

## City of Thomasville

### New Water and Sewer Tap Installation/Relocation Procedures

In July 2023, the City Council amended City Ordinance Chapter 82 to require private property owners to hire private utility contractors to install new or relocated water and sewer taps. **The amended Ordinance is effective October 1, 2023.**

All new or relocated taps for water and sewer will require a permit (\$75 each) issued by the City Planning & Inspections Department. At this time, permits are issued in person at the Planning & Inspections office at City Hall. This permit replaces the former tap fee of \$1,250.

Once the permit is issued, customers are required to hire a licensed N.C. utility contractor to perform all work. City staff from the Utility Maintenance & Construction division will inspect the work for proper installation. It is highly recommended for the utility contractor to coordinate with the Utility Maintenance & Construction staff prior to performing any work. The tap must be inspected before being covered. After final approval, the contractor can then proceed with covering the installation/relocation work.

If the tap is not installed properly, a reinspection fee of \$50 per tap will be required before reinspection.

#### **Planning & Inspections contact info:**

Tamara Lebow (p) 336-475-4249 / (email) [tamara.lebow@thomasville-nc.gov](mailto:tamara.lebow@thomasville-nc.gov)

#### **Utility Maintenance & Construction contact info:**

Kirby Lambeth or Mitchel Rhodes (p) 336-475-4245 / (email) [kirby.lambeth@thomasville-nc.gov](mailto:kirby.lambeth@thomasville-nc.gov) or [mitchel.rhodes@thomasville-nc.gov](mailto:mitchel.rhodes@thomasville-nc.gov)

**(Please see following pages with the amended Ordinance attached for further reference.)**

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UTILITIES ORDINANCE

City Council of the City of Thomasville

The City Council of the City of Thomasville finds that Utilities Ordinance needs to be amended to better maintain the distribution and collection systems and to make it congruent with changes recently made to the Fee Schedule.

Now therefore, **Chapter 82, Utilities** is hereby amended as follows:

**Article I. – In General**, is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 82-4, Operation of water and sewer facilities, Subsection (a)** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsection (a):

- (a) The water and sewer utilities department shall be responsible for adequate maintenance of all water mains for both clear and raw water, including house connections, and the maintenance and operation of all pump stations, plants and reservoirs. There shall be employed in the department an adequate number of employees to properly maintain and operate the facilities of this division.

**Section 82-5, Construction of house connections for water or sewer service, Subsections (a) and (b)** are hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsections (a), (b), and (c):

- (a) All entities desiring to make a connection to the city-maintained water or sewer systems must make application to the Planning, Inspections and Engineering Department to have such connection(s) made by a Licensed Utility Contractor.
- (b) In connection with the installment of water and sewer services, every person or entity shall have such connections made at their own expense, including any and all drainage, subgrade, and road restoration. Where sanitary sewer connections were preinstalled by the city and have not yet been purchased by the served property owner, the right to connect to the existing preinstalled sanitary sewer connection can be purchased for a flat rate of \$1,250 per connection.
- (c) Only Utility Contractors licensed to work in the State of North Carolina are permitted to make connections to the city-owned water and sewer systems.

**Section 82-7, Equipment furnished for water or sewer connection to be property of the city; change in size of meter or lateral**, is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

All meters, boxes, pipes and other equipment furnished and installed to make a water or sewer connection shall become the property of the city upon approval by inspection. If,

after an installation is completed, the property owner requests that a meter or lateral be changed in size and the request is approved by the director, the property owner shall have such change made by a Licensed Utility Contractor at their own expense.

**Section 82-8, Construction of water or sewer laterals; setting of meters,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

The construction of water or sewer laterals within the street right-of-way shall be done only by a Licensed Utility Contractor, unless prior approval is obtained from the director. Meters will be set by city staff following final inspection approval. The construction of such laterals shall be done only after the written application therefor has been approved.

**Section 82-9, Application for water or sewer connection, Subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e)** are hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e):

- (a) Persons desiring connections made with the city water or sewer mains shall make application to the director of public utilities or his designated representative stating for what purposes the water or sewer is to be used, and all applications shall be filed by him. In case of willful misrepresentation on the part of the applicant, or any unreasonable waste of water, the city reserves the right to cut off the supply and assess the applicant with the additional cost, which shall conform with the rates published.
- (b) The application shall be filed not less than 20 working days before the proposed connection is desired.
- (c) The city shall have no responsibility for the design of a private water system, sewer system, sprinkler or other fire protection system. Application for a connection to serve such a system shall be made exactly as outlined except that the size of the connection desired shall be placed on the application.
- (d) Applicants are responsible for obtaining the services of a Licensed Utility Contractor to make all taps and all associated costs.
- (e) If, in the opinion of the director, the water or sewer connection applied for will be of such size or character as to put too great a demand on any part of the system and disrupt the city's ordinary service, he shall disapprove the application until such time as adequate means are provided to eliminate the unsatisfactory condition. If the waste proposed to be discharged into the city's sewerage system is, in the opinion of the director, of such nature or of such volume as to overload the existing sewage collection or treatment facilities, he shall disapprove the application and require the applicant to adopt remedial measures to eliminate the unsatisfactory condition. An appeal from the ruling by the director may be made to the city manager, and the city manager's decision shall be final. The city shall in no way be responsible for any cost or inconvenience caused by a change in service requirements after an application has been approved or by an installation before the application has been approved.

