

## ORDINANCE

### **AMENDMENT TO ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE OF RULES AND FEES FOR UTILITY SERVICES FURNISHED TO CONSUMERS OF THE CITY OF TUPELO.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tupelo is authorized by the Section 21-27-23 Miss. Code Anno. (1972 as amended) to establish schedules of rules and fees for utility services furnished to consumers of the City of Tupelo Water & Light Department; and

**WHEREAS**, that based on appropriate studies and investigations, the Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service as set forth and attached in Exhibit "A"; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council met at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 2, 2021, to review and consider information compiled by the City of Tupelo Water and Light Department demonstrating the need for establishing updated Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service set forth above and attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council found and determined that the updated Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service, Appendix A: Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees was necessary, fair and reasonable; and

**WHEREAS**, the amended Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service, Appendix A: Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees set forth as attached below, shall be published in ordinance form as required by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE ORDAINED** by the City Council as follows:

Section 101. The Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service, Appendix A: Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is hereby fixed and established.

Section 102. The Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service, Appendix A: Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees as amended on Page 4 shall become effective March 2, 2021.

Section 103. All portions of the Service Practice Standards: Schedule of Rules, Regulations and Fees for Utility Service other than Appendix A: Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees shall remain the same.

Section 104. Appendix A: Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees of the City of Tupelo Water and Light Department shall be amended and set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

The effective date of this amendatory ordinance shall be March 2, 2021. The remainder of the ordinance is hereby ratified and remains in full force and effect. The Clerk of the Council is hereby directed to cause a copy of this amendatory ordinance to be published one time in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

The foregoing Ordinance was proposed in a motion by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, and, after discussion, no Council Member having called for a reading, was brought to a vote as follows:

Council Member Markel Whittington	_____
Council Member Lynn Bryan	_____
Council Member Travis Beard	_____
Council Member Nettie Davis	_____
Council Member Buddy Palmer	_____
Council Member Mike Bryan	_____
Council Member Willie Jennings	_____

Whereupon, the motion having received a majority of affirmative votes, the President of the Council declared that the Ordinance has been passed and adopted on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2021.

CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Missy Shelton, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Shelton, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Hanna, City Clerk

## CITY OF TUPELO WATER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT

### SERVICE PRACTICE STANDARDS

#### SCHEDULE OF RULES, REGULATIONS AND FEES FOR UTILITY SERVICE

Collections & Billing Office, 333 Court Street, Tupelo, MS 38804  
Tel. 662-841-6470, Fax 662-841-6471

Operations Office, 320 N. Front Street, Tupelo, MS 38804  
Tel. 662-841-6460, Fax 662-841-6401

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1. **APPLICATION FOR SERVICE**: Each prospective customer desiring service will be required to complete and sign a Tupelo Water & Light standard form of application for service or contract before service is supplied. **Residential utility services can be in only (1) name.** Prospective customers are required to provide two (2) forms of identification including at least one (1) picture identification and a copy of lease agreement, rent receipt or deed. In the event more than one person signed a housing lease agreement, valid ID's must be presented on all persons whose name is listed on the lease to secure utility services.

Acceptable forms of ID are a social security card, driver's license, voter registration card, passport, green card, Federal ITIN card or other state issued ID.

Applicants with an old debt with Tupelo Water & Light Department will be required to pay all old debts in full prior to receiving utilities at a new service address.

The applicant must agree to pay for service as measured by the City's meter according to applicable rates. Rates, charges and fees are made available to all customers via Tupelo Water & Light Department's website at [www.tupeloms.gov](http://www.tupeloms.gov) and at the Tupelo Water & Light Department Collections & Billing Office at 333 Court Street. Legal notice is given to all customers via Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal of any rate change initiated by Tupelo Water & Light Department.

The applicant agrees to permit authorized agents of the City free access to the premises of the consumer for the purpose of inspecting, reading, repairing or removing property of the City.

The City shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation before water and/or electric service is introduced, or at any time thereafter and reserves the right to reject any wiring or appliances not in accordance with City's standards. The inspection or failure to inspect or reject shall not be regarded as an insurance against defects in installation, wiring or appliances and shall not render City liable or responsible for any loss or damage, resulting from defects in the installation, wiring or appliances, or from violation of the City's rules and regulations or from accidents which may occur upon consumer's premises.

The applicant agrees that this application is subject to the City's Rules and Regulations, a copy of which is available for inspection at the office of the City, and that these Rules and Regulations are a part of this agreement. In the case of default of payment applicant agrees to pay any legal interest due, together with any collection agency costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred to effort collection on this account and any subsequent location.

2. **DEPOSIT:** Each customer is required to pay a meter deposit for each service. Tupelo Water & Light Department credits interest on deposits annually at the bank's Passbook Interest Rate to the customer's account. Upon termination of service, deposits are applied to customer's accounts against unpaid bills of customer, and if any balance remains after such application is made, the balance shall be refunded to customer. If a customer is transferring utility service to a different address, an additional deposit may be required to update the customer deposit on account to current deposit amounts. Past payment history will be taken into account. If a customer has an excellent pay record (meaning customer has received no late notices and/or penalties or service charges for nonpayment and has always paid on time), then no additional deposits will be required. If a customer has a poor/delinquent pay history (meaning customers that have received late notice fees and/or penalties or service charges for nonpayment), then additional deposits may be required to update to current deposit amounts.

The residential deposit rate is based upon the customer's credit rating as follows:

<u>Credit Score</u>	<u>Rating</u>
700-850	Excellent
650-699	Good
Less than 650	Fair/Poor

**See Appendix A (Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees)**

For general power customers (commercial and industrial), the deposit shall be two (2) times the average usage for all commercial and industrial accounts. The minimum water deposit for commercial and industrial accounts will be \$150.00. In no event will the deposit required exceed twice the highest estimated monthly bill for the rate classification. Commercial and Industrial customers will have the option of paying a cash deposit, posting a Utility Surety Bond, Letter of Credit from local bank, or filing a Certificate of Deposit with Tupelo Water & Light Department. All Certificates of Deposit must have the business name and Tupelo Water & Light Department on the face of the certificate. Tupelo Water & Light Collections and Billing Department will be the custodian of all Utility Surety Bonds, letters of credit and Certificates of Deposit.

Upon written request by the customer or at the discretion of Tupelo Water & Light, the deposit requirement may be re-evaluated based on the most recent electricity usage.

After the deposit is paid in full, interest will accrue annually on a deposit greater than one month's average bill held longer than twelve months at the passbook interest rate earned by Tupelo Water & Light Department. The deposit accrued interest will be credited to the customer's bills every year of the utility service on a yearly basis. The deposit balance and accrued interest is subject to review by all customers of Tupelo Water & Light Department upon request.

3. **POINT OF DELIVERY**: The point of delivery for electricity is the point, as designated by Tupelo Water & Light Department, on the customer's premises where current is to be delivered to building or premises. All wiring and equipment beyond this point of delivery shall be maintained by the customer. The point of delivery for water service shall be the customer side of the water meter. The point of service delivery for sewer shall be the sewer tap on the city sewer main.

4. **CUSTOMER'S WIRING STANDARDS**: All of the customer's wiring must conform to municipal requirements and accepted modern standards, including the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code, the National Electric Code, and the City Electric Code.

5. **INSPECTIONS**: The Tupelo Water & Light Department shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation before electricity is introduced, or at any later time, and reserves the right to reject any wiring of appliances not in accordance with the Tupelo Water & Light Department's standards, but such inspection or failure to inspect or reject shall not render the City of Tupelo liable or responsible for any loss or damage resulting from defects in the installation, wiring, or appliances, or from violation of Tupelo Water & Light Department's rules, or from accidents which may occur upon customer's premises.

6. **UNDERGROUND SERVICE LINES**: Customers desiring underground electric service lines from Tupelo Water & Light Department's overhead power service system must bear the expense thereof. Specifications and terms for such construction will be furnished by the Tupelo Water & Light Department.

