



City of Tualatin

CITY OF TUALATIN Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

FROM: Nic Westendorf, Management Analyst II
Jeff Fuchs, Public Works Director

DATE: July 13, 2020

SUBJECT:

Consideration of Ordinance No. 1441-20 updating Tualatin Municipal Code (TMC) Sections 3-3-060 Temporary Water Service and TMC 3-3-070 Hydrant Service.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend approval of Ordinance No.1441-20.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City provides temporary water services and hydrant services for business or construction use, such as dust control, earthwork, mobile businesses such as power washing, temporary service to construction trailers, and similar non-permanent uses. Temporary water service can be provided with in-ground connections or portable water meters connected to fire hydrants. Hydrant Service is for water sold in large quantities for construction or related uses that is accessed through a temporary water meter attached to a fire hydrant.

The current code limits temporary and hydrant services to construction uses only. In the past we have sold water for non-allowed uses such as mobile businesses and irrigation. The new code will allow for other uses besides construction.

Historically the City also allowed self-reporting usage cards, known as blue cards. While the usage cards have been popular, they have been difficult to manage. Unfortunately, self-reporting often resulted in under-reporting, inappropriate uses, and difficult enforcement. The new code eliminates this option and helps improve accurate accounting of water sales for temporary uses.

The proposed changes to TMC Sections 3-3-060 Temporary Water Service and TMC 3-3-070 Hydrant Service will address deficiencies in the code, provide water for more temporary uses, be easier to enforce, ensure all users pay a fair share for the services they receive, and protect the public water system.

Expand Access to Hydrant Meters

The proposed code update will allow temporary water to be used for more than just construction. It will also allow the City to sell water for temporary use outside the city limits.

Eliminate Usage Cards

The Blue Cards have been problematic because they operate on the honor system – contractors self-report how much water they use. This leaves room for under-reporting and human error and

often these cards are lost, resulting in an estimated use. The proposed code update eliminates the usage card option and requires all water sold in the City to be metered.

Require Backflow Protection

Staff recommends requiring backflow prevention devices on all temporary water services. Backflow protection prevents water from being pulled back into the water system to prevent cross contamination.

Create Fill Station at Tualatin Operations Center

In addition to hydrant meters and temporary service meters, the proposed code update will allow mobile businesses to fill water trucks and water tanks at the City Operations Center. This will ensure trucks are inspected for backflow prevention and that all water sold is metered.

Eliminate Small Hydrant Meters

The City currently offers two sizes of fire hydrant meters – ¾-inch and 3-inch. The smaller ¾-inch meters are rarely utilized and put unnecessary wear on the meters and fire hydrants. The proposed update eliminates the ¾-inch meter. If a smaller meter is required, a temporary service can be installed.

Deliver and Secure Fire Hydrant Meters

In the proposed update, City staff would deliver, install, and secure the fire hydrant meters at the approved hydrant. This will ensure meters are used only at the permitted job sites and allow for easier enforcement.

Temporary Services

Temporary water in-ground meters may be installed for temporary water needs such as construction trailers and similar non-permanent uses.

OUTCOMES OF DECISION:

Adoption of Ordinance 1441-20 will update the Tualatin Municipal Code (TMC) Sections 3-3-060 Temporary Water Service and TMC 3-3-070 Hydrant Service aligning current practice with the code. This will address deficiencies in the code, provide water for more temporary uses, be easier to enforce, ensure all users pay a fair share for the services they receive, and protect the public water system.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:

If Ordinance 1441-20 is not adopted staff will begin to implement the existing code language to the best of our ability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no notable financial impacts. Adopting the revised code may result in an increase of hydrant meters sold due to expanded permitted uses. While this will generate additional fee revenue, the impact will be minimal as the fees cover the cost of operating the program and the water system.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ordinance No. 1441-20