VILLAGE OF HOSSTON
PARISH OF CADDO, STATE OF LOUISIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 3 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING ORDINANCE NO. 4 OF 2021 REGARDING WATER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE OF HOSSTON WATER SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION; PROHIBITING WATER THEFT, METER TAMPERING, AND DAMAGE TO WATER SYSTEM PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, The Board of Aldermen of the Village of Hosston, Caddo Parish, State of Louisiana, acknowledges the need for policies governing water service provided by the Village of Hosston Water System; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Aldermen recognizes the importance of protecting the public water supply from contamination, unauthorized use, damage, and misuse of Village-owned water system equipment; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Hosston desires to amend and reenact Ordinance No. 4 of 2021 to establish updated policies regarding water service, cross-connection control, backflow prevention, meter tampering, unauthorized water use, inspections, and enforcement procedures;

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Village of Hosston, Caddo Parish, State of Louisiana:

Section 1: Water Service Address Requirements

All customers requesting a water meter from the Village of Hosston Water System must first have a valid 911 address assigned to all residential or commercial structures, including public buildings, churches, and schools.

Section 2: Water Deposits and Connection Fees

A refundable water deposit of $100.00 plus a non-refundable connection fee of $40.00 shall be required for all new residential water meter service.

A refundable water deposit of $200.00 plus a non-refundable connection fee of $50.00 shall be required for all new commercial/business water meter service.

Picture identification shall be required for opening an account and for receiving a deposit refund when closing an account.

Section 3: New Meter Installation and Hook-Up Fees

If a water meter requires a new installation, an additional non-refundable hook-up fee of $150.00 shall be required.

Installation of the meter shall be performed only by an authorized Village of Hosston Water System operator.

The property owner shall be responsible for all bores and initial connections from the meter to the customer's property.

Section 4: Responsibility After Meter Registration

The Village of Hosston shall be responsible for the water system only up to the first connection after water passes through the meter.

Once the meter is properly registering water usage, the customer assumes responsibility for all water consumed and shall be billed accordingly.

Section 5: Customer Responsibility for Service Lines

The connection from the water meter to the customer's home, business, or structure shall be the sole responsibility of the customer or property owner.

Section 6: Transfer of Water Deposits

Transfer of water deposits to another account may be made only with written consent from the owner(s) of the deposit.

If the transfer is required due to the customer's death, only the legal next of kin may assume responsibility for the deposit and account.

Section 7: Individual Meter Requirement

Each residential dwelling, commercial establishment, public building, church, school, camper, recreational vehicle, or any other structure used for housing shall have its own individual water meter.

Any person found providing unauthorized water service to another structure or housing unit shall be subject to immediate disconnection from the Village of Hosston Water System.

Section 8: Water Meter Tampering Prohibited

Tampering with any water meter, service connection, lock, valve, or any other component of the Village of Hosston Water System for the purpose of receiving water service without proper authorization or billing is prohibited.

Any person violating this Section shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of this Ordinance and any applicable provisions of Louisiana law.

Section 9: Private Wells and Backflow Protection

All residents located within the corporate limits of the Village of Hosston shall be connected to the Village of Hosston Water System where service is available.

Private water wells may be maintained for potable or non-potable use only when completely isolated from the Village of Hosston Water System or protected by an approved backflow prevention assembly in accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Sanitary Code, including LAC 51:XII, and the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, as amended.

Section 10: Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention

To protect the public drinking water supply from contamination or pollution caused by backflow or cross-connections, all water services connected to the Village of Hosston Water System shall comply with the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Sanitary Code, including LAC 51:XII, and the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, as amended.

A. No person shall create or maintain any cross-connection between the Village of Hosston Water System and any source of water or substance that could contaminate the public water supply.

B. Any property supplied by both the Village of Hosston Water System and a private water well or other auxiliary water source shall maintain complete separation between the systems or shall install an approved backflow prevention assembly as required by the Louisiana Department of Health.

C. Approved backflow prevention assemblies shall be installed, tested, maintained, repaired, and replaced when necessary at the customer's expense by qualified individuals in accordance with Louisiana Department of Health requirements.

D. The Village of Hosston Water System shall have the authority to inspect any service connection where a potential cross-connection or backflow hazard exists and may require installation, testing, repair, replacement, or maintenance of a backflow prevention assembly as a condition of continued water service.

E. Failure to comply with this Section, refusal to allow inspection when authorized by law, removal or bypass of a required backflow prevention device, or operation of an unprotected cross-connection shall constitute grounds for suspension or discontinuation of water service until corrected and verified by the Village of Hosston Water System.

F. The Village of Hosston Water System may adopt policies and procedures necessary to administer and enforce this Section consistent with applicable Louisiana Department of Health regulations.

Section 11: Emergency Water Service Discontinuation

The Village of Hosston reserves the right to discontinue water service at any time, with or without advance notice, to make emergency or other necessary repairs.

