

ORDINANCE NO. C-23-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 28 - WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER OF ARTICLE III. - MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, DIVISION 3. - WATER METERS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, BY REPEALING SECTION 28-172. - METER FOR TEMPORARY USE, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCE PROVISIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale ("City") currently provides temporary water meters known "hydrant meters," as a service for contractors to obtain potable water for construction purposes and other temporary uses; and

WHEREAS, users of the temporary meters are required to pay a minimum base usage fee and report their meter readings monthly; and

WHEREAS, billing and water usage data shows that only ten percent (10%) of users comply with the program requirements; and

WHEREAS, in addition to recurring financial losses to the City, the water quality is a concern, as many of the temporary meters do not get backflow preventers installed and backflow preventers are required to be placed on all meters and must be regularly recertified to ensure the water supply is protected; and

WHEREAS, the City is currently losing an approximate amount of \$217,278.94 in unpaid water bills; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the temporary meter program will require all water users to apply for a water service connection in accordance with City ordinances and pay upfront fees and monthly water bills through an established application and billing process; and

WHEREAS, the repealing of this Section will reduce lost revenue in the water fund and help ensure that the water distribution system stays protected from improper use of temporary water connections;

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 28 - Water, Wastewater and Storm of Article III. - Municipal Water Supply System, Division 3. - Water Meters in Section 28-172. - Meter for Temporary Use, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is hereby repealed in its entirety as follows:

Sec. 28-172. - Meter for temporary use.~~Reserved.~~

- ~~(a) Contractors and other persons will be supplied with hydrant meters or meters on vehicles to obtain water for temporary use according to the rates as provided in this article.~~
- ~~(b) Such persons will be required to deposit a guarantee of payment deposit equal to the tapping charge. Such deposit is to be held by the water division as a guarantee of safety for the meter and other equipment of the city water division, furnished the contractor and for payment of charges for water used through such meter.~~
- ~~(c) The applicant will be charged, in addition to the payment deposit, the regular tapping charge for the cost of making the tap, setting the meter and other expenses in connection therewith and for the removal of the meter and connections.~~
- ~~(d) Upon payment of all charges and the removal and discontinuance of service through the meter, the city is authorized to refund the amount of the guarantee deposit made by the applicant for such service.~~
- ~~(e) Contractors or any other consumer desiring water for temporary use will be allowed to use water only from specifically designated and approved taps.~~

SECTION 2. That if any clause, section or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

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SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from the date of final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this 5th day of July, 2023.

PASSED SECOND READING this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN