

Memo

To: Mayor Hall

From: Sanya Vitale

cc: City Council

Date: 07/11/23

Re: Proposed Lawn Meter Program Policy and Form

The City of Hartford offers lawn meters to customers wishing to receive credit on their sanitary sewer bills for water not being discharged to the sanitary sewer system because they are discharging it to their lawns, gardens or pools during the summer months.

The City does not have a policy that outlines the program, the fees, the process for connection, reporting meter reads, etc.

Recently customers have been requesting answers about the City's policy on the lawn meter program and I am unable to provide answers only recommendations from staff from years of practice.

I contacted multiple communities roughly the size of Hartford to seek input on lawn meters (also known as irrigation meters or sprinkler meters) to review their policies and ordinances. Many communities offer similar programs. Their pricing is much higher than Hartford's and most require a building or plumbing permit as well as plumbing inspection prior to use.

Currently the City is charging \$125. The meters cost \$80 each, we then purchase all of the attachments separately and connect them to the meters. This cost also includes a small amount for administrative fees associated with the Clerk's time to review meter readings, adjust sewer bills and work with customers on the program.

I recommend that the Council consider implementing a policy and agreement outlining:

- requirements for utilization of a City Lawn Meter
- costs associated with purchasing/renting a City Lawn Meter
- responsibilities associated with installing and maintaining a City Lawn Meter
- responsibilities associated with monthly metering reporting