

CHAPTER 54: RATES AND CHARGES

Section

- 54.01 Generally
- 54.02 Collection of charges
- 54.03 Disconnection for late payment
- 54.04 Cold weather rule
- 54.05 Delinquent charges
- 54.06 Public Utilities Fee Schedule

54.01 GENERALLY.

(A) The monthly charge for water, sewer services and for collection, removal and disposal of garbage and trash from residences and businesses within the corporate limits of the city shall be as established by the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time.

(B) *Accounts.* All accounts shall be carried in the name of the owner who personally, or by his or her authorized agent, applied for such service. The owner shall be liable for water and sewer services supplied to the property, whether he or she is occupying the property or not, and any unpaid charges shall be a lien upon the property.

54.02 COLLECTION OF CHARGES.

The charges fixed herein for water, sewer services and for collection, removal and disposal of all garbage and trash shall be entered in their respective amounts on the utility bill. The city may discontinue all utility services, including water, sewer, and garbage and trash services, for failing to pay any assessed charges and until the charges have been paid in full under conditions and procedures detailed in ' 54.03.

54.03 DISCONNECTION FOR LATE PAYMENT.

(A) It is the policy of the city to discontinue utility service to customers by reason of nonpayment of bills only after notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard on disputed bills. The city's form for application for utility service and all bills shall contain, in addition to the title, address, room number,

and telephone number of the official in charge of billing, clearly visible and easily readable provisions to the effect:

- (1) That all bills are due and payable on or before the date set forth on the bill;
- (2) That if any bill is not paid by or before that date, a second bill will be mailed containing a cutoff notice that if the bill is not paid within ten days of the mailing of the second bill, service will be discontinued for nonpayment; and
- (3) That any customer disputing the correctness of his or her bill shall have a right to a hearing at which time he or she may be represented in person and by counsel or any other person of his or her choosing and may present orally or in writing his or her complaint and contentions to the city official in charge of utility billing. This official shall be authorized to order that the customer's service not be discontinued and shall have the authority to make a final determination of the customer's complaint.

(B) Requests for delays or waiver of payment will not be entertained; only questions of proper and correct billing will be considered. In the absence of payment of the bill rendered or resort to the hearing procedure provided herein, service will be discontinued at the time specified, but in no event until the charges have been due and unpaid for at least 30 days.

(C) When it becomes necessary for the city to discontinue utility service to a customer for nonpayment of bills, service will be reinstated only after all bills for service then due have been paid, along with a turn-on charge as established by the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time.

54.04 COLD WEATHER RULE.

Pursuant to M.S. ' 216B.097, as it may be amended from time to time, no service of a residential customer shall be disconnected if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit when the disconnection would occur during the period between October 15 and April 15, the customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the city, the household income of the customer is at or below 50% of the state median household income as documented by the customer to the city, and the customer's account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15 or the customer has entered into a payment schedule and is reasonably current with payments under the schedule. The City Clerk shall, between August 15 and October 15, of each year, notify all residential customers of these provisions.

Penalty, see ' 10.99

54.05 DELINQUENT CHARGES.

As provided for by M.S. ' 444.075, Subd. 3e, as it may be amended from time to time, the City Clerk, annually or more frequently as directed by Council, shall prepare a list of delinquent charges to be certified for payment as taxes. The list of delinquent charges shall be delivered to the City Council for adoption. All persons who have delinquent charges included in the list shall be notified and given a chance to appear before the Council before the list is adopted. In the event the delinquency involves rental property, notice shall be given to the record owner of the property in addition to the tenant or other parties in possession and he or she given a chance to appear before the Council. Upon adoption, the Clerk shall certify the unpaid charges to the County Auditor for collection as other taxes are collected. This action may be optional or subsequent to taking other legal action to collect delinquent charges, and shall not preclude the City or its agents from recovery of the delinquent charges and interest under any other available remedy, and shall not preclude the disconnection for late payment provided for in this chapter.

54.06 2019 Public Utilities Fee Schedule

All fees payable to the City, by reason of this Code, shall be governed by this Chapter; except that if any Code Chapter or State law provides for or requires the payment of a fee to the City and this Chapter makes no reference thereto, then such other Code Chapter or law shall govern; and fees shall be due and payable in full at the time specified in the applicable Code Chapter or State law, and if no such time is provided, fees shall be due and payable upon demand of the City Administrator or other authorized City Officer. The City Council of the City of Lanesboro, Minnesota, ordains fees for Utility Services are listed below and shall be as follows:

<u>Type of Fee</u>	<u>Fee Amount</u>
Water	
Water Connection	\$750.00
Base Charge (Includes 1000 gallons)	31.85
1001-4000 Gallons	\$7.50 per 1000 gallons
4001-7000 Gallons	\$9.38 per 1000 gallons
7000 and up Gallons	\$19.06 per 1000 gallons
State Water Charge Annually	\$6.36
High Volume Monthly	\$3.95
Extra Volume 2" monthly	\$4.70
Sewer	
Sewer Connection	\$750.00
Sewer Improvement per month	4.00

Revision December 2018

Base Charge per month	\$19.75
Sewer Usage per 1,000 gallons	\$5.10
Flat Sewer Charges (no meter) monthly	\$14.35
Sewer Base Apartment monthly	\$4.95
Electric	
Electric Connection	\$750.00
Green Power monthly	\$2.00
City Service charge monthly	\$200.00
Security Lights monthly	\$7.53
City Street Lights usage per kWh	\$0.1296
Residential Base monthly	\$12.00
Commercial Base 1 Phase monthly	\$21.60
Commercial Base 3 Phase monthly	\$37.20
Electric usage per kWh	\$0.1471
Application for interconnecting distributed generation with capacity 20kW or less	No Charge
Application for interconnecting distributed generation with capacity between 20-40 kW	\$250.00
Interconnection Charge	\$570.00
Installation of Connected Alternative Energy Systems	Actual Cost
Excess energy generated – Average Retail Energy Rate (MN Statute 216 B.164)	\$0.1471
Miscellaneous	
Reconnection	\$75.00
Repairs to Public Streets, Curbs, or Sidewalks due to installation and repairs	\$350.00 in addition to Market Rate per square foot
Residential Deposit	\$125.00
Commercial Deposit	\$150.00
Past Due Penalty Fee	10%
NSF Charge	\$20.00

All fees and charges in effect as of the date of the adoption of the city code for the city shall remain in effect unless otherwise modified by the provisions of this ordinance.