

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO MUNICIPAL CODE APPENDIX Q TO REDUCE WATER METER FEES**

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the June 9, 2009 meeting, Council approved a multi-year contract with Elster AMCO Water, Inc. to purchase water meters. With the contract now approved, the charges for meters and meter setting fees need to be adjusted to reflect the new prices.

Charges for meter settings include a number of components, including the cost of the meter and fittings, vehicle and equipment charges, and labor. Even with increases in labor and other components, the new meter supply contract with Elster enables staff to recommend significantly lower meter setting fees. The percentage reduction varies based on meter size and type and ranges from an 8.7% reduction for a 3" turbo meter to a 50.4% reduction in the fee for a 1½" turbo meter. For the most common meter type (5/8" x 3/4" disc meter), the proposed fees are reduced by \$30, or approximately 14%. While these fees are small when compared to the overall cost of a construction project, the reductions contribute toward more affordable development in Ames.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the proposed revisions to Appendix Q to modify the meter and setting fees.
2. Do not approve the revisions to Appendix Q at this time.

### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The purpose of soliciting competitive proposals on materials and equipment is to secure for our residents the exceptional services they need at the best price. **The bid process for water meters identified a vendor capable of providing meters that met City specifications at a very competitive price. Since the cost of these meters is directly passed back to customers, the end result of the new meter contract is a reduction in meter setting fees.**

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the proposed revisions to Appendix Q to modify the City's meter and meter setting fees.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED FEES FOR APPENDIX  
Q WATER AND POLLUTION CONTROL FEES AND  
CHARGES, WATER METER DIVISION.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that the following fees shall be adopted or adjusted to recover the approximate actual costs of city services from those who use and benefit from these services, pursuant to Appendix Q Water Meter Division, of the Ames Municipal Code:

**Water Division**

Bulk Water Service \$.56/100 gallons

**Water Meter Division \***

Meter & Setting Fees - Disc Style	
5/8" or 5/8" x 3/4" disc	\$185.00
3/4" disc	\$195.00
1" disc	\$230.00
1 1/2" disc	\$510.00
Meter & Setting Fees - Compound Style	
2"	\$1,740.00
3"	\$2,560.00
4"	\$3,385.00
6"	\$4,850.00
Meter & Setting Fees - Turbo Style	
1 1/2"	\$605.00
2"	\$1,130.00
3"	\$1,800.00
4"	\$2,505.00
6"	\$3,665.00
Meter & Setting Fees - Misc. Meters	
Larger than 4" or alternative styles - to be determined when ordered	
Hydrant Meter **	\$195.00
Frozen/damaged meter	
Construction Meter	\$155.00 + repairs/replacement
Meters 1-1/2" and larger	\$170.00 + repairs/replacement
Meters 1" and smaller	\$70.00 trip fee + Depreciated Value

Depreciated Value is a straight line depreciation of the Meter and Setting Fees above, based on length of time meter has been in service.

< 1 year	100%
< 2 years	90%
< 3 years	80%
< 4 years	70%
< 5 years	60%
< 6 years	50%
< 7 years	40%
< 8 years	30%
< 9 years	20%
<10 years	10%
>10 years	\$0

Unauthorized use of water	\$125.00/occurrence
Unmetered use of water	\$1.65/day + \$11.00/month
Resetting fee for unauthorized meter removal	\$ 70.00
Customer requested meter test fee	\$105.00
Service or meter disconnect or reconnect fee	\$ 55.00/trip

- \* Meter setting fees above include two service trips (one to set the temporary/construction meter, and one to set the permanent meter). A fee of \$55.00 will be charged for additional trips due to unexposed or inoperable curb boxes, incomplete remote wire installations, or other circumstances where the meter installation cannot be completed.
- \*\* Hydrant meter fees include the cost to install and remove the meter. Requests to move the meter to a new location will be charged one-half of the hydrant meter fee. Consumption will be billed at the "Irrigation and Yard Water" rate. For usage that covers more than 30 days, the block sizes will be adjusted accordingly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the aforesaid fees shall be in effect from and after July 1, 2009.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane R. Voss, City Clerk  
R264

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Ann H. Campbell, Mayor