

ORDINANCE NO. 65

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CHARGE FOR WATER SALES IN
THE CITY OF PLATO AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 60

The City Council of the City of Plato ordains:

Section 1: Ordinance No. 60 of the City of Plato is hereby repealed.

Section 2: The rates for the water sales in the City of Plato are established as follows:

- a. Basic Water Rate. All commercial and residential water sold through meters in the City of Plato shall be charged at \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum monthly billing of \$7.50.
- b. Bulk Water Sales. Bulk water sales are described as those sales of water where its use will not result in discharge into the City of Plato's sanitary sewer system. Bulk water charges will be charged at \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons, subject to a minimum monthly billing of \$6.00 per bulk meter. Bulk water purchased from the City through the use of unmetered hydrants or taps shall be charged according to the City employee supervising the drawing of the bulk water.

Section 3: No purchaser of water from the City of Plato may sell water to third parties whatsoever, or otherwise permit others to obtain water from a premises not owned and/or occupied by the user of the water. Water used to manufacture or process any product which results in water being contained in the product is exempt from this provision.

Section 4: All meters within the City of Plato shall be read by the City staff at least once each month. The City staff is authorized to estimate charges if the meter can't be read for any reason. The City staff shall transmit to the City Clerk all water meter readings from which bills shall be generated. Water bills shall also contain a sanitary sewer charge to each consumer as is mandated by the city council. All bills shall be mailed to the last known address of the owner or occupier of each premises within five (5) days of receipt by the Clerk of the readings. All bills shall be paid within fifteen (15) days of mailing.

Section 5: Any water/sanitary sewer bill not paid within fifteen (15) days of mailing shall be subject to the following:

- a. \$15.00 late fee.
- b. Water shut off.
- c. Reconnection fee of \$20.00 after shut off.
- d. Any unpaid and delinquent water/sewer charge remaining unpaid as of August 1st of each year shall be noted to the city council. The city council may by resolution establish a hearing at its regular September meeting for the purposes of determining which charges shall be certified to the McLeod County Auditor/Treasurer for collection as a special assessment. All persons owing delinquent bills shall receive a notice of such a hearing and the notice thereof shall be published in the City's official newspaper at least 10 days prior to the hearing. All outstanding water/sanitary sewer charges which remain unpaid at the completion of said hearing may be certified to the McLeod County Auditor/Treasurer for collection as a special assessment with real estate taxes and assessed against the property for which the water was billed. It shall be an insufficient excuse that the current owner of the property is not the consumer of the water that resulted in the water/sanitary sewer charges.

Section 6: Any person obligated to pay a water bill and who submits a check or other draft payment which fails to clear the bank for any reason shall receive an additional charge of \$15.00 as a bad check charge.

Section 7: No water shut off shall occur by reason of a delinquent water charge unless the city clerk has given to the owner or occupier of the premises notice that shut off will take place on or after a day certain and no earlier than 10 days from the date the notice is mailed. After shut off the water shall not be turned on prior to the payment of all delinquent charges together with the required connection fee.

Section 8: The water rates established by this ordinance may be amended from time to time by the city council by resolution, but further provided that the resolution shall be published in the official newspaper at least one month prior to the rates being effective.

Section 9: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Adopted this 8th day of January, 2001

City of Plato
By Bob Becker, Mayor

Attest: Kathleen Stuedemann, City Clerk

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