

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

ORDINANCE NO. 766-08

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, REPEALING
ORDINANCE NO. 729-06 AND AMENDING 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, on February 19, 2008, 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; and

WHEREAS, the revised increased rate became effective August 1, 2008; 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 basic rates for metered water users and other fees and charges;

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

Section 1: Repealer. Ordinance Nos. 65, 181, 239, 287, 342, 356, 382, 417, 418, 432, 459, 555 and 698 are hereby amended, as the same refer to rates changes for water service, and Ordinance No. 729-06 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2: 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. **Single-Residence Unit.** A single-residence unit consists of any residential unit, whether a separate structure, part of a duplex, triplex, apartment or motel, such residential unit having at least one room and cooking facilities (with sink and bathroom facilities for the exclusive use of occupants of such unit). Each single residential unit shall be charged one basic rate, as hereinafter defined.

- B. Multi-Residential. Multi-Residential accounts shall be charged the basic rate for the meter size for the first unit, and for each additional unit a unit rate shall be charged as hereinafter defined.
- C. Schools. The number of units for each service connection shall be determined on the meter size.
- D. Commercial, including churches and nonprofit public facilities. A commercial unit consists of any public or private premises not heretofore defined and as hereinafter further defined. The number of units for each service connection shall be determined as follows: Divide the minimum cubic feet consumption (based on the size of service meter as defined in Section 4(A)), by the residential equivalent of 600 cubic feet. Each service connection shall be charge a basic rate, as hereinafter defined, or as negotiated with the City of Granite Falls.

Section 3: 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 Section 4 of this Ordinance.

Section 4: Basic Rates and Charges. Basic rates and charges shall be as follows;

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

\$24.50 per month for ¾-inch service meter for first unit, minimum of 600 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$13.30 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, minimum of 600 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$13.30 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit

\$32.25 per month for 1-inch service meter for the first unit of 1100 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$13.30 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unite.

\$61.50 per month for 1½-inch service meter for the first unit, minimum of 3500 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$13.30 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, minimum of 6500 cubic feet, \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$13.30 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, minimum of 10,750 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$15.30 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, minimum of 15,000 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$15.30 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$294.20 per month for 3 1/2-inch service meter for the first unit, minimum of 15,000 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$15.30 with an additional 400 cubic feet of consumption allowed for each additional unit.

\$340.70 per month for 4-inch service meter for the first unit, minimum of 15,000 cubic feet; \$1.90 per 100 foot excess; plus \$15.30 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.

\$28.50 per month for ¾-inch or less service line for the first unit; plus \$25.50 for each additional unit.

Section 5: 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: Delinquency Charges. If a water bill is unpaid for 90 days, it shall be considered delinquent and water service may be terminated after proper prior notice and opportunity for informal hearing prior to termination. To turn on water service which has been disconnected for failure to pay, a \$50 deposit, which will be returned to the customer at the closing of service, shall be assessed along with payment in full and a delinquency charge of \$75.00.

Section 7: Late Charges. A late charge of 12% per annum will be assessed to utility accounts with balance past 30 days.

Section 8: 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: 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, 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. The Water Superintendent of the City of Granite Falls, or his/her designee, shall determine the size of the service line needed for all new connections.

All water connections shall be approved by the Water Superintendent or his /her designee of the City of Granite Falls prior to covering. 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: 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 Water Superintendent 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.

Section 11: Reduced Water Rates for Low Income, Disabled and/or Senior Citizens. Owner of single family residence who have or would qualify for the senior citizen real estate property tax exemption under state law shall present proof thereof to the City of Granite Falls City Clerk/Treasurer and shall qualify and be entitled to a reduction in water rates as set forth in Section 4, in the amount of \$10.00 per month from the applicable rates. The qualifying customer shall be charged \$1.70 for every 100 cubic foot over the month consumption base of 400 cubic feet.

Section 12: Conflicts. All ordinances or part of ordinances of the City of Granite Falls in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 13: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective on the 1st day of August, 2008.

Said Ordinance was passed in open session by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls on the 2 day of July, 2008, and signed in authentication of its passage this 2 day of July, 2008.


LYLE ROMACK, Mayor

ATTEST:

LOTTA HINES, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James Zachor, Jr., City Attorney

DATE OF FIRST AND FINAL READING: 2 July, 2008
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 9 July 2008
EFFECTIVE DATE: 14 July 2008