



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#21-0462

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 18, 2021

TITLE: Presentation of Proposed Ordinance Amending Division 3. – Rate and Charges of Chapter 28 - Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Overview - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

This presentation will provide an overview of the proposed ordinance amending Division 3. – Rate and Charges of Chapter 28 - Water, Wastewater and Stormwater. Public Works will also give an overview of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Providing for a Simplified Administration of Water and Wastewater Credits for Leaks and Unexplained Usage and Repealing Conflicting Ordinance Provisions.

There are currently twelve sections in the Code of Ordinances dealing with the provision of water and wastewater credits in the event of a leak or unexplained usage. The structure and process for requesting credits and the calculation of the credit amount is complex for staff and can be difficult to explain to impacted neighbors.

Staff surveyed communities in the tri-county area to identify best practices for Utility Billing credits. As a result of this research and information gathered from stakeholders (Utility Billing staff, Bond Council, City Attorney's Office, and neighbors), staff is recommending the following changes to the credit provisions of the water and wastewater provisions in the Code of Ordinances:

Reduce the number of applicable sections from twelve to seven and provide consistency between the sections.

The seven sections are as follows:

- Wastewater
 1. Unexplained Usage
 2. Leak
 3. Pool Filling Credit (no change proposed)
- Water
 4. Unexplained Usage
 5. Leak

- Irrigation
 6. Unexplained Usage
 7. Leak

Unexplained Usage credits would be available after completion of an application within 60 days of the bill in question. In addition, a meter test and plumber certification that no leak exists is required. This credit (up to two months) is limited to one time during the life of an account.

Leak credits would be available after completion of an application within 60 days of the bill in question. In addition, a plumber certification of leak repair is required. Monthly usage must exceed two times the average for the past year to be eligible for the credit. This credit (up to two months) is limited to one time per year.

The current ordinance provides credit based on the neighbor's average rate tier in the system. The proposed ordinance will provide the credit at the lowest tiered rate, allowing for more meaningful credits. For example, the current rate structure for wastewater has two tiers: 0-3,000 gallons and over 3,000 gallons. A neighbor with average usage at or above 3,000 gallons per month would not receive any credit for wastewater in the event of unexplained usage or a leak.

Note that currently there is no application form. One will be created and posted on the City's web site and available at the Utility Billing office.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI):

Public Works Staff is preparing to begin six (6) pilot test programs with AMI water meter providers to determine which equipment, technology, and software will best meet the City's needs. The purpose of the presentation is to provide a brief status update on the pilot programs.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
Goal 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Ordinance

Exhibit 2 – Presentation Proposed Ordinance

Exhibit 3 – Presentation Advanced Metering Infrastructure

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