7. **CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT'S PROPERTY**: All meters, service connections and other equipment furnished by Tupelo Water & Light Department shall be, and remain, the property of Tupelo Water & Light Department on its premises. In the event of loss or damage to Tupelo Water & Light Department's property, arising from neglect of customer to care for same, the cost of necessary repairs or replacements shall be paid by customer.

8. **RIGHT OF ACCESS**: The Tupelo Water & Light Department's identified employee shall have access to customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, testing, repairing, removing or exchanging any or all equipment belonging to Tupelo Water & Light Department.

9. **BILLING**: Utility bills will be rendered monthly and shall be paid within fifteen (15) days from the date of bill for residential customers, and within ten (10) days for general power (commercial and industrial) customers at the Tupelo Water & Light Department Collection Office located at 333 Court Street, Tupelo, Mississippi. Failure to receive a bill will not release Customer from payment obligation. If the bill is not paid on time, the Tupelo Water & Light Department may at any time thereafter discontinue service. Bills paid on or before the final date of payment shall be payable at the net rates, which is the gross less late penalty (general power accounts only) but thereafter the gross rates shall apply, as provided in SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES. Bills that are paid after the "Discount Date" on the billing statement provided shall be subject to an additional charge of 5%. The Tupelo Water & Light Department will post all payments on the same day they are received. All payments made after the due date on the bill will be assessed a

5% penalty. Should the final date for payment of the bill fall on a weekend or holiday, the next business day following the final date will be held as a day for grace for delivery of payment.

Customers will be provided monthly totals for electric and water consumption. Each monthly billing statement will provide customers with historical consumption comparisons to the prior month as well as the prior twelve (12) months.

10. **LATE NOTICE**: A late notice will be prepared on all Tupelo Water & Light service accounts that have not been paid by the due date on the bill. A four dollar (\$4.00) Late Notice Charge will be assessed to all accounts receiving a late notice. This notice will notify the customer of their disconnection date, which will be fifteen (15) days for residential customers and ten (10) days for general power (commercial and industrial) customers following the late notice date.

10B. **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**: Penalties and Fees can be adjusted by Tupelo Water & Light Department Billing and Collections Office Manager/Personnel, per City Ordinances. (Not part of the Public Utilities.)

11. **DISCONNECTION FOR NON-PAYMENT**: The disconnection date on all accounts shall be fifteen (15) days for residential customers and ten (10) days for general power customers following the date of the late notice. A late notice mailed to all customers with unpaid balances will notify customers of their disconnection date. A twenty five dollar (\$25.00) service charge will be assessed to all accounts disconnected for non-payment. If the past due amount is paid in full on the customer's account before our serviceman leaves the TW&L office, the twenty five dollar (\$25.00) service charge can be adjusted off the customer's account. However, if the service charge has been added to the unpaid account and the serviceman has left the TW&L office, the twenty five dollar (\$25.00) service charge is owed. On all accounts requiring a lineman & bucket truck to disconnect, a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) service charge will be assessed.

12. **DISCONTINUANCE OF UTILITY SERVICE**: Customers who desire to discontinue utility service are required to sign a disconnect form stating the date they desire the service to be discontinued and must give at least one (1) day notice to that effect. Customers are required to sign a service order or provide written notice by fax or email. The Tupelo Water & Light Department will not process a service order of any kind over the telephone.

13. **TERMINATION OF SERVICE**: The Tupelo Water & Light Department may discontinue service for the violation of any of its Schedule of Rules and Regulations or of the Schedule of Rates and Charges. The Tupelo Water & Light Department may also discontinue service to customer for the theft of services or the appearance of theft devices on the premises of customer, for safety or to be compliant with any State of Mississippi or City of Tupelo regulations that require disconnection for safety reasons. Any and all electrical and water services will be discontinued to customers with past due accounts except as provided in this rule. Payment in full (including late fee charges or service charges) will be required before service is restored. An additional deposit amount may also be required. The termination of service by Tupelo Water & Light Department for any reason stated in this rule does not release the customer from the obligation for any amount due to Tupelo Water & Light Department, including the payment of minimum bills as specified in contracts.

