



Interoffice Memorandum

September 11, 2020

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
and Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Raymond E. Hanson, P. E., Director
Utilities Department

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Raymond E. Hanson.

**SUBJECT: BCC AGENDA ITEM – Public Hearing
September 22, 2020 BCC Meeting
Approval of a Resolution with a Revised Water System Charge
Schedule**

**Contact Person: Glenn Kramer, Manager
Utilities Fiscal & Operational Support Division
407-254-9882**

The County's water rates include both volumetric charges based on actual flows and fixed monthly charges based on the meter size. For many of our large commercial customers, a compound meter set, which includes both a small meter and a large meter, is required to accurately measure water flows. Historically, our charge schedule has been silent regarding how a compound meter set should be billed. Therefore, we have revised the charge schedule in the attached resolution to specify that fixed monthly charges for compound meter sets will be based on the small meter. As these charge schedules will become effective on October 1, 2020, we have also updated the rates for FY 2021 to include the automatic 3% rate indexing discussed with the Board in the July budget work session.

Florida Statutes Chapter 153 requires the County to approve most water system rate changes in two steps. First, the County must adopt a resolution setting forth a preliminary rate schedule prior to final adoption at a public hearing. This was accomplished when the Board adopted Resolution 2020-M-30 on September 1, 2020. The scheduled public hearing serves as the second step in the process and provides for final adoption of the Water System Charge Schedule.

The Orange County Attorney's Office has reviewed the resolution and finds it acceptable as to form and content. Utilities Department staff recommends approval.

Action Requested: Approval of a Resolution setting a revised Water System Charge Schedule; providing for an automatic annual increase; setting a Water Meter Charge Schedule; providing for periodic review; providing for annual notice to customers; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

All Districts.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-M-_____

A RESOLUTION SETTING A REVISED WATER SYSTEM CHARGE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE; SETTING A WATER METER CHARGE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR PERIODIC REVIEW; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County (the "Board") establishes and collects rates, fees, and charges for its water system pursuant to its home rule powers granted to the County by the Florida Constitution, the Orange County Charter and Chapters 125 and 153 of Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board last adopted a revised Water System Charge Schedule and a Water Meter Charge Schedule on August 29, 2017 pursuant to Resolution 2017-M-30; and

WHEREAS, compound meters are used in the Water System to accurately measure both high water flows and low water flows for certain commercial customers; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to include in such Water System and Water Meter Charge Schedules the method by which compound meters shall be billed; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the Board, in compliance with Chapter 153 Florida Statutes, adopted Resolution 2020-M-30 setting forth a preliminary rate schedule prior to a duly noticed public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having held such public hearing, now desires to adopt this resolution setting forth such rate schedules;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. Premises. The foregoing premises are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Revised Water System Charge Schedule. The Board hereby

adopts the revised Water System Charge Schedule attached to and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A". The attached Schedule shall supersede the presently existing Water System Charge Schedule adopted August 29, 2017, and upon its effective date this Resolution shall repeal Resolution No. 2017-M-30 in its entirety.

Section 3. Automatic Annual Rate Increase. The Board previously adopted by Resolution and hereby re-confirms and re-adopts the provision for an automatic annual rate increase for the services described on Exhibit "A" as "Fixed Monthly Charge" and "Volume Charge". Effective on October 1st of each year hereafter, an automatic annual increase shall be three percent (3%) of all rates, fees and charges contained in the then current Water System Charge Schedule in effect immediately prior to the effective date of such automatic annual rate increase. The Board further directs that on the effective date of each automatic annual rate increase, the Water System Charge Schedule in effect immediately prior to the effective date of such increases shall be revised to include the three percent (3%) increase, and that a copy of such revised Schedule shall be maintained for public inspection by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. The automatic annual rate increase shall not apply to the Water Capital Charge, to the category of services on Exhibit "A" entitled "Specific Service Charges", and to the category of services described on Exhibit "B", the "Water Meter Charge Schedule".

