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ORDINANCE NO. 135

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCES 31, 35 and 82 CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS BY USERS OF THE WATER SYSTEM OF THE BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS.

SECTION I - In order to provide greater accuracy in the measurement of water consumption by customers provided with water service by the BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS it is hereby ordained by the Council for said Borough that all customers supplied with water service by the Borough now and hereafter shall install a water meter in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION II - It shall be the duty of the Water Department to supervise the installation of water meters. The Water Department is hereby authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required, in addition to the provisions of this ordinance, to facilitate the installation and maintenance of water meters in the following priority with respect to present customers:

A. All commercial establishments and non-resident users of the Borough water service.

B. All residential and other users of the Borough water service.

SECTION III - Every building hereafter constructed or for the first time furnished with water by the Borough shall be metered before water service shall be furnished.

SECTION IV - Water meters acceptable for installation shall be made available by the Borough. Such meters shall be of the same size as the service pipe entering the building in which installation is to be made. With special permission of the Water Department, a meter one size smaller than the service pipe may be allowed for sufficient reason.

SECTION V - Present users of water are under no immediate obligation to install a water meter unless and until notified, in writing, by the Water Department to do so. As water meters become available the Water Department shall notify the owners of premises to secure an identified meter and have the same installed within a period of time by a reputable plumber. Meters shall be turned over to owner of premises or a plumber on his behalf only upon payment to the Borough of cost price of meter.

SECTION VI - If a property owner fails or neglects to secure and install a water meter after notification by the Water Department, said Department is hereby authorized and directed to make such installation at the expense of the owner. Such expense shall include in addition to the cost of meter, a service charge of TWENTY (\$20.) DOLLARS or cost of installation, if greater.

SECTION VII - All meters installed within the water system of the Borough shall be and remain the property of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Alburtis.

SECTION VIII - When convenient, the water meter shall be located on the premises of the water consumer, in an accessible and unobstructed position within the building connected with a remote reader positioned outside of the building. When not otherwise convenient to place a meter within a building, or at the option of the owner, a meter box or masonry pit with locked type cover may be constructed provided the same be also connected to a remote reader unless special Borough permission be had to eliminate said remote reader upon good and sufficient cause shown.

SECTION IX - No person other than a reputable plumber or an authorized officer or employee of the Water Department shall install, remove, inspect or change, alter or interfere in any way with a water meter.

SECTION X - Customer-user shall at all times properly protect the water meter installation from damage by frost or other harm and shall be responsible for the cost of all repairs or replacement of any meter damaged in any way as a result of his neglect. Repair charges shall be payable in full at the time of the next billing and shall be includible upon such billing.

SECTION XI - If a meter fails to register or is otherwise out of working order, such meter shall be replaced or repaired by the Water Department. In such event the current billing shall be estimated and determined by the average amount of water used the previous billing period. No deduction shall be allowed from any billing for reason of leakage, but shall be permissible if due to inaccurate measurement of water consumption by a faulty meter. Such billing adjustment shall be given the customer only if brought to attention of Borough in accordance with the provisions of SECTION XII.

SECTION XII- If any customer shall doubt the correctness of his meter reading, he may, upon application to the Water Department, and upon making a deposit as set forth in the schedule following, have such meter tested. Should such test show such meter to be correct within four (4%) percentum, the customer shall forfeit the deposit made. Should such test show the meter to be registering in excess of four(4%) percentum of the accurate amount of flow, such deposit shall be refunded to the customer and the entire cost of such test and replacement of meter shall be borne by the Borough. The deposit to be required shall be:

For any 5/8th" to 1" Meter	\$5.00
For any 1-1/2" to 2" Meter	10.00
For any 3" Meter	15.00
For any 4" Meter	20.00
For any 6" Meter	25.00
For any 8" or larger Meter	35.00

SECTION XIII - In all cases where the service connection serves two or more establishments, firms or families, a separate meter shall be installed for each if at all possible without the necessity of major plumbing change. Final determination shall be made in each instance by the Water Department.

