

ORDINANCE NO. 4465

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITY AND CHARGES FOR WATER METER, METER INTERFACE UNIT (MIU), AND WIRE DAMAGES, AND PROHIBITING THE INTENTIONAL FILLING OF METER PITS WITH DIRT, DEBRIS, OR TRASH WITHIN THE CITY OF GREAT BEND, KANSAS;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GREAT BEND, KANSAS THAT:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish clear responsibility for damage to City-owned water meters, Meter Interface Units (MIUs), and associated wiring, and to prohibit actions that cause damage or obstruction to water meter pits. This ordinance ensures proper maintenance, protection, and cost recovery for City water system equipment.

SECTION 2. The following Section **13.10.005** is hereby added to the Great Bend Code:

“13.10.005. – Definitions.

The following words and phrases, whenever used in this Chapter, shall be construed as defined in this section:

Meter — A City-owned water meter used to measure the volume of water delivered to a customer.

Meter Interface Unit (MIU) — The electronic device attached to the meter for transmitting meter readings to the City’s automated reading system.

Meter Wiring — The communication wire or cable connecting the meter and MIU or other components of the City’s water metering system.

Meter Pit — The below-ground structure or enclosure that houses the City’s meter and related equipment.

Customer — The property owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the property receiving water service from the City.

Damage — Any harm, breakage, tampering, obstruction, or destruction caused by negligence, misuse, vandalism, or other actions not resulting from normal wear or system failure.”

SECTION 3. Section **13.10.010** of the Great Bend Code is hereby amended to read:

“13.10.010. – Ownership; reading; responsibility to protect.

(a) All water meters, MIUs, meter wiring, meter pits and associated equipment installed by the City of Great Bend shall remain the property of the City.

(b) Customers shall be responsible for protecting the meter, MIUs, meter wiring, meter pits and associated equipment from any damage, including but not limited to tampering, impact, or misuse.

(c) When a meter, MIU, meter wiring, meter pit or associated equipment is found to be damaged due to causes other than normal wear or a defect in materials, the cost of repair or replacement shall be billed to and paid by the customer as part of the next regular bill. *Provided that*, if it is established by a preponderance of the evidence that another person or entity caused the damage without the approval or acquiescence of the customer, the city may seek reimbursement from the responsible person or entity for the cost of repair or replacement.

(d) Costs shall include parts, labor, and any associated administrative or inspection fees as established by the City's utility fee schedule.

(e) Failure to reimburse the City for such costs may result in disconnection of service until payment is made in full.”

(f) Only City-authorized personnel shall perform repair or reconnection of meters, MIUs, meter wiring, meter pits or associated equipment.

SECTION 4. The following Section 13.10.015 is hereby added to the Great Bend Code:

“Sec. 13.10.015. – Prohibition on filling meter pits.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally fill, cover, or obstruct a water meter pit with water, dirt, gravel, debris, trash, or any other material that interferes with access, maintenance, or operation of the meter.

(b) Customers shall keep meter pits accessible and free from obstruction at all times.

(c) If a meter pit is found to be intentionally filled or obstructed, the customer shall be billed for the cost of cleaning, excavation, and any related repairs or replacements required to restore the pit to proper condition as part of the next regular bill. *Provided that*, if it is established by a preponderance of the evidence that another person or entity caused the pit to be filled or obstructed without the approval or acquiescence of the customer, the city may seek reimbursement from the responsible person or entity for the cost of cleaning, excavation, and any related repairs or replacements required to restore the pit to proper condition.

(d) Repeated or willful violations of this section may be subject to additional service fees or penalties as established by City policy.

(e) The City may discontinue water service until such obstruction is removed and all related charges have been paid in full.

SECTION 5. Section 13.10.020 of the Great Bend Code is hereby amended to read:

“Sec. 13.10.020. - Installation of water service; charges.

- (a) *Installation from main line to meter.* The city shall install the water meter and necessary lines from the water meter to the main line. The point of delivery at which water is furnished to customer will be at the city's meter on the customer's premises unless the point of delivery is otherwise defined by agreement between the city and the customer.
- (b) *Installation from meter to structure.* The customer shall be responsible for installation and maintenance of all water lines required for distribution of the water from the meter to the structure.”

SECTION 6. Section **13.10.040** of the Great Bend Code is hereby amended to read:

“Sec. 13.10.040. - Billing of metered rates.

- (a) *Monthly billing.* The city clerk shall bill the customers of metered water within the city on the basis of the amount of water consumed for the previous month. Such bills shall be due and payable within 28 days of the date the bill was mailed by the clerk. The due date shall be reflected on the bill.
- (b) *Delinquencies.* Bills for metered service shall become delinquent on the 29th day after they are mailed. When delinquent, a penalty charge of five percent of the monthly bill shall be charged and the city clerk shall send notice to the delinquent customer stating the intended termination of water service and information on procedures for contesting the termination. If the delinquent bill is not paid after ten days of the delinquent notice, the city clerk shall notify the utilities department of the delinquency and the utilities department shall discontinue water service to the delinquent customer. At the time the account becomes 60 days delinquent, it will be turned over for collection. The customer shall be responsible for any and all collection costs, including collection agency costs, court fees and attorney's fees.
- (c) *Reconnection fee.* Prior to reconnection of water service following termination for nonpayment, all owing water, sewer, penalty charges and other fees shall be paid in addition to the appropriate reconnection fee.

SECTION 7. Section **13.10.050** of the Great Bend Code is amended to read:

“Sec. 13.10.050. - Commercial fire protection service.

- (a) *Availability.* Commercial fire protection shall be available to any customer who is located adjacent to the water distribution system and where capacity is sufficient for fire protection service. Any water service rendered to the customer at the same premises for service other than fire protection shall be billed on the applicable water rate schedule.

(b) *Extension charge.* Where a major extension or increase in capacity of the city's distribution system is necessary to supply adequate fire protection, the customer will agree to pay for such fire protection at 30 percent of the cost of such extension per year, plus any rates set out hereafter.

(c) *Rates.* In addition to all other rates, the customer shall be charged for commercial fire protection any rates set out in the master fee schedule established in accordance with section 3.00.010.

(d) *Billing.* One-twelfth of the annual charge under this section shall be charged to the customer each 30 days after service is connected.

(e) *Service connection.* The customer will provide all materials and labor necessary to make the connection to the city's distribution system.

(f) *Payments due, delinquencies, etc.* Payments shall become due and all additional charges, delinquencies, disconnection procedures and disconnection fees shall apply."

SECTION 8. Section **13.10.080** of the Great Bend Code is amended to read:

"Sec. 13.10.080. - Additional charges.

In addition to all other charges for water service as provided in sections 13.10.030 and 13.10.050, there shall be added five percent of such total charge to the monthly bill."

SECTION 9. existing sections 13.10.010, 13.10.020, 13.10.040, 13.10.050, 13.10.080 of the Great Bend Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 10. The City Clerk is directed to publish this ordinance once in the official city newspaper.

SECTON 11. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Governing Body of the City of Great Bend, Kansas, this 19th day of January 2026.



Alan Moeder
Alan Moeder, Mayor