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CITY OF THOMPSON FALLS

WATER & SEWER REGULATIONS



April 10, 2023

COLLECTION OF WATER & SEWER CHARGES AND ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS

Section 1. Billing Cycle - Water meters shall be read on or around the 1st of the month and bills for water and or sewer shall be issued the following day. Payment is due by the first of the following month and delinquent if not paid by the 1st of that month. A delinquent charge of \$5.00 will be added to the next bill. New service connections and services inactive as of June 15, 1994 will not be billed until activated.

Section 2. Party Responsible for Payment - The owner of the premises receiving water and or sewer shall be responsible to pay for these services provided to the premises. For the purpose of this regulation the term "owner" shall mean a purchaser on contract for deed in cases where property is being purchased on contract. If two NSF checks are received from an individual, only cash will be accepted as payment from that individual. A \$30.00 fee shall be assessed for any NSF checks received.

Section 3. Notice of Delinquent Water & Sewer Bills - When any water and or sewer bill for any premises shall have been delinquent for two months, the City shall prepare and mail by certified mail to the property owner a notice of delinquency. The notice shall state with particularity the amount and period of such delinquency including a \$15.00 fee for certified mail. The notice shall advise the recipient that he or she may provide a written explanation or appear before the City Council at the next regular meeting to show cause why water service to the premises should not be turned off. The notice shall further state the consequences of a failure to bring the water and or sewer bill current as set forth hereinafter. Payment arrangements must be approved by City Council.

Section 4. Council Authority to Defer Payment - The City Council shall have the authority to continue providing water and or sewer service and to defer the payment of delinquent water and or sewer bills after notice of delinquency is sent as hereinabove provided, if, in the Council's judgment, good cause exists for such deferment, but the Council shall have no authority to defer the imposition of sanctions hereinafter provided for a period of longer than six months after the notice of delinquency is sent.

Section 5. Failure to Cure Delinquency - If a delinquent water and or sewer bill has not been paid before the next regular council meeting after notice of delinquency is sent and if no person appears, or, having appeared, fails in the judgment of the council, to show cause why water service to the premises shall not be turned off, the council shall direct the water Public Works Director to turn off the water supply without further notice to the owner or occupant of the premises. Notice of the impending water shut-off shall be posted on the property, in a readily observable location, no less than 24-hours before the water service is to be shut-off. Failure of a property owner or water customer to see the notice shall not constitute a defense in failing to meet the intent of the notice or the rules of water service.

Section 6. Vacation Rate – Any request to be placed on vacation rate for water and sewer shall be made in writing and shall also cause the water to be shut off at the meter. At such time as a written request is made for billing to be taken off vacation rate and water turned back on, a \$50.00 fee shall be paid in advance. The owner or representative has to be present when water turned back on. Water and sewer rates be will charged from the date water turned on.

Section 7. Foreclosed Properties – If a property is Foreclosed the Foreclosing Company shall:

1. Pay the bill in full