

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Office of the City Attorney

Memorandum

Box No. 46; 334-5011

TO: Mayor and Members of the
City Commission

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2001

FIRST READINGFROM: Marion J. Radson
City Attorney

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27, SECTION 27-126.1.(c), OF THE GAINESVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING LANGUAGE SPECIFIC TO IRRIGATION METERS; AND AMENDING APPENDIX A, SECTION UTILITIES (3) g., (3) i.2., and (3) j.2., WATER, OF THE GAINESVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY REVISING RATES AND CHARGES FOR RETAIL WATER SERVICE; AND AMENDING APPENDIX A, SECTION UTILITIES (4) h.2., SEWERAGE, OF THE GAINESVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY REVISING RATES AND CHARGES FOR RETAIL WASTEWATER SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE PROVIDED HEREIN.

City Commission #000867

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance as revised.

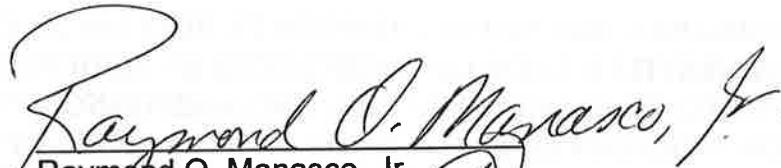
Background:

GRU's potable water supply system has been impacted by the noticeable increase in water use for irrigation purposes. The impacts are particularly acute during drought conditions and have necessitated capital improvements to the system earlier than initially anticipated. Rather than pass the cost of these improvements on to all water customers, staff recommends that, to the extent practical, the costs be recovered from the customers that irrigate significantly. Staff proposes to do this by implementing a third pricing tier for water used during the irrigation season. The third pricing tier will be for water consumption equal to or over 25 kgal. and billed at a rate of \$2.22 per kgal. Consistent with this approach, staff also recommends that all water use through irrigation meters during the irrigation season (April through October) be billed at the second and third tiers. Hence, 1 to 15 kgal. of water use through an irrigation meter would be billed at \$1.29 per kgal. and all use over 15 kgal. would be billed at \$2.22 per kgal. Rates for water consumed during the months of November through March will be unchanged. The third pricing tier will generate approximately \$530,000 of gross revenue in fiscal year 2001.

Current City policy mandates that new development being served by water meters two inches and smaller be assessed flow-based water and wastewater connection charges by a pre-determined schedule, depending upon meter size. For multi-family development, staff has found that this policy does not encourage individual unit metering and can also lead to developers selecting meter sizes smaller than optimal.

To resolve this problem, staff recommends that, for multi-family units, it be given the authority to assess flow-based water and wastewater connection charges based upon engineering estimates, as is done currently for development being served by water meters larger than two inches. Staff does not expect a significant financial impact to result from this change.

Prepared by:


Raymond O. Manasco, Jr.
Utilities Attorney

Submitted by:


Marion J. Radson
City Attorney

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Section 2. Appendix A, Section Utilities (3) g. of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances

is hereby amended to read as follows:

g. Base rates for service (§ 27-128):

- 1. Non-residential water service:
 - (i) Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - (ii) Rate per 1,000 gallons..... .99

- 2. Residential water service:
 - (i) November through March:
 - Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons..... .98
 - (ii) April through October:
 - Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons, first 9,000 gallons..... .98
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons, over 9,000 gallons and less than 25,000 gallons 1.29
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons, equal to or greater than 25,000 gallons 2.22

3. Service through residential 5/8" meters, and non-residential 5/8" meters

installed after March 1, 2001, for irrigation purposes:

- (i) November through March:
 - Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons..... .98
- (ii) April through October:
 - Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons, first 15,000 gallons..... 1.29
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons, over 15,000 gallons 2.22

4.3. University of Florida water service:

- (i) On-campus facilities:
 - Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons..... .69
- (ii) Off-campus facilities:
 - Customer service charge, per month, per bill rendered..... \$ 3.00
 - Rate per 1,000 gallons..... .88

Section 3. Appendix A, Section Utilities (3) i.2. of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances

is hereby amended to read as follows:

2. For water meters serving multi-family units and water meters larger than two (2) inches. ~~For applicants requiring water meters greater than two inch meter size,~~ the water transmission and distribution connection charge shall be based on the estimated demand for service in accordance with the following:

- (i) \$0.486 per gallon per day (GPD) of annual average daily flow (ADF); ~~or,~~
- (ii) ~~\$2,021.00, whichever is greater.~~ There will be a minimum charge of \$2,021 for meters larger

CODE: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.
Words doublelined are revisions since initial draft.

