

**CHAPTER 11**

**UTILITIES**

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### § 1-00. TAMPERING WITH WATER METERS

It shall be unlawful for any person other than a licensed plumber or any waterworks company employee to connect, disconnect, move, or tamper with any meter or to turn on or off the water at the curb cock, valve, or meter or to open or tamper with any meter box. (Ordinance adopting Code)

### § 2-00. BY-PASSING, INTERFERING WITH, ETC., WATER METERS

Whoever intentionally, by any means or device, prevents water from passing through any meter, intentionally diverts any water from any pipe or pipes of the waterworks company or otherwise intentionally uses, or causes to be used, without the consent of the waterworks company or whoever, damages or destroys or removes any meter, or any person who retains possession of or refuses to deliver any meter or other appliance loaned to him by the waterworks company for the purposes of furnishing water, shall, for every such offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor. The presence at any time on or about any such meter or pipe of any device or pipes or of a damaged or destroyed meter resulting in the diversion of water or prevention of its free passage and registration by the meter or diverting from the meter or resulting in the prevention of water from reaching the meter, or preventing the just registration of the meter or the taking of any water except through a meter as above set forth, or where there is no meter, shall constitute prima facie evidence of knowledge on the part of the person owning or having custody and control of the room, building, place or premises where such device or pipe is of the existence, or where there is a damaged or destroyed meter or where there is no meter, and knowledge of such existence of such device or pipe or damaged or destroyed meter or the absence of a meter to the person who would be benefitted by the failure of the water to be properly metered, and shall further constitute prima facie evidence of intention on the part of such person to defraud, and shall bring such person prima facie within the scope, meaning and penalties of this section. (Ordinance adopting Code)

### § 3-00. USE OF WATER FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Fire hydrants are provided for use in extinguishing fires and are to be used and opened only by the waterworks company, fire department or other person who has written authority from the waterworks company. To insure the safety and protection of fire hydrants for fire protection, any person authorized to open fire hydrants shall use only an approved spanner wrench and shall replace the caps on the outlets when they are not in use. It shall be unlawful for any person, other than an employee of the waterworks

company or the volunteer fire department, to release or carry away any water from a fire hydrant without permission from the waterworks company. (Ordinance adopting Code)

*§ 4-00. CROSS CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED*

No cross connections shall be permitted to be made between any system of piping supplied by water from the mains of the waterworks company and any other source of supply, whether public or private; or any secondary supplies known to be unsafe for drinking water, such as shallow wells, reused industrial supplies, raw surface water or swimming pools. The definition of a cross connection, as based upon the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Public Health Service Publication No. 525, is any physical connection or arrangement of pipes between two otherwise separate water supply systems, one of which contains potable water and the other water of unknown or questionable safety, whereby water may flow from one system to the other, the direction of flow depending on pressure differential between the two systems. (Ordinance adopting Code)

*§ 5-00. COMPULSORY SEWER SERVICE*

The owner(s) of any property containing a structure used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purpose in which human waste is generated shall be required to connect to the an approved sewer system or septic tank. (Ordinance adopting Code)

*§ 6-00. SEPTIC TANKS*

It shall be unlawful for any person to install or use any septic tank for private waste disposal within the city limits except when a public or private sewer system is not available or when such septic tanks were in operation on the effective date of this section, provided that the property is not located within one hundred feet (100') of a sanitary sewer main. Whenever any septic tank is to be installed it shall be in compliance with the provisions of the latest edition of the "Construction Standards for Private Sewage Facilities" as published by the Texas Department of Health. (Ordinance adopting Code)

*§ 7-00. EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
OVER UTILITIES*

§ 7-01. Jurisdiction Over Electric Utilities Delegated to Public Utility Commission

That the city does hereby elect to have the Public Utility Commission of Texas exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over electric utility rates, operations, and services within the existing and future incorporated limits of the city.

§ 7-02. Jurisdiction Over Water and Sewer Utilities Retained

That the city hereby expressly retains the exclusive original jurisdiction over the rates, operations, and services of water and sewer utilities within the existing and future incorporated limits of the city.

§ 7-03. Effective Date

That this section shall become effective, and the Public Utility Commission of Texas shall exercise the exclusive original jurisdiction over said electric utility rates, operations, and services on and after September 2, 1977.

§ 7-04. City Secretary to Notify Public Utility Commission

That the city secretary shall give notice of this section to the Public Utility Commission of Texas by forwarding a certified copy of same to the Public Utility Commission of Texas upon the passage of this section. (Ordinance No. 17 adopted November 13, 1979)