SECTION XIV - Billing practice for metered water service accounts shall be in accordance with the following standards:

(a) All bills for metered water service shall be rendered to the Consumer to whom water has been furnished, who shall in all cases be responsible for payment.

(b) In the event that a single meter is used in a building containing more than one establishment, firm or family, separate billings shall be made and rendered to the owner and all who shall be consumer separate and apart from said owner. All consumers subject to such billing shall be chargeable with minimum base rate and be subject to billing for additional volume, pro rata, using the formula of total metered volume divided by number of consuming units in existence in said building during the billing period.

(c) No abatement of charges shall be allowed for absence or removal of a consumer from the premises wherein he had been supplied with service during the billing period unless he shall have made written request for discontinuance of service and made payment of final bill for service. (No request for discontinuance of service shall be deemed approved and effective until actual physical cut-off shall have been accomplished, except where change of ownership of premises is accompanied by immediate transfer of possession to a new consumer.)

(d) Whenever meter reading shall reflect use of water for fire protection or fire fighting during conflagration, no charge shall be made for water so used. In such case billing shall be made on the basis of estimate corresponding with average volume consumption during preceding billing periods.

(e) Whenever water service shall have been discontinued at the request of an owner or consumer, the renewal of service to the same owner or consumer shall be subject to a flat fee of \$5. to be paid in advance prior to resumption of water service.

SECTION XV - Charges for the consumption of water by all metered users drawing from the water system of the Borough of Alburtis shall be as follows:

(a) A basic charge for the drawing of from one (1) gallon to gallons, quarterly, based upon meter size as follows:

5/8th inch meter	\$4.80 per quarter
3/4th " "	4.80 " "
1 " "	14.00 " "
1-1/4 " "	20.00 " "
1-1/2 " "	30.00 " "
2 " "	50.00 " "
3 " "	80.00 " "
4 " "	130.00 " "
6 " "	260.00 " "

(b) A volume charge based upon total consumption during the quarterly period, as follows:

First	4,000 gallons	-At base rate
From	4,001 " to 10,000 gallons	-\$ .50 per M
From	10,001 " to 25,000 "	-\$ .40 per M
Over	25,000 "	-\$ .20 per M

(c) Consideration for prompt payment and penalty for delay payment may be provided by action of Borough Council from time to time.

SECTION XVI - The Water Department is authorized to limit or discontinue the supply of water in cases of emergency; for the purpose of repair or extension of water mains; and in the case of repeated or persistent non-payment of water service charges upon notice of intention to discontinue to serve such delinquent consumer until payment shall have been forthcoming.

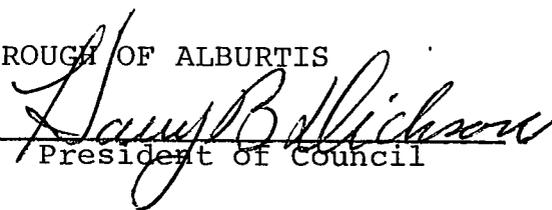
SECTION XVII - Authorized employees of the Water Department and members of the Borough Water Committee shall have the right to enter upon or into premises supplied or believed to be supplied by Borough Water service, for the purpose of inspecting any pipe or fixture, or setting; reading or repairing any meter; turning off or on any valves or for any act for the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance. Such entry shall be made during normal business hours except that, upon good and sufficient cause, entry may be at any time. No person shall deny entrance to any such premises to persons authorized to make entry hereunder.

SECTION XVIII - Any person who shall violate the terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to municipal lien procedure, civil collection procedures and summary proceedings invoking a fine of not more than ONE HUNDRED (\$100.) DOLLARS plus costs for each offense, in default thereof to imprisonment for not more than ten (10) days in the Lehigh County Jail.

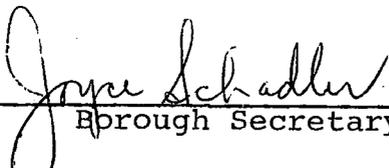
ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 21st day of October, 1968.

BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS

By

  
President of Council

ATTEST:

  
Borough Secretary

Approved this 21st day of October, 1968.

  
Mayor