

CHAPTER 25 – WATER, SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sec. 25-122. Due date; collection procedures and remedies.

(a) All utility rates and service charges are due and payable when rendered and shall be delinquent twenty (20) days after date rendered. Any delinquent account requiring special collection effort may be assessed a delinquent collection charge, as established by the finance director subject to the approval of the city manager. If the total of such bill shall not be paid within five (5) days after date of delinquency and notice of delinquency having been given, utility service may be disconnected from the premises of the delinquent consumer and a delinquent turn-off fee charged to customer's account. The delinquent turn-off fee plus the total amount of the bill due and any deposit, if such deposit is required, shall be collected before again providing utility service. In addition to all other remedies, a service charge of one and one-half (1 1/2) percent shall be charged on past due amounts.

(b) A consumer's utility service may be disconnected for nonpayment of a bill for utility service rendered at a previous location served by the city, provided such bill is not paid within twenty (20) days after the unpaid bill has been presented to the consumer at his new location.

(c) When a user of the utility system has been notified of the amount of utility user charges remaining due after the deduction of his trust deposit, and payment for same has not been received, the finance director may assign the account to a bona fide collection agency.

(d) Before utility service will be turned on to any premises all charges against the premises then due and payable to the city as required by this article, including any of the following items must have been paid:

- (1) On account of labor supplied or materials furnished by the city in the installation of service pipes connecting the premises with the city utility mains, or for tapping the city utility system.
- (2) On account of utility service previously supplied to the premises.
- (3) On account of the assessment of any fine or penalty, or for turning utility services off or on, or for repair or replacement of damaged, stolen or misused utility works facilities.

(e) Before discontinuing utility service for nonpayment of any utility user charge, deposit or other assessment provided for in this article, the finance director shall give written notice to the person of the discontinuance and an opportunity to appear before the finance director or his designee on any disputed matter relative to the discontinuance of sewer service.

Charter reference(s) -- Assessments and liens authorized, art. I, § 3(4).
(Code 1977, §§ 12-5-15(c), (d), (f), (g), 12-5-16)
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