Section 12: Severe Water Leaks

The Village of Hosston reserves the right to discontinue water service immediately, with or without prior notice to occupants or owners, if a severe water leak is detected on the property, including inside a residence or structure.

The Village shall make every reasonable effort to notify the occupant or owner as soon as possible.

This action is intended to prevent excessive water bills, minimize property damage, protect the integrity of the water system, conserve treated water, and reduce unnecessary chemical usage.

Section 13: Ownership and Protection of Water Meters

Water meters, meter boxes, meter lids, meter locks, shut-off valves, radio reading devices, and all related equipment are the property of the Village of Hosston Water System.

The shut-off valve located at the meter is intended only for use by authorized Village personnel.

Customers who attempt to operate, damage, or interfere with Village-owned equipment without authorization shall be responsible for all resulting damages.

Section 14: Customer Responsibility for Meter Box Maintenance

Failure to maintain clear access may result in the Village performing the necessary work and billing the property owner for the reasonable cost, and may result in interruption of water service until compliance is achieved.

Any damage to the meter box, meter lid, or related Village-owned equipment caused by the property owner, tenant, contractor, or person acting on their behalf shall be repaired or replaced at the property owner's expense.

No person shall cover, bury, alter the ground around, or place any fence, structure, shrub, tree, decorative feature, vehicle, or other obstruction that prevents Village personnel from safely accessing the meter.

The property owner or customer shall be responsible for maintaining the area surrounding the water meter box. The meter box shall be kept visible, accessible, and free of grass, weeds, brush, landscaping materials, dirt, debris, standing water, or other obstructions that interfere with access.

Section 15: Unauthorized Meter Tampering, Theft of Water, and Damage to Village Property

No person shall tamper with, alter, bypass, remove, relocate, damage, or interfere with any water meter, meter lock, meter box, service line, shut-off valve, curb stop, radio reading device, or any other component of the Village of Hosston Water System without prior authorization from the Village.

Prohibited actions include:

A. Cutting, removing, or damaging a meter lock or locking device.

B. Reconnecting water service after disconnection without authorization.

C. Bypassing, altering, reversing, or interfering with a water meter.

D. Connecting to the Village water system without approval.

E. Damaging or interfering with Village-owned water equipment.

Any person violating this Section shall be responsible for:

1. Payment of all estimated unauthorized water usage.
2. Payment of repair or replacement costs for damaged Village property.
3. Payment of applicable inspection, administrative, investigation, and restoration fees.
4. Immediate suspension of water service until corrected and all charges are paid.
5. Referral for criminal prosecution and/or civil action as provided by Louisiana law.

Each unauthorized act or each day an unauthorized connection remains active may constitute a separate violation.

Section 16: Customer Requested Suspension of Water Service

Water service may be suspended upon request of the customer provided the meter deposit remains on file.

During suspension, no charges shall accrue and the meter shall be locked.

Upon restoration of service, a $40.00 reconnection fee shall be added to the customer's first billing cycle.

Section 17: Right of Entry

As a condition of receiving water service from the Village of Hosston Water System, the property owner and customer shall permit authorized employees, agents, contractors, or representatives of the Village of Hosston, upon presentation of proper identification and at reasonable times, to enter upon the premises for the purpose of:

A. Reading, inspecting, testing, repairing, replacing, installing, or maintaining water meters and Village-owned equipment;

B. Inspecting service connections, plumbing, backflow prevention assemblies, or cross-connections;

C. Investigating suspected water leaks, unauthorized water use, meter tampering, theft of water, or damage to Village property;

D. Performing emergency repairs or actions necessary to protect public health and safety.

Refusal to permit reasonable access may result in suspension or discontinuation of water service until access is granted.

Nothing in this Section authorizes unlawful entry into a residence or protected area without consent or other legal authority.

Severability

If any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Repealer:

All Ordinances or Resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Effective Date:

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

FIRST READING:

July 21, 2026 – Introduced and read by title and approved as read and set for Public Hearing on August 18, 2026, with a motion made by Alderman _____, seconded by Alderman _____.

SECOND READING:

August 18, 2026 – Having been approved on the first reading on July 21, 2026, and after publication of notice and public hearing, was read by title with a motion to approve as read by Alderman _____, seconded by Alderman _____.

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

THUS DONE, ORDAINED, AND ESTABLISHED by the Board of Aldermen of the Village of Hosston, Caddo Parish, State of Louisiana, at a meeting of said public body duly held and conducted on August 18, 2026, at the Hosston Village Hall for the Village of Hosston.

_____
Hayden Linn, Town Clerk

Date Delivered to Mayor: August 18, 2026
Date Received by Mayor: August 18, 2026

Approved by the Mayor of the Village of Hosston this 18th day of August 2026.

_____
Kim Jaynes, Mayor

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CADDO

I, the undersigned Town Clerk of the Village of Hosston, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, do hereby certify the foregoing Ordinance No. 3 of 2026 to be a true and correct copy of the Ordinance as the same appears filed in this office.

This, the 18th day of August 2026.

_____

Hayden Linn, Town Clerk