



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 000867, **Version:** 2

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### RATES AND CHARGES FOR RETAIL WATER SERVICE (B)

ORDINANCE NO. 0-01-10

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

The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

#### 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.