitable person or persons permission to open any such hydrant or hydrants, and draw water therefrom, in which event such person or persons, shall not open any such hydrant to any greater extent, nor keep the same open any greater length of time, nor draw water therefrom for any other purpose than such as may be specified in and by such permission.

Section 3. No person authorized to open hydrants shall delegate his authority to another, nor let out or suffer any person to take the wrenches furnished him, nor suffer the same to be taken from any house of said City, except for purposes strictly connected with the Fire Department, or as they may accompany fire equipment on occasions of fires.

Section 4. No person shall make any excavation in any street or highway within ten feet of any laid water pipe while the ground is frozen; or dig up or uncover so as to expose to the frost any water pipe or sewers of the City, except by the permission of the City Council or its duly authorized agent.

Section 5. No person shall make any excavation in any street or highway, for the purpose of laying water pipe, or tap any water of surface pipes laid down, without the permission for the City Council, or its duly authorized agent, and all plumbing work required in the building or for other purposes, must be completed to the lines of the streets, before any excavation shall be made in said street for the purpose of connecting with the mains.

Section 6. No person shall willfully or carelessly break, injure, mar or deface, interfere with or disturb any building, machinery, apparatus, fixture, attachment or appurtenance of the waterworks of said City, or any public place or private hydrant or water trough, or stopcock, meter, water supply or service pipe, or any part thereof; nor shall any person deposit anything in any valve or stopcock box, or commit any act tending to obstruct or impair the intended use of any of the above mentioned property, without the permission of the City Council, or except in cases hereinafter mentioned, or otherwise regulated by ordinance of said City.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the Waterworks Department of said City to report to the City Clerk all cases of leakage, waste or unnecessary profusion in the use of the water, and each and every violation of any ordinance of this City relative to the waterworks thereof, which may come to his knowledge or notice. The city's Officers shall enforce the observance of this ordinance so far as they or any of them have authority under the ordinances of this City.

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. There may be appointed by the City Council an operating engineer, who may also be required to perform other duties in connection with the operation and management of the waterworks, as may be directed by the said City Council.

The engineer shall keep himself prepared for duty at all times; shall have charge of the motors and pumps and all machinery connected therewith. He shall visit all hydrants and valves at least once a month, and see that they are in order.

Section 2. The City Council shall direct the City Clerk to issue all permits in all qualifying cases for the laying of all service pipes to connect with the distributing mains.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall keep full and complete record thereof and of all work done, with suitable diagrams showing the location, number and size of all taps in the mains and service pipes connected therewith, and such other records as may be directed. The Clerk shall collect all rents for the use of water, and keep full and complete records of all amounts due and collected, in books to be provided for that purpose, showing names of all consumers, description of the premises provided, amount and rate to be paid, the amount paid and the time for which paid, and pay the City as may be directed by the City Council.

ARTICLE III.

Section 1. No taps or water connection shall be allowed to be made to the water mains of the City waterworks, without the attachment of a water meter, and all water (except as hereinafter provided) shall be sold by measure, as indicated and measured by meters furnished and sold by the City, and it shall be the duty of the engineer of the City waterworks to close, or disconnect, or shut off, all the openings where water is furnished free, or without passing through a meter, nor shall water be allowed to be turned on without being properly metered.

Section 2. The owner or owners of any premises shall hereafter be solely responsible for the payments of any charges for water rents, sewage rental charges, meter installations, curb connections for water furnished to said premises or for meters or curb connections which may have been installed, whether the water has been used by the owners or their tenant or tenants. All rents, for water, and all charges for meter installations or curb connections must be paid by such owner or owners promptly when due at the office of the City Clerk.

Section 3. The waterworks engineer shall read the water meters in the city as far as is practically possible on a quarterly basis. The reading shall take place between the 15th and 25th days of the months of March, June, September and December. In the event of emergency, the Council may authorize the engineer to read at another period of time, but as closely as possible to the time set forth hereinabove. The waterworks engineer upon reading the meters shall deliver the water use information to the City Clerk, who shall prepare a water bills and mail the same to the users as soon as practically possible prior to the 1st day of the month next following the reading. The user shall pay all water bills thus received no later than the 15th day of the month next following the end of the quarter for which the billing was provided. In the event of nonpayment of any billing by the 15th of the month as above states, the user shall pay to the City a late penalty of \$3.00 per quarter. The City Clerk is instructed to rebill all unpaid water bills every thirty (30) days, and to report to the City Council any user who is ninety (90) days in arrears of payment of any water bill.

Section 4. At any time a water bill is unpaid for a period of ninety (90) days from the billing, the City Council shall have the power to have the water supply shut off to the premises for which said water bill is unpaid until such time as all sums due and owing are paid, including the additional penalty sum of twenty (\$20.00) dollars to defray the cost of the City for shutting off and reopening the water supply.

Section 5. In the event that any water bill, or other charge due to the City pursuant to Section 2 of this Article III, is delinquent for six (6) months or more on October 1 of each year, the City Clerk shall attach a penalty of \$10.00 to such bill and certify the entire amount of the bill, plus interest at the rate of eight (8%) percent, and the applicable penalty over to the County Auditor to levy said charges in the same manner as special assessments against the real estate upon which the particular bill was incurred.

Section 6. Parties wishing to use City water for the purpose of flushing sewers, building purposes, concrete work or other purposes where water is taken from the hydrants, shall make application to the City Clerk, who shall inform the engineer, who in turn shall furnish water for such purposes at his convenience upon at least 24 hours notice. The engineer shall make an estimate of the value of the water used and for the use of hose, and his time, and shall immediately report the same to the City Clerk who shall bill for the same to be collected as a water bill.

Section 7. All water shall be sold by the City to the users at a charge of \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons or fraction thereof for water consumed per quarter, with a minimum charge of \$10.00 per user per quarter.

No consumer of City water shall, for pay, supply City water to others or permit others to use water from his premises.

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Ord # 42

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. Any water meter hereinafter installed in any structure in the City of Plato shall be placed not more than three (3) feet from the floor of said structure, and said meter shall be placed in a position that is easily accessible to the employees of the City of Plato.

All water meters shall register in terms of "Gallons".

The engineer of the Water Department shall approve the location of any water meter in any structure before said meter is permanently located in any structure.

ARTICLE V.

Any other ordinance or portions of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 1. A violation of this ordinance shall constitute a petty misdemeanor and that each day of non-compliance or violation shall consist of a separate offense.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect after its publication.

Approved and adopted this 7th day of January, 1985.

Approved: Tim Pinske, Mayor

Attest: Kathleen Stuedemann, Clerk

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