

ORDINANCE 2025-XX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OCALA, FLORIDA, CONCERNING CHAPTER 70, "UTILITIES"; AMENDING SECTION 70-301, "LABORATORY CHARGES" PROVIDING FOR REVISED FEE TO BE CHARGED FOR TESTING INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER SERVICES; CREATING SECTION 70-301, ENTITLED "INDUSTRIAL PERMIT FEES" PROVIDING FOR A FEE TO BE CHARGED FOR PROCESSING INDUSTRIAL PERMITS; AMENDING SECTION 70-321, "APPLICABILITY; AMOUNT" PROVIDING FOR REVISED FEE TO BE CHARGED FOR TESTING INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER SERVICES; AMENDING SECTION 70-391 "DEFINITIONS" PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF TAMPERING; AMENDING SECTION 70-411 "CONNECTION CHARGES - CHARGE FOR SETTING METER" PROVIDING FOR REVISED SCHEDULES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SEWAGE RATE CHARGES AND EFFECTIVE DATES TO BE SET BY SEPARATE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; AMENDING SECTION 70-413, "TEMPORARY WATER SERVICE" PROVIDING FOR REVISED DEPOSITS FOR HYDRANT METERS OR JUMPER METERS; AMENDING SECTION 70-414, "CHARGE FOR TESTING WATER METERS" PROVIDING FOR REVISED FEE TO BE CHARGED FOR TESTING WATER METERS AT A CUSTOMER'S REQUEST; AMENDING SECTION 70-417, "LEAKS; NEW LANDSCAPING" PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON WATER LEAK REIMBURSEMENT; CREATING SECTION 70-418 DAMAGING, TAMPERING WITH OR PREVENTING ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT OF FACILITIES OF THE WATER SYSTEM SECTION 70-419 ENTITLED "MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES" PROVIDING, CUSTOMER REQUESTED MAINTENANCE DISCONNECT/RECONNECT, WATER METER MANUAL RE-READ, CUSTOMER REQUESTED SITE VISIT, WATER METER DISCONNECTION FOR NON-PAYMENT, WATER METER AND/OR VALVE TAMPERING FEE, AND DEMO PERMIT FEE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Ocala, Florida as follows:

Section 1. That Section 70-301(d)(4)(b) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

(4) Laboratory charges. If the sewage sample tested exceeds any table 2 concentration,

charges shall be applied as follows:

- a. The cost for collecting, transporting, and analyzing sewage samples for industrial users on a reoccurring monthly sampling program shall be \$40.00 per month.
- b. The cost for collecting, transporting, and analyzing sewage samples for ~~industrial~~-ESF users on a reoccurring quarterly sampling program shall be \$~~42~~0.00 per month.

Section 2. That Section 70-301(d)(5) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby created and shall read as follows:

(5) Industrial Permitting Fees. The industrial permitting fees shall be as follows:

<u>Industrial Wastewater Services</u>	
<u>Permit Application Fee</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>
<u>Discharge Customers</u>	<u>\$720</u>
<u>Non-Discharge Customers</u>	<u>\$250</u>
-	
<u>Annual Program Fee</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>
<u>Discharge Customers</u>	<u>\$1,995</u>
<u>Non-Discharge Customers</u>	<u>0</u>
-	
<u>Permit Modification Fee</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>
<u>Discharge Customers</u>	<u>\$360</u>
<u>Non-Discharge Customers</u>	<u>\$125</u>

Section 3. That Section 70-321(b)(1) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

(a) A service charge shall be assessed to industries for special sampling and analysis performed by the wastewater treatment facility for a particular industry.

(b) The service charge shall be the sum of:

(1) The cost for collecting and transporting sewage samples for customers shall be \$~~42~~0.00 per sample event.

(2) The cost of all required sample analysis shall equal the arithmetic average of the current analysis cost as charged by three commercial state-certified laboratories.

Section 4. That Section 70-391 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Individual means any person, firm, corporation or other legal entity, whether public or private.

Jumper meter means a temporary water meter connection for measuring water use for water main construction and/or testing purposes.

