

CHAPTER 92

WATER RATES

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92.01 SERVICE CHARGES. Each customer shall pay for water service provided by the City based upon use of water as determined by meters provided for in Chapter 91. In the event that a property has an inside meter and an outside meter reading device and there is a discrepancy between the readings, the reading of the inside meter shall be the official reading to be used by the City for water billing and all other official purposes. Each location, building, premises, or connection shall be considered a separate and distinct customer whether owned or controlled by the same person or not. The service charges shall be billed as part of a combined service account which means a customer service account for the provision of two or more utility services.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.02 RATES FOR SERVICE. Water service shall be furnished at the following bi-monthly rates within the City of Lone Tree to be effective July 01, 2025. Water rates shall increase 2% per year on July 1, 2025 and each July 1st thereafter. Garbage/recycling rates shall increase 4% on July 1, 2026, 2028 and 2030:

1. First 3,500 gallons used per two-month period @ \$18.94 (minimum bill).
2. All over 3,500 gallons used per two-month period @ \$6.01 per 1,000 gallons, except for the Lone Tree Community Schools and the Lone Tree Housing Authority, which shall be assessed \$2.47 for each additional 1,000 gallons of water used. Any usage in excess of the multiple of 1,000 shall be rounded up to the next higher multiple of 1,000 gallons.
3. An additional fee of \$2.00 will be included on each two-month water billing to pay for use of the Iowa City Public Library.
4. An additional fee of \$34.00 will be included on each two-month water billing for garbage/recycling contract.

Water Service Charges (2 month period) – 2% increase annually Per 1,000 Gallons of Water Use or Part Thereof								
Fical Year	7/1/24 to 6/30/25	7/1/25 to 6/30/26	7/1/26 to 6/30/27	7/1/27 to 6/30/28	7/1/28 to 6/30/29	7/1/29 to 6/30/30	7/1/30 to 6/30/31	7/1/31 to 6/30/32
Minimum Water Charge	\$18.57	\$18.94	\$19.31	\$19.69	\$20.08	\$20.48	\$20.88	\$21.29
LTCSD & LT Housing over 3,500	\$2.43	\$2.47	\$2.51	\$2.56	\$2.61	\$2.66	\$2.71	\$2.76
All others over 3,500	\$5.90	\$6.01	\$6.13	\$6.25	\$6.37	\$6.49	\$6.61	\$6.74

(Section 92.02 – Ord. 2025-2 – Jun. 25 Supp.)

92.03 RATES OUTSIDE THE CITY. Water service shall be provided to any customer located outside the corporate limits of the City which the City has agreed to serve at the same rates provided in Section 92.02. No such customer, however, will be served unless the customer shall have signed a service contract agreeing to be bound by the ordinances, rules, and regulations applying to water service established by the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.4 and 384.84)

92.04 BILLING FOR WATER SERVICE. Water service shall be billed as part of a combined service account, payable in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84).

1. **Bills Issued.** The Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts billed bi-monthly or six times each year.
2. **Bills Payable.** Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Clerk 20 days after issued. Bills not paid when due shall be considered delinquent. A late payment penalty of 10 percent, with a minimum charge of \$10.00, of the user charge bill will be added to each delinquent bill for each delinquency period. If payment is not received after due notice and a final 24-hour notice of delinquency has been posted on the premises of the delinquent account, a notice fee of \$25.00 shall be assessed to the delinquent account.

92.05 SERVICE DISCONTINUED. Water service to delinquent customers shall be discontinued or disconnected in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. **Notice.** The Clerk shall notify each delinquent customer that service will be discontinued or disconnected if payment of the combined service account, including late payment charges, is not received by the date specified in the notice of delinquency. Such notice shall be sent by ordinary mail to the customer in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred and shall inform the customer of the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance or disconnection.
2. **Notice to Landlords.** If the customer is a tenant, and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises has made a written request for notice, the notice of delinquency shall also be given to the owner or landlord. If the customer is a tenant and requests a change of name for service under the account, such request shall be sent to the owner or landlord of the property if the owner or landlord has made a written request for notice of any change of name for service under the account to the rental property.
3. **Hearing.** If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shut off, the Mayor shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the discontinuance or disconnection is justified. The customer has the right to appeal the Mayor's decision to the Council, and if the Council finds that discontinuance or disconnection is justified, then such discontinuance or disconnection shall be made, unless payment has been received.
4. **Fees.** A fee of \$50.00 shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer. No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

92.06 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. The owner of the premises served and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for water service charges to the premises. Water service charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the property or premises served and shall be certified by the Clerk to the County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.07 LIEN EXEMPTION.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. **Water Service Exemption.** The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to charges for water service to a residential or commercial rental property where water service is separately metered and the rates or charges for the water service are paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential or commercial rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of 90 days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

2. **Other Service Exemption.** The lien for nonpayment shall also not apply to the charges for any of the services of sewer systems, storm water drainage systems, sewage treatment, solid waste collection, and solid waste disposal for a residential rental property where the charge is paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges for such service. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of 90 days of such services to be paid to the City. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if all service charges are paid in full. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs related to any of the services.

3. **Written Notice.** The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the residential or commercial rental property that the tenant is to occupy, and the date that the occupancy begins. Upon receipt, the City shall acknowledge the notice and deposit. A change in tenant for a residential rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within 30 business days of the change in tenant. A change in tenant for a commercial rental property shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within 10 business days of the change in tenant. A change in the ownership of the residential rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within 30 business days of the completion of the change of ownership. A change in the ownership of the commercial rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within 10 business days of the completion of the change of ownership.

4. **Mobile Homes, Modular Homes, and Manufactured Homes.** A lien for nonpayment of utility services described in Subsections 1 and 2 of this section shall not be placed upon a premises that is a mobile home, modular home, or manufactured home if the mobile home, modular home, or manufactured home is owned by a tenant of and located in a mobile home park or manufactured home community and the mobile home park or manufactured home community owner or manager is the account holder, unless the lease agreement specifies that the tenant is responsible for payment of a portion of the rates or charges billed to the account holder.

92.08 LIEN NOTICE. A lien for delinquent water service charges shall not be certified to the County Treasurer unless prior written notice of intent to certify a lien is given to the customer in whose name the delinquent charges were incurred. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property or premises has made a written request for notice, the notice shall also be given to the owner or landlord. The notice shall be sent to the appropriate persons by ordinary mail not less than 30 days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.09 UTILITY DEPOSITS. There shall be required from the owner of each premises served a \$50.00 deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for utility service. There shall be required from every customer not the owner of the premises served a deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for service.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. \$75.00 for one person residing in a rental residence.
2. \$125.00 for two persons residing in a rental residence.
3. \$200.00 for three more persons residing in a rental residence.

92.10 TEMPORARY SERVICE CHARGE. When temporary water service is requested for a domestic structure under construction and it is not possible to install a meter, the owner or contractor shall be billed a flat fee of \$3.00 per month. The water used under this provision shall not be used for settling ditches or irrigating yards or gardens.

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