If payment is not received by the due date, Tupelo Water & Light Department may discontinue service fifteen (15) days after the due date for residential customers and ten (10) days after the due date for general power customers (commercial and industrial) after provision of a late notice by mail informing the customer of the electric service or the water service disconnection date and the available rights and remedies to dispute the bill with Tupelo Water & Light Department, including the address, 333 Court Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, and the Customer Service telephone number, 662-841-6470. No further notice will be provided before electrical or water service is disconnected.

Tupelo Water & Light Department evaluates weather conditions daily at [www.weathertap.com](http://www.weathertap.com) for the Tupelo service area. In the event the forecasted temperature is expected to exceed 96 degrees Fahrenheit (F) with a heat index greater than 100 degrees, or is expected to be below 30 degrees (F) on that day, Tupelo Water & Light Department will postpone the disconnection of service of residential customers due to non-payment. Where disconnection is postponed due to an extreme weather condition, the postponement will not extend beyond the extreme weather condition.

Upon Tupelo Water & Light Department's approval of the "Request for Medical Waiver" form, disconnection of service will be postponed for 30 days from the original due date to allow customer time to make payment or alternative shelter arrangements. The "Request for Medical Waiver" form must be completed by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner licensed to practice in the State of Mississippi, certifying that the disconnection of electric service would create a life-threatening medical situation for the customer or other permanent resident of the customer's household. It is the responsibility of the customer to ensure that the form has been approved by Tupelo Water & Light Department. A life threatening medical condition does not relieve a customer of the obligation to pay for electric service, including any late fees or service charges incurred or other applicable charges. Tupelo Water & Light Department will only grant this postponement for termination two (2) times in a twelve (12) month period. If full payment of the past due amount, including all late fees and service charges is not received by the end of the thirty (30) day postponement period, electric service will be disconnected without further notice.

Below is an example of the "Request for Medical Waiver Form" customers must file for a thirty (30) day postponement to terminate service.

**REQUEST FOR MEDICAL WAIVER**

**TUPELO WATER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Tupelo Water & Light allows for **postponement of shut off or temporary service restoration** for a medical emergency of not more than 30 days if the customer or a member of the customer's household has a certified medical emergency. A medical emergency exists if the customer/household member has a condition that will be aggravated by the lack of electrical service. A medical emergency is defined and certified by a Physician or Nurse Practitioner. Extensions for further periods of not more than 30 days are granted only if the customer provides additional physician or public health official certification. Tupelo Water & Light will only grant this postponement for termination two (2) times in a twelve (12) month period. Consecutive waivers are allowed but must be applied for by the customer.

**CUSTOMER CERTIFICATION: (To be completed by customer)**

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Household member(s) with Medical Emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Customer: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REMOVE THE OBLIGATION TO PAY FOR SERVICES RECEIVED OR TO BE RECEIVED FROM TUPELO WATER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT.**

**RELEASE: (to be completed by Resident requiring life-sustaining equipment or his/her legal guardian)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (circle one: resident/legal guardian) hereby grant my consent to the below-named licensed Physician to release to Tupelo Water & Light such information as noted below, plus any supplement information regarding critical medical equipment used at the residence.

Signature of Resident or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL VERIFICATION: (To be completed and signed by a licensed physician)**

**A phone number is required so we may contact you for potential clarification and/or verification.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a licensed physician, declare there is a medical emergency requiring electricity for the above named customer/household member.

Duration of Medical Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

(Maximum 30 days)

Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to:** Tupelo Water & Light      **OR** Fax To: 662-841-6471  
333 Court St  
Tupelo, MS 38804

14. **SERVICE CHARGES FOR TEMPORARY SERVICE:** Customers requiring water and electric service for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days may be required by Tupelo Water & Light Department to pay all costs for connection and disconnection incidental to the supplying and removing of service. This rule applies to circuses, carnivals, fairs, temporary construction and other temporary Customers. Active customers, who have a history of paying promptly with no violation of these rules and regulations who are in need of temporary service, and who have previously paid a service deposit, are not required to pay another deposit.

