



City of Cambridge

1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 18, 1995

MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR MYERS
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That all items pending before the City Council and not acted upon by the end of the 1995 legislative session be placed in the files of the City Clerk without prejudice, subject to recall by any member, provided that those proposed ordinances which have been passed to a second reading, advertised and listed under "Unfinished Business" shall remain on the Calendar as "Unfinished Business", and further provided that any items pending in committee may, at the discretion of the committee, be forwarded to the next City Council.

In City Council December 18, 1995

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

stopped and the fine paid, together with an additional sum of two dollars for cutting off and letting on the water. In case of a second offense during the same year, a fine not exceeding fifty dollars shall be imposed, and if it is not paid within two days, as aforesaid, the water shall be cut off, and shall not be let on again until the cause of the complaint is removed and the fine paid, together with two dollars for cutting off and letting on the water. In case of a third offense, the water shall be cut off, and shall not be let on again except by a vote of the Water Board and the payment of such fine, not exceeding fifty dollars, as the Water Board may impose. (Prior code § 19-17)

**13.08.110 Waste or improper use—
Determination authority.**

The Water Board shall have the power to decide what shall be considered a waste or improper use of water, and to restrict the use thereof when it may deem necessary. If the water taker refuses or neglects to comply with any order of the Water Board, after notice given to him, the water may be cut off, and shall not again be let on, except by a vote of the Water Board, and the payment of such fine, not exceeding fifty dollars, as the Water Board may impose. (Prior code § 19-18)

13.08.120 Waste or improper use—Reporting requirements.

The police shall report to the Chief Superintendent all cases of leakage, waste or unnecessary profusion in the use of the water, and all violations of this chapter that may be brought to their notice. (Prior code § 19-23)

13.08.130 Rates—Established.

A. For the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 1979, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the City Manager shall recommend as a part of the annual budget submitted to the City Council, a just and equitable water use charge based on metered water consumption and/or other

applicable standards for computation of water consumption as set forth in this section. The charge shall take into account all appropriate water related estimated revenues and available revenue surpluses, and shall produce sufficient revenue to equal or exceed the annual appropriations proposed for water department operation, maintenance and debt service. The City Council shall adopt the annual water use charge in conjunction with its adoption of the annual budget. In so doing, the City Council may increase or decrease the City Manager's recommended water use charge in proportion to any increase or decrease it may adopt in the City Manager's recommended appropriations for water department operation, maintenance and debt service.

B. The quantity of water supplied by the City through a water meter in good working order shall be determined by the reading of such meter. If a meter malfunctions and fails to register, the consumer shall be charged at the average daily consumption as shown by the meter when in order.

C. The charges established by this section shall be due and payable by the owner of record at such time or times and in such installments, if any, as the Chief Superintendent from time to time may shut off the supply, after sending a special notice that the water will be shut off for nonpayment, and shall not again be let on for the same occupant or owner, except upon the payment of the whole amount due, together with costs as determined by the Board. The Superintendent shall, in his order of assessment, designate as the owner of a parcel assessed, the person who was liable to assessment therefor on the preceding January 1st.

D. A monthly interest charge of one and one-half percent shall be assessed on the balance of any water bill remaining unpaid after thirty days from the date of billing.

E. When water is required for purposes which are not specified in the foregoing tariff, the rates shall be fixed by the Chief Superintendent.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

November 6, 1995

To The Honorable, The City Council:

The interest rate of 18% is established by City Ordinance. I recommend that the interest rate applied to delinquent water bills be reduced from 18% to 14%. A rate of 14% would be consistent with the rate the City charges on delinquent real estate and motor vehicle tax bills. Furthermore, 14% is the interest rate charged by more than half the municipalities surveyed by the Finance Department. It is estimated that this interest rate change will result in lost revenues of approximately \$27,000 to the Water Fund and \$46,000 to the General Fund. Water and sewer rates will be monitored carefully for deficits, if any, caused by this change. A deficit may require a rate adjustment.

To affect this change, City Ordinance 13.08.130, Section D (copy attached) must be rewritten to read as follows: Changes are underlined.

- D. An annual interest charge of fourteen percent shall be assessed on the balance of any water bill remaining unpaid after thirty days from the date of billing.

The Finance Department has made available reports to the Water Department identifying those ratepayers that have received an excessive number of estimated billings. I recommend that the Water Department use this report to generate notices to be mailed to the ratepayers in a mailing separate from the actual billing.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #25 S-425 Cal #17

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Fifty-one, regarding a
report on the high interest rate
for late payment of water bills.

for original order
see 1995 - City
Manager Requests
444.

12/18/95 - Placed on file
pursuant to Order #1

In City Council November 6, 1995

Tabled by Councilman
Duchay.