

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

ORDINANCE NO. 600

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS ESTABLISHING CITY POLICY REGARDING ADJUSTMENT TO WATER BILLS IN CASES OF EXTRAORDINARY WATER CONSUMPTION DUE TO WATER BREAKS AND IMPROBABLE READINGS.

WHEREAS, a break in a privately owned water line on the customer's side of a meter can cause substantial financial hardship to the customer; and

WHEREAS, the marginal cost of water to the utility is less than charged to the customer for overage; and

WHEREAS, in very rare instances a meter may indicate consumption that is unexplainable; and

WHEREAS, it is in the City's best interest to establish a policy to quickly respond to the needs of the water customers of the City utility under these above mentioned circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, as follows that:

SECTION 1. If a private water line, valve, fixture or other appurtenance is verified to be leaking by the City Water Superintendent as a result of accidental damage or natural deterioration of the same, and not as a result of abuse or willful neglect, the customer may request, on a form provided by the City, that their water bill for the subject property during the period of the leak may be reasonably and equitably reduced; provided, that a customer shall be required to pay the base rate plus at least 50 percent of the applicable overage rate for all water which was lost by reason of the leak.

SECTION 2. Before an adjustment to a customer's account is made for leakage:

- A. The customer will provide to the City documentation that the leak has been fixed; and**
- B. An inspection of the repair is made by the City Water Superintendent.**

SECTION 3. In no case may an account receive an adjustment for a private water line break or a leak more than once in a two year period.

SECTION 4. In those instances when the City Water Superintendent determines, after an inspection of the customer's water system, that the consumption indicated by the meter reading is not likely to have occurred, the City Treasurer may in his/her discretion, make an adjustment of a bill in a manner as described in Section 1.

Said Ordinance was passed in open session by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls on the 8 day of July, 1998.

Approved by the Mayor this 8 day of July, 1998.



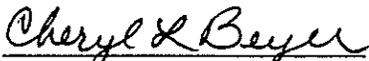
MAYOR

Attest:



City Clerk

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

FIRST READING:	June 24, 1998
SECOND READING:	July 8, 1998
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