

ARTICLE IX. NATURAL GAS UTILITY

Sec. 38-240. Natural gas ordinance.

- (a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this article is to insure the safe, reliable and efficient distribution of natural gas to the natural gas customers of the City.
- (b) *Application.*
 - (1) For projects to be constructed inside the City limits, the application shall cross reference the plats filed in the City Planning and Development Department.
 - (2) For projects to be constructed outside the City limits, the contractor or developer shall submit a final plat to the Gas Department showing the lot numbers and addresses of the lots in the subdivision.
 - (3) The Gas Department shall review the application, the plats, and approve the application. An approved City Official shall sign any contracts.
 - (4) Should the Gas Department refuse to approve an application, the contractor or developer may appeal to the City Council for review of the Department's decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the City Clerk within ten days of the Department's decision.

~~(5) A Large Volume Industrial Customer meets the minimum average annual usage threshold of 250 MCF/day, will receive interruptible service; and, if additional facilities are required to serve said Customer, the City may require the Customer to execute a Natural Gas Facilities Agreement and pay all related costs.~~

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- (c) *Rates.*
 - (1) *Base consumption rate.* The base consumption rate for natural gas charges to all customers shall be the actual cost of gas per unit paid by the City. The rate per unit is calculated by the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia and submitted to the City in the form of an invoice for all natural gas units consumed by the City natural gas system. The invoice of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia shall include all costs of transportation, regulatory fees and all charges for the units of natural gas consumed. The calculation shall be reduced to a unit measure of 1,000 cubic feet ("MCF").

~~(2) Surcharge. In addition to the cost calculated pursuant to subsection (1) above, an additional surcharge shall be charged to each customer for each MCF used. This surcharge is the cost charged by the City for providing the services from the point of delivery of the units to the city on the transportation system to the customers residential or commercial site for utilization. This rate is subject to modification after a public hearing before the City Council, which meeting shall be properly advertised for the purpose of notification of gas customers. The surcharge is effective on July 1 of each year and shall be:~~

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	2025	2026	2027
Residential and commercial	\$4.20	\$4.35	\$4.50
Large volume industrial customers	\$3.33	\$3.33	\$3.33

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	2025	2026	2027
Residential and commercial	\$4.20	\$4.35	\$4.50

- (3) *Base charge.* In addition to the costs in subsection (2) above an additional monthly base fee for residential [and] commercial customers will be charged per meter per month. The rates are as follows and shall be effective on July 1 of each year:

	2025	2026	2027
Residential	\$28.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Dual fuel additional charge	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Small commercial	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$38.00
Large commercial 1.5M	\$45.00	\$47.50	\$50.00
Large commercial 2.0M	\$50.00	\$55.00	\$60.00
Large commercial 3.0M	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$65.00
Large commercial 5.0M	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$85.00
Large commercial 7.0M	\$80.00	\$85.00	\$90.00
Large commercial 11.0M	\$100.00	\$105.00	\$110.00
Large commercial 16.0M	\$215.00	\$220.00	\$225.00
Large commercial 23.0M	\$250.00	\$260.00	\$275.00

(4) Special rates.

- a. The City Manager is authorized to enter into specific contracts with customers for gas rates that differ from subsections (1), (2) and (3) above in the event the customer can demonstrate that they utilize a large quantity of natural gas during off-season periods when demand is lower and the utilization of the natural gas assists the City in covering the cost of transportation. This special rate procedure shall only be authorized after a written agreement is submitted to the City Council for review and approval.

~~(4) Special rates.~~

- a. ~~The City Manager is authorized to enter into specific contracts with customers for gas rates that differ from subsections (1), (2) and (3) above in the event the customer can demonstrate that they utilize a large quantity of natural gas during off-season periods when demand is lower and the utilization of the natural gas assists the City in covering the cost of transportation. In addition, the City Manager shall be authorized to enter into contracts with large volume customers at preferred rates. This special rate procedure shall only be authorized after a written agreement is submitted to the City Council for review and approval.~~
- b. ~~As of the adoption of this article, the City has a special rate for Publix Distribution Center facility, Ricoh and the Gwinnett County Hospital System. Contracts with these three specialized users are hereby approved consistent with the contracts that have already been reviewed by the City Council. Specialized contracts for specialized rates must be reduced to writing and be available for review at the City Clerk's Office.~~

- (5) *Permit fee.* If the Gas Department approves the application, it shall notify the contractor or developer in writing. The Gas Department shall also assess a permit fee based on the number of linear feet of

pipe needed for construction of the pipeline. The Gas Department shall set and publish permitting fees based on linear feet of pipe and shall be the exclusive agent for installing and supplying pipe. Upon payment of the permitting fee, the City shall install the pipe and connect it to the City's system. This permit fee may be waived by the Department Director of the Gas Department provided the contractor or developer installs sufficient natural gas appliances to qualify for the City's Marketing Program.

- (6) *Inspection.* The City Gas Department is authorized to inspect and access all gas lines and meters at any time.
- (7) *Minimum monthly charge.* The minimum monthly charge will be the Base Service Charge.
- (8) *Senior discount.* Persons aged 65 years of age or older may request a discount. To qualify for the discount the customer must:
 - a. Have a total household income at or below 150 percent of the current year's federal poverty guidelines.
 - b. Have a residential City gas account for a primary residence in the customer's name.
 - c. Have gas service from a single meter that is installed for individual use.
 - d. Complete a senior/low-income discount application form.

- (d) *Terms of payment.* If the account is not paid by the due date, a late fee in the amount specified in this Code will be added to the account. Further failure to pay a bill will subject the customer to disconnection and/or disconnection charges specified in this Code.

(Ord. No. 2025-6, § 4, 4-23-2025)