

**CITY OF GRANITE FALLS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 777-09**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 13.16 GRANITE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 766-08, AND ESTABLISHING CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE WITHIN AND ABOUT THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Granite Falls purchases water wholesale from the Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (PUD) for resale by the City of Granite Falls to its water utility customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Granite Falls is charged for water based entirely upon the amount of water that passes through the master meters into the City without any minimum base charge imposed; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2009, the City of Granite Falls received notice of from PUD of its intent to adjust the wholesale water rate to be paid by the City of Granite Falls to PUD from \$1.064 per 100 cubic feet to \$1.14 per 100 cubic feet; and

**WHEREAS**, the revised increased rate became effective January 1, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 35.92.010 specifically provides that no rate shall be charged that is less than the cost of the water and service to the class of customers served; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Granite Falls has surveyed the rates and charges of its neighboring municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Granite Falls desires to adjust its fees and charges for water users and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1: Conflicts.** Ordinance Nos. 65, 181, 239, 287, 342, 356, 382, 417, 418, 432, 459, 555, 698 and 766-08 are hereby amended, as the same refer to rates changes for water service, and all ordinances or part of ordinances of the City of Granite Falls in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 2:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 2 and Ordinance No. 693-04 Sections 1-3, and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.242 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.242**     **Classification Rates, Charges, and Rules for Water Services.** The classification, rates, and charges for the water service and the rules governing such service are fixed as follows:

A. Residential Unit. A residential unit consists of any residential unit, whether a separate structure such as a separate single family unit, or part of a duplex, triplex, apartment or motel. A residential unit shall have at least one room and cooking and washing facilities (with sink and bathroom facilities for the exclusive use of occupants of such unit). A residential unit shall incur water charges based upon the meter size as shown in Section 4 herein.

B. Multi-Residential. A multi-residential unit is a collection of residential units joined with common walls, floors or ceilings such as a duplex, triplex, apartments or motel. Multi-residential units may be served by one or multiple meters. A multi-residential unit shall incur water charges based upon the meter size as shown in Section 4 herein.

C: Equivalent Residential Unit – An Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is the amount of water consumed by a separate single family residential unit. The Granite Falls Water System Plan (2005) estimated the use by single family residential units to be 800 cubic feet per month.

D. Schools. Schools shall incur water charges based upon the meter size as shown in Section 4 herein.

E. Commercial, including churches and nonprofit public facilities. A commercial unit consists of any public or private premises not heretofore defined. Commercial units shall incur water charges based upon the meter size as shown in Section 4 herein.

F. Additional Units. This subsection shall relate to establishing an additional unit in an existing commercial building if it meets the following requirements:

- (1) will be used for commercial use only;
- (2) does not require a change in water meter size;
- (3) does not require an additional bathroom facility; and
- (4) requires only minimal water usage/water consumption for bathroom facility.

Upon meeting the requirements of this subsection, a billing service fee of \$1,000 shall be charged for creation of the additional commercial unit. A second unit of water and sewer shall be added to the existing account and billed monthly. Money collected for the tenant improvement unit fee shall be deposited into the utility funds, of which ninety percent will be receipted to the sewer fund and ten percent shall be receipted to the water fund. Upon increase of tap fees for water or sewer, the billing service fee, as set by this subsection, shall be increased by the same percentage.

In the event any other ordinance of the City of Granite Falls shall conflict with the application of this subsection, this subsection shall control.

**Section 3:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 3 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.244 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.244 Basic Rate Defined.** The basic rate shall be a minimum monthly charge schedule and the monthly rate schedule based on consumption (if applicable) as set forth in GFMC 13.16.246.

**Section 4:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 4 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.246 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.246 Basic Rates and Charges.** Basic rates and charges will consist of a base charge, and a commodity charge. The base charge includes water usage as shown below. A commodity charge, for water usage greater than that included in the base charge will be part of the total water bill. The rates and charges are established as set forth herein:

A. Metered Water Users. The following rates will apply to all metered water users:

\$24.50 per month for ¾-inch, (or smaller) service meter for first unit, includes 600 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$31.00 per month for ¾-inch service meter for out-of-town customers for first unit, includes 600 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit

\$32.27 per month for 1-inch service meter for the first unit, includes 1100 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$61.50 per month for 1½-inch service meter for the first unit, includes 3500 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$115.50 per month for 2-inch service meter for the first unit, includes 6,500 cubic feet of water use, \$2.27 per cubic 100 foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$181.50 per month for 2½-inch service meter for the first unit, includes 10,750 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$247.50 per month for 3-inch service meter for the first unit, includes 15,000 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$294.20 per month for 3½-inch service meter for the first unit, includes 10,750 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$340.70 per month for 4-inch service meters and larger for the first unit, includes 15,000 cubic feet of water use; \$2.27 per 100 cubic foot excess; plus \$15.90 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

B. Non-Metered Water Users. The following rates will apply to all non-metered water users.

\$29.00 per month per unit for a ¾-inch or less service line.