Multiunit means any residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, governmental or public building or structure which services more than one resident, tenant, business, corporation or enterprise.

Tampering means unauthorized connection, entrance to facilities, breaking meter seals, cutting of meter wiring, manipulation of metering device, shutting on and off curb stop, connecting to fire hydrant without a City issued hydrant meter, or installation of a device to bypass metering devices which shall subject the customer to immediate discontinuance of service, prosecution under the laws of the state, reimbursement of the utility for all extra expense incurred on the account and an additional deposit will be required before service is restored.

Water means water taken from any connection to the city potable water distribution system.

Section 5. That Section 70-411(a) table of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 70-411. Connection charges.

(a) *Charge for setting meter.* The charge for setting water meters connected to the city water distribution system shall be in accordance with the following schedule, which shall remain in effect until such rates are changed by city council through separate authorizing Resolution:

(inches)	City Installed	Developer Installed*	Service Charge
5/8	\$2,005 4,440.00	\$315.00	\$40.00
1	2,185 4,510.00	400.00	40.00
1½	4,230 7,990.00	805.00	40.00
2	4,620 8,165.00	950.00	40.00
3 and above: Actual cost plus overhead.			

*Refers to installations where both water main and meter boxes are installed by developers in accordance with city standards.

Section 6. That Section 70-413(b) table, (c)(1), and (c)(2) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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Sec. 70-413. - Temporary water service.

The charge for temporary water service, together with the regulations pertaining thereto, shall be in accordance with the following:

- (a) The customer shall be fully responsible for the meter during that time the water meter is in the custody of the customer. Any cost incurred in replacing or repair of the subject water meter shall be deducted from the amount of the deposit.
- (b) A deposit shall be made in accordance with the following schedule prior to receiving custody of the temporary water meter. This deposit shall be refunded, less the cost of repairing or replacing the meter, if applicable, less the amount due on the final monthly bill.

Meter Size (inches)	Deposit
5/8 hydrant meter or jumper meter	\$255 <u>Actual Cost of Meter + \$1,000</u>
3 hydrant meter or jumper meter	\$1,150 <u>Actual Cost of Meter + \$1,000</u>

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- (c) The monthly bill for temporary water service shall be based upon the following:
 - (1) For 5/8-inch hydrant meter or jumper meter the monthly charge shall be based upon ~~the commercial/industrial non-irrigation base rate and water rate schedule~~ a base rate of \$125.00 per month plus a consumption rate equal to the Commercial/Industrial non-irrigation charge per 100 cubic feet outlined in section 70-416.
 - (2) For a three-inch hydrant meter or a jumper meter the monthly charge shall be based upon a base rate of ~~\$125~~ 175.00 per month plus a consumption rate equal to the Commercial/Industrial non-irrigation charge per 100 cubic feet outlined in section 70-416.

Section 7. That Section 70-414 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

Sec. 70-414. - Charge for testing water meters.

A fee in the amount of ~~\$60.00~~ Actual Cost, which amount shall remain in effect until such fee is changed by city council through separate authorizing Resolution, shall be charged for testing water meters at a customer's request if said meter has been tested during the previous 12 months. If the meter is found to be rendering a high reading, resulting in an overcharge to the customer, the fee will be refunded. Charges or credits will be applied to the normal utility billing and are due and payable as are other charges upon receipt of the bill.

Section 8. That Section 70-417, (b)(1), add (b)(4), (3)(a), and (3)(c) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

Sec. 70-417. – Leaks; new landscaping.

(a) *Generally.* The water rate schedule in [section 70-416](#) shall be adjusted under the following circumstances.

(b) *Leaks.*

(1) This subsection applies to excessive residential ~~or commercial~~ water usage ~~or commercial irrigation~~ caused by a leak in a water line on the customer's property that occurred before the leak was detected and repaired.

