

## ORDINANCE NO. 1004 – Utility Billing

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE, WASHINGTON CREATING A NEW SECTION 13.04.064, BILLING ON CLOSED WATER CONNECTIONS, AND AMENDING NORTH BONNEVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 13 BY AMENDING SECTION 13.12.135 (B).**

**WHEREAS**, utility customers who voluntarily and temporarily turn their water off are considered active customers. They have the ability to turn on their water at any time (using their own water valve) and the city incurs costs of maintaining a system for their immediate use; and

**WHEREAS**, customers who turn their water off permanently or who have been turned off by the city are not considered active customers; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been some confusion regarding when customers are expected to pay the minimum monthly service charge; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of North Bonneville finds that certain customers may routinely use significantly more water than they discharge into the sewer system; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of the City of North Bonneville is to establish a rate structure wherein sewer rates reflect a customer's use of sewer services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Creating Section 13.04.064, Billing on Closed Water Connections**  
Section 13.04.064, "Billing on Closed Water Connections," of North Bonneville Municipal Code is created as follows:

**13.04.064, Billing on Closed Water Connections**

Utility customers who voluntarily and temporarily turn their water off shall continue to pay the applicable water minimum monthly service charges.

Customers who ask the city to turn their water off permanently or who have been turned off by the city will not continue to pay the monthly service charges until their service has been restarted.

For the purposes of this section "temporarily" shall mean less than six contiguous months.

Customers must request the city to turn their water off in order to avoid monthly service charges.

## **Section 2. Amending Section 13.12.135 (B), Consumption Charge**

Section 13.12.135 (B), "Consumption Charge," of North Bonneville Municipal Code is modified as follows:

### **13.12.135, Rate Schedule**

#### **B. Consumption Charge.**

In addition to the base rate, each customer shall pay \$3.37 per 100 cubic feet of water consumption, payable in increments of 100 cubic feet or any portion thereof. Water consumption will be determined each year by averaging the customer's water meter reading during the months of November through February. This average monthly usage shall be applied to each customer's monthly bill until it is next updated. Average consumption shall be re-computed in March of each year.

1. Customers without previous history upon which to calculate an average consumption shall be charged according to the city-wide average consumption for their type of use (i.e. single family, multi-family, commercial) as of the preceding calculation.

2. For the purpose of calculation, customers who do not occupy their homes for any period in excess of one month between November 1st and March 1st shall be charged according to the city-wide average consumption for their type of use (i.e. single family, multi-family, commercial) as of the preceding calculation. ~~If such residents notify the city of their absence, they shall be charged only the base rate during those months they are absent.~~

3. Utility customers who voluntarily and temporarily turn their water off shall continue to pay the applicable water and sewer minimum monthly service charges. Customers who turn their water off permanently or who have been turned off by the city will not continue to pay the monthly service charges until their service has been restarted.

For the purposes of this section "temporarily" shall mean less than six contiguous months.

Customers must request the city to turn their water off in order to avoid monthly service charges.

4. Customers who routinely discharge less water into the sewer system than they consume through the water system may apply to the city council for an amended rate, which may be the city-wide average consumption for their type of use (i.e. single family, multi-family, commercial).

## **Section 2. Severability.**

If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality

shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

**Section 3. Effective Date and Publication.**

This Ordinance shall be effective five days after publication of the Ordinance, or a summary thereof consisting of its title, in the official newspaper of the City.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

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Don Stevens, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

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John Spencer, City Clerk

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Ken Woodrich, City Attorney