

## Summary of Water Ordinance Revisions

Topic	Ref	Current Policy under Ordinance 2020-02	Proposed Change under new Ordinance 2024-03
Definition of “delinquent” account	Sec 6-1	Account unpaid 90 days after billing date	Account unpaid 50 days after due date
Separate water meter requirement for each lot of record	Sec 6-5 (b)(1)(a)	Deadline for compliance – January 1, 2030	Deadline for compliance – January 1, 2040
Meter reading frequency	Sec 6-6 (a)	City shall read each meter either quarterly or monthly	City shall ready each meter on a schedule as approved by the Mayor and Council
Penalty for failure to provide meter access	Sec 6-6 (c)	Failure to provide access to the meter once a year results in \$200 penalty	Failure to provide access to the meter with 90 days of written notice results in \$200 penalty (current draft says 180 days)
Leak adjustment frequency	Sec 6-7	Once every 10 years	Once every 4 years (*based on change to monthly billing)
Leak adjustment average consumption	Sec 6-7	Determine the average consumption of most recent 12 months that reflect normal usage	Clarification added if a property has been owned for less than 12 months, annual consumption will be the greater of 38,000 gallons or actual metered consumption during the period of ownership
Additional leak adjustments for multi-tenant commercial properties or multi-family units	Sec 6-7	Mayor and Council may grant additional leak adjustments within a 10-year period	City Administrator may grant one additional leak adjustment within a 4-year period. Mayor and Council may approve additional leak adjustments on a case by case basis.
Tampering	Sec 6-8	City may terminate water service and require payment of double the volumetric charge for the billing period following the date the tampering occurred as well as costs of repairing or replacing the curbstop	City may terminate water service
Discontinuance of water service – Delinquent accounts defined	Sec 6-9 (a) (See also 6-1)	Accounts unpaid 90 days after the bill date are subject to shutoff	Accounts unpaid 50 days after the due date are subject to shutoff

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Discontinuance of water service - Notification	Sec 6-9 (a)	Requires two letters for notification prior to water shut-off (certified and regular mail)	No special letter required
Discontinuance of water service - Penalty	Sec 6-9 (a)	Penalty is added to each delinquent account at the time shut-off notification letters are sent (10% of total balance but not less than \$20)	Shutoff penalty is added to the delinquent account when the Water Department is notified to turn off water service
Discontinuance of water service - Appeals	Sec 6-9 (b) and (d)	Commissioner may approve payment plans	Director of Finance or their designee may approve payment plans
Interest on unpaid balances after due date	Sec 6-9 (c)	Interest accrues if a utility account is not paid by its due date	Interest accrues if a utility account is not paid 25 days after the bill due date
Frostburg dwelling equivalent and surcharges	Sec 6-13 (c)(5)	FDE's shall be rounded up	FDE's shall be rounded up if the calculation of FDE's yields a decimal greater than .50