Non-metered water users with service lines larger than ¾" will be charged \$29.00 per month multiplied by the AWWA meter equivalencies as shown in Appendix A.

**Section 5:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 5 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.248 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.248 Billing Charges.** All charges for water service shall be billed to the property owners, rather than the tenant, for collection, or to the property owner in care of the tenant; provided, however, the owner shall be the responsible party for outstanding water service charges.

**Section 6:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 6 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.250 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.250 Delinquency Charges.** If a water bill is unpaid for 30 days, it shall be considered delinquent and water service may be terminated after proper prior notice and opportunity given for informal hearing prior to termination. To turn on water service which has been disconnected for failure to pay, payment must be made in full or payment arrangements agreed upon, and a turn-on fee of \$75 will be assessed.

**Section 7:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 7 is hereby amended and Section 13.16.251, Accrued Interest, is added to Chapter 13.16 Granite Falls Municipal Code to read as follows:

**13.16.251 Accrued Interest.** Water utility accounts with unpaid balances past 30 days shall accrue interest at the rate of 12% per annum.

**Section 8:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 8 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.252 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.252 Vacant Unit Credit.** A vacant credit shall not be allowable. If the owner of said vacant unit wishes to be disconnected, it shall be his/her responsibility to contact the City of

Granite Falls to have said water service disconnected. If, at a future date, the owner wishes to resume water service, said water shall be reconnected for the normal fee of \$100.00.

**Section 9:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 9 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.254 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.254 Connection and Tap-in Charges.** In addition to the foregoing rates and charges, the City of Granite Falls shall charge, prior to the issuance of a building permit, General Facilities Charge (Tap Fees) that are established in a separate Capital Improvement Fund/Water.

A. In addition, all labor and material costs incurred by the city installing water lines to the new service shall be paid by the property owner.

B. Exemption to the collection of tap fees as established in:

1. Ordinance No. 629-00, installation of water line for fire suppression.
2. Ordinance No. 693-04, tenant improvement ordinance, commercial

building.

All tap fees shall be deposited in to the Capital Improvement Fund/Water. All material and labor cost for running the new water service shall be deposited in to the water fund.

The above charges are to make a service connection from the utility main to the customer property line.

A water unit which has previously been connected to the City Water System, but has not been connected or paying water charges continuously during the five (5) years preceding application for connection, will be deemed to be a new water connection and shall pay the current tap fee charge.

An application for water connection, available in the office of the City Clerk, shall be completed and tap fees paid in full at the time of issuance of a building permit. Application for out-of-town water service will be reviewed and approved by the City Council. All water services shall comply with the adopted Public Works Standards of the City of Granite Falls.

All water connections shall be approved by the Public Works Supervisor of the City of Granite Falls, or his/her designee, prior to connection. A fine of \$1,080.00 will be assessed and the water turned off for any unauthorized hook-ups to the Granite Falls Water System.

**Section 10:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 10 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.256 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.256 Meters.** Installation of meters shall be required as follows:

A. All new construction or additional units shall require a meter as adopted under Ordinance No. 342.

B. The Public Works Supervisor of the City of Granite Falls, or his/her designee, shall determine the size and the make of the meter that is needed. The cost of the meter shall be paid by the owner of the property.

C. A separate water line for fire suppression may be installed to the property. Installation of a check valve with meter will be required. All costs for materials and labor will be borne by the owner of the property. A tap fee or monthly service fee will not be charged for a separate water line that only services the fire suppression system. If any water usage occurs through this system, the property owner will be charged the per-100-cubic-foot rate as stated in this chapter.

**Section 11:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 766-08 § 11 and Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.16.258 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.16.258 Low-Income Senior Citizens or Disabled Persons Discount.** For senior citizens with low income or for disabled persons hereinafter defined, the single-family residential unit charge shall be as established for water services at thirty percent less than the current water rates set forth in GFMC 13.16.246.

A. The rate established of seniors is restricted to single-family residences primarily occupied by a senior citizen or senior citizens being 62 years of age or older and having an annual income below fifty percent of the median level as determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton area. Discount rate is restricted to minimum residential meter size.

B. To qualify as a disabled person, the disability is defined as the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death, or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. To qualify for the disabled discount, said rate is restricted to single-family residences primarily occupied by a disabled person. The discount rates provided for herein are available only upon application, which is required to be updated annually by the customer.

**Section 12: Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2009.

Said Ordinance was passed in open session by the City Council for the City of Granite Falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2009, and signed in authentication for its passage this 20<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2009.

  
LYLE ROMACK, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Darla Reese

DARLA REESE, City Clerk

G. G. Schreyer

G. G. Schreyer, City Attorney  
Granite Falls

DATE OF FIRST AND FINAL READING:

05/20/09

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

05/23/09

EFFECTIVE DATE:

05/28/09

COPY TO CPC:

05/21/09

## Appendix A

### AWWA Meter Equivalencies

Meter Size	Equivalency
5/8 X 3/4	1
1	2.5
1.5	5
2	8
3	16
4	25