(2) In order to qualify for the adjustment set forth herein:

a. The customer must identify the leak, properly repair it and provide the director with adequate proof of repair;

b. The excessive water usage must be more than 50 percent of the highest usage for the preceding 12 months; ~~and~~

c. In order to discourage repeated patch repairs of the water line when the line should have been replaced, a customer shall be eligible for only one adjustment at a particular location; ~~and~~

~~d. Residential adjustments would be applied to the water usage portion of the utility bill, while commercial adjustments would be applied to the sewer portion of the utility bill.~~

(3) Rates.

a. The period for the adjustment will not exceed 45 days before the customer~~s~~ notifies the director of the leak. ~~Maximum credit shall be limited to three most recent consecutive billing cycles.~~

b. The adjustment will be based on the average monthly water usage during the previous 12 months as follows:

(1) Such average usage will be billed using the normal rate schedule; and

(2) ~~The. For residential, the~~ remaining consumption will be billed at the rate for 0—1,400 cubic feet of water usage set forth in subsection 70-416(a)(1)a.

~~c. The adjustment will be based on the average monthly sewer usage during the previous 12 months as follows:~~

~~(1) Such average usage will be billed using the normal rate schedule; and~~

~~(2) For commercial, adjustment will not be made if the customer is under 5,000 cubic feet of consumption. Credit will only apply to the sewer portion of the utility bill. Billing will be based on subsection 70-416(a)(1)a.~~

(c) *New landscaping.*

(1) This subsection:

a. Applies where new landscaping is planted in connection with construction of a new building or where an existing building is renovated at a cost greater than fifty percent of its appraised value (i.e., not for re-landscaping or for landscaping at other existing buildings); and

b. Shall govern until the construction has received its certificate of occupancy, and in no event longer than 12 months.

(2) In order to qualify for the adjustment set forth herein, the contractor must utilize best irrigation practices in the design and construction of the irrigation system for most efficient use of water.

(3) The water consumption charge shall be no greater than the rate established for ~~1,401—2,000~~ 2,001—5,000 cubic feet of water usage set forth in subsection 70-416(a)(1)a.

Section 9. That Section 70-418 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby created and shall read as follows:

Sec. 70-418. – Damaging, tampering with or preventing access to equipment or facilities of the water system.

(a) ~~Tampering with water systems.~~ Unauthorized connections to or tampering with utility meters, meter seals, fire hydrant, valves, lines, mains, laterals, or metering equipment, or indications or evidence thereof, shall subject the customer to a fine as indicated in Miscellaneous Charges, replacement costs of damaged equipment, and to liability for reimbursement to the utility of all extra expenses incurred as a result thereof, and to discontinuance of service until such indebtedness has been paid in full.

(b) ~~Tampering with curb stop.~~ Unauthorized tampering with curb stop, or indications or evidence thereof, shall subject the customer to a fine as indicated in Miscellaneous Charges, replacement costs of damaged equipment, and to liability for reimbursement to the utility of all extra expenses incurred as a result thereof, and to discontinuance of service until such indebtedness has been paid in full. Florida Certified Plumbers or Contractors must contact the Water and Sewer Department prior to shutting on or off the curb stop. Homeowner will be required to install a shut off valve 12-18 inches from the meter on customer's property.

Section 10. That Section 70-419 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, is hereby created and shall read as follows:

Sec. 70-419. – Miscellaneous Charges.

Miscellaneous Charges. The miscellaneous charges shall be as follows:

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Miscellaneous Charges	
Description	Service Charge
Water Meter Disconnection for Non-payment	
Reconnection During Business Hours	\$65.00
Reconnection After Hours (After 3:00 PM)	\$160.00
Water Meter Manual Re-read per Trip	\$45.00
Water Meter and/or Value Tampering Fee (Each Occurrence)	Actual Cost + \$500
Customer Requested Site Visit (Not Otherwise Specified) per Trip	
During Business Hours	\$65.00
After Hours (After 3:00 pm)	\$160.00
Customer Requested Maintenance Disconnect/Reconnect per Trip	
During Business Hours	\$65.00
After Hours (After 3:00 pm)	\$160.00
Demo Permits	
Water Demo – Cap water and remove meter	\$170.00
Sewer Demo – Cap sewer service line	\$1,035.00

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Section 11. Severability Clause: Should any provision or section of this ordinance be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 12. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 13. This ordinance shall be effective on October 1, 2025.