Section 4. Meter Charges and Meter Installation Charges; Time of Payment. The Board hereby re-confirms and re-adopts the previously adopted Water Meter Charge Schedule attached to and incorporated herein as Exhibit "B" and such presently existing Water Meter Charge Schedule has not been changed

The Board hereby re-confirms that all meter charges and meter installation charges shall be paid prior to the issuance of the first building permit for a structure or structures in a project to be served by the County's overall Water System, unless superseded by other County Ordinances or Resolutions. Said charges shall be determined pursuant to the Water Meter Charge Schedule, attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Meter Charges and Meter Installation Charges shall not be subject to automatic annual rate increases provided for in Section 3 herein.

Section 5. Revised Conservation Charges. The Board previously adopted conservation charges to promote water usage conservation. The Board hereby re-confirms the conservation charges and adopts the revised conservation charges, which shall be as set forth in the Water System Charge Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and shall be subject to the automatic annual rate increase provided for in Section 3 herein.

Section 6. Periodic Rate Review. The Board shall periodically conduct a review of the rates, fees and charges set forth in the Orange County Water System Charge Schedule.

Section 7. Annual Notice to Customers. Each year, the Orange County Utilities Department shall send annual written notification to all customers of the Orange County Water System of the County's monthly user rates, fees and charges as set forth in the then current Orange County Water System Charge Schedule.

Section 8. Severability of Provision. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Resolution which can be given effect

without the valid provision or application and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared severable.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective on October 1, 2020.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2020.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Jerry L. Demings, Mayor

ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

**ORANGE COUNTY
WATER SYSTEM CHARGE SCHEDULE**

FIXED MONTHLY CHARGE^{1, 2}

| <u>Water Meter Size</u> | <u>Monthly Charge</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| - 5/8 by 3/4 inch meter | \$7.79 |
| - 1 inch meter | \$13.86 |
| - 1-1/2 inch meter | \$23.94 |
| - 2 inch meter | \$36.04 |
| - 3 inch meter | \$68.34 |
| - 4 inch meter | \$104.65 |
| - 6 inch meter | \$205.51 |
| - 8 inch meter | \$326.55 |
| - 10 inch meter | \$508.11 |

VOLUME CHARGE

Residential Customers

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| - 0 - 3,000 | \$1.23 per 1,000 gallons |
| - 4,000 and above | \$1.71 per 1,000 gallons |

Commercial Customers

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| - All Consumption | \$1.71 per 1,000 gallons |
|-------------------|--------------------------|

Conservation Charges (For all 5/8-inch by 3/4-inch water meter customers and all individually metered residential customers regardless of meter size.)

Conservation Rate:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| - 11,000 - 20,000 | \$3.40 per 1,000 gallons |
|-------------------|--------------------------|

Conservation Charge:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| - 21,000 - 30,000 | \$6.79 per 1,000 gallons |
|-------------------|--------------------------|

Conservation Surcharge:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| - 31,000 and above | \$13.54 per 1,000 gallons |
|--------------------|---------------------------|

BILLING PERIOD

Monthly: Single-family residential, duplex, condominium, and other type dwelling units individually metered; multi-family residential apartment, mobile home, travel-trailer, and other type dwelling units collectively metered and all other commercial, institutional, industrial or other accounts (e.g. large consumers), regardless of meter size, shall be billed for the amount of water used each month as measured by each of their respective meters. (The above rates shall apply to each meter, regardless of the number of meters.)

FIRE SYSTEM AND HYDRANT CHARGES

- Private Fire Hydrants
Hydrant Installation Charge Actual Cost
- Private Fire Line/Sprinkler System
Installation Costs Actual Cost

SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES

- Initiation of Service
 - Regular Business Hour \$16.00
 - Non-Business Hours \$21.00
- Temporary Service Turn-Ons / Offs
 - Regular Business Hours \$12.00
 - Non-Business Hours \$17.00
- Meter Removal/Service Tampering \$41.00
- Unauthorized Connection
 - Regular Business Hours \$350.00
 - Non-Business Hours \$361.00
- Covered, Obscured or Inaccessible Meters \$37.00
- Reading or Picking Up a Hydrant Meter
For Non-Payment \$32.00
- Re-read for Customer Convenience \$9.00
- Late Charge for Non-Submission of Hydrant
Meter and/or Card for Reading \$5.00
- Reading of Specialty Meters \$30.00
- Dishonored Payment \$25.00