**Section 82-10, Changes for water and sewer connections, Subsections (a) and (b)** are hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsections (a), and (b):

- (a) At the time of application to make a water or sewer service connection, a permit and inspection fee, set in the Fee Schedule adopted by City Council, shall be paid.
- (b) Water meters shall be paid for at the Billing and Collections Department in City Hall. Water Meters will be installed by city staff following final inspection approval as specified in Section 82-8.

**Section 82-11, Location of water and sewer taps, Subsections (a) and (b)** are hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsections (a), and (b):

- (a) Both water meter setters and sanitary sewer cleanouts shall be installed at the edge of the public right-of-way to the maximum extent practicable.
- (b) The property owner shall provide a cleanout plug for use by the city where his private line joins the city's lateral.

**Section 82-14, Pertinent regulations to be part of contracts for water or sewer service,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

All pertinent rules and regulations are hereby made a part of the terms and conditions whereby the city furnishes water and sewer service to any person, approves any water or sewer connection, or performs any work of any kind in connection with the furnishing of water or sewer service.

**Article II - Water,** is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 82-41. City to tap main for all water connections, of Division 1,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

The city reserves the exclusive privilege of permitting and controlling tapping the water mains for any and all connections.

**Section 82-45, Meter required, of Division 1,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

All water service connections shall be provided with standard approved water meters. Meters shall be purchased from the city by the property owner or consumer in accordance with established charges, and shall be installed by the city and at all times shall be under the control of the city, and the regular established and published meter rates for water as provided for in this chapter shall be charged in every case.

**Section 82-53, Service outside city limits, Subsection (d), of Division 1,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsection (d):

- (d) *Required information.* A new applicant shall complete and submit to the utilities director or his designee such plats, deeds or other information as required to determine the city's ability to provide the services.

**Section 82-54, Private fire protection systems, Subsection (a), subparagraphs (2), (4), and (5) are hereby deleted in their entirety and Subsections (8), (9) and (11), of Division 1,** are hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subparagraphs and renumbered where appropriate:

- (5) If, in any two subsequent meter reading periods, water has been used from the fire protection system for unauthorized purposes the city is authorized to enter any and all parts of the building to investigate the manner in which the water is being consumed as provided in section 82-44.
- (6) For purposes of testing a nonmetered system where a utilities department employee has to respond, a minimum charge as set forth in a fee schedule adopted by the city council, or the cost for the estimated quantity of water used, whichever is greater, shall be charged to the property owner.
- (8) No sprinkler system will be approved by the utilities director using chemicals or other antifreeze to prevent freezing without the use of an approved reduced pressure zone (RPZ) backflow preventer to prevent the backflow of these alien substances as provided in section 82-58(a).

**Section 82-56, Use of water for building purposes, Subsection (c), of Division 1,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subsection (c):

- (d) After deducting the water rent, service charges and administrative charge, the city shall refund the balance of the deposit to the applicant after the meter is removed, returned to the city, and has been assessed for any damages. If the meter or the hydrant is damaged in any way, the total cost of repairs shall be billed to the applicant. While in use, no wrench shall be used on the hydrant except an approved hydrant wrench.

**Section 82-61, Contamination of public water supply, of Division 1,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

No person shall contaminate any portion of the city's water supply, whether the water supply is in the reservoir or in a tank or pipe, and no person shall wade in, bathe in or contaminate the city reservoir or perform any other activity not specifically approved by the utilities director.

**Section 82-83, Notification, of Division 2, Paragraph 2** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through the city's website, The High Point Enterprise, Nixle alerts, PSA announcements on local radio and cable stations. Utility bill inserts will be used where appropriate to inform the public of the water shortage and the restrictions necessary to address the problem.

**Section 82-90, Revision, subparagraph (3), of Division 2,** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following new subparagraph (3):

(3) As provided for in G.S. 143-3.55.2.

**Article III - Sewer Systems, Subsections 82-112, 82-113, 82-115(b), 82-116, 82-118, 82-121, 82-131, 82-132, 82-133, 82-137, 82-138, 82-139, 82-156, 82-157, 82-159, 82-176, 82-177, 82-196, 82-197, 82-198, 82-199, 82-200, 82-201, 82-202, 82-203, 82-205, 82-207, 82-208, 82-251, 82-271, 82-272, 82-273, 82-274, 82-291, 82-300, 82-311, and 82-313** are amended by replacing the title of "public services director" to "public utilities director" where appropriate:

The above Ordinance as amended will be effective on enactment.

Upon the motion of member of Council Hunt, and a second by member of Council Shell, the foregoing Ordinance passed by a vote of 6 - 0.

This Ordinance shall be effective October 1, 2023.

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE

By: Raleigh York, Jr.  
Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor

Attest: Wendy S. Martin  
Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk

[SEAL]