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| - | Distribution Trip Charge | |
| | Regular Business Hours | \$34.00 |
| | Non-Business Hours | \$51.00 |
| - | Dishonored Credit Card Charge | \$18.00 |
| - | Fire Flow Test | |
| | OCU Performed | \$64.00 |
| | OCU Monitored | \$33.00 |
| - | Research Account Information | At Cost |
| - | Meter Inspection and Testing | At Cost |
| - | Non-residential Backflow Prevention Device Testing | At Cost |
| - | Plans and Specifications | At Cost |
| - | Service Removal / Reconnect | At Cost |
| - | Late Payment Fee | 1.5% on past due balance |
| - | Water Deposits – All Meter Sizes | 2X estimated total monthly bill |
| - | Portable Hydrant Meter Deposit | 2X replacement cost of meter |
| - | Residential Cross Connection Control Program Fee | \$3.00 per month |

AUTOMATIC ANNUAL RATE INCREASE

Consistent with and pursuant to Section 153.11 of Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners hereby adopts annually, effective October 1st of each year hereafter, an automatic increase of three percent (3%) to all rates, fees and charges contained in this Water System Charge Schedule in effect immediately prior to the effective date of such annual increase. The automatic increase shall not apply to the Water Capital Charge, Specific Service Charges, or the charges described on Exhibit "B" of the attached Resolution.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) The Orange County Utilities Department (OCUD) shall determine the appropriate meter size for use by all its customers.
- (2) The Fixed Monthly Charge for a compound meter set shall be based on the smaller size of the two meters that compose the compound meter set.

EXHIBIT "B"

**ORANGE COUNTY
WATER METER CHARGE SCHEDULE¹**

| Meter & Meter Service² | Installation Cost³ |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| - 5/8" Meter | \$140.00 |
| - 5/8" Domestic & Reclaimed Water Irrigation Meter | \$305.00 |
| - 5/8" Meter - Retrofit | \$285.00 |
| - 3/4" Reclaimed Water Irrigation Meter – Retrofit | \$165.00 |
| - 1" Domestic Meter | \$570.00 |
| - 1" Reclaimed Meter | \$180.00 |
| - 1-1/2" Domestic Meter | At Cost |
| - 1-1/2" Reclaimed Meter | At Cost |
| - 1-1/2" Above Ground Dual Meter | At Cost |
| - 2" Domestic Meter | At Cost |
| - 2" Reclaimed Meter | At Cost |
| - 2" Above Ground Dual Meter | At Cost |
| - 4" Fire Line Master Meter - Above Ground | At Cost |
| - 6" Fire Line Master Meter - Above Ground | At Cost |
| - 8" Fire Line Master Meter - Above Ground | At Cost |
| - 10" Fire Line Master Meter - Above Ground | At Cost |
| - 1" Service (Short) | At Cost |
| - 1" Service (Long) | At Cost |
| - 2" Service (Short) | At Cost |
| - 2" Service (Long) | At Cost |

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Following satisfactory completion of the water supply and distribution system, and upon receipt of the applicable meter/connection fee, the Orange County Utilities Department (OCUD) shall furnish and install the necessary fittings, meter, and meter box at the property line. The owner or developer of the property desiring service shall bear the expense of the service lateral pipe of the required size, from and including its connection with a corporation stop at the water distribution main in the right-of-way to and including a curb stop at the property line. Service piping from the meter to the building is to be installed by and/or at the expense of the property owner or builder.
- (2) The OCUD shall determine the appropriate meter size for use by all its customers.
- (3) Does not include any cost associated with construction of a water lateral from the meter to the water main providing service; in the majority of cases, the developer constructs the lateral. In situations where the OCUD would be responsible for the lateral, the cost of the lateral would be charged to the customer on a time, materials, and pro rata overhead cost basis.