15. **INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE:** The Tupelo Water & Light Department will use reasonable diligence to provide a regular and uninterrupted supply of electricity and water. However, in case the supply of electricity or water should be interrupted, Tupelo Water & Light Department shall not be liable for any damages resulting from this interruption.

16. **VOLTAGE FLUCTUATION CAUSED BY CUSTOMER:** Electric service must not be used in such a manner as to cause unusual fluctuations or disturbances to the Department's system. Tupelo Water & Light Department requires each customer, at his own expense, to install suitable apparatus which will reasonably limit such fluctuations.

17. **ADDITIONAL LOAD:** The service connection, transformers, meters and equipment supplied by Tupelo Water & Light Department for each customer have definite capacity, and no addition to the equipment or load connected thereto will be allowed except by consent of Tupelo Water & Light Department. Failure to give notice of additions or changes in load, and to obtain consent for the same, shall render the customer liable for damage to any of Tupelo Water & Light Department's lines or equipment caused by the additional or changed installation.

18. **STANDBY AND RESALE SERVICE:** All purchased electric service (other than emergency or standby service) used on the premises of each customer shall be supplied exclusively by Tupelo Water & Light Department, and the customer shall not directly or indirectly, sell, sublet, assign, or otherwise dispose of, the electric service or any party thereof.

19. **NOTICE OF TROUBLE:** Customer shall notify Tupelo Water & Light Department immediately if the service is unsatisfactory for any reason, or should there be any defects, trouble or accidents affecting the supply of water or electricity. Such notices, if verbal, should be confirmed in writing.

20. **NON-STANDARD SERVICE:** The customer shall pay the cost of any special installation necessary to meet his or her particular requirements for service other than one standard voltage, or for the supply of closer voltage regulation than required by standard practice. The Tupelo Water

& Light Department may, at its discretion, provide and install the additional facilities on a fixed monthly rental basis in lieu of payment of cost by the customer.

21. **METER TESTS**: The Tupelo Water & Light Department will, at its own expense, make periodic tests and inspections of its meters in order to maintain a high standard of accuracy. The Tupelo Water & Light Department will make additional tests or inspections of its meters at the request of the customer. If such tests show that the meter is accurate within 2%, slow or fast, no adjustment will be made in the customer's bill and the testing charge of ten dollars (\$10.00) per meter shall be paid by the customer. In case the test shows meter to be in excess of 2% fast or slow, an adjustment shall be made in the customer's bill over a period of not over thirty (30) days prior to date of such tests, and the cost of the test shall be borne by the Tupelo Water & Light Department.

22. **FILING AND POSTING**: A copy of the RULES AND REGULATIONS, together with a copy of THE TUPELO WATER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT'S SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES, shall be kept open to inspection at the office of Tupelo Water & Light Department.

23. **INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS**: Upon request by the customer of record, Tupelo Water & Light Department will make available a customer's electrical and water consumption data for the prior twelve (12) month period.

24. **SCOPE**: The Schedule of Rules and Regulations is a part of all contracts for electrical and water service from Tupelo Water & Light Department and applies to all services received from Tupelo Water & Light Department, whether the service is based upon contract, agreement, signed application, or otherwise. A copy of this Schedule of Rules and Regulations together with a copy of Tupelo Water & Light Department Schedule of Rates and Charges, which was approved by the governing authority of the City of Tupelo, and shall be kept open to inspection at the office of Tupelo Water & Light Department Collections & Billing Office located at 333 Court Street, and found on our website – [www.tupeloms.gov](http://www.tupeloms.gov). Furthermore, the Tupelo Water & Light Department will provide information regarding rates, service practice policies, and guidelines to customers via the website – [www.tupeloms.gov](http://www.tupeloms.gov) and information, including brochures, will be available in our office. A customer will also receive such information upon application for electric and water services, and at any time upon request. All retail rate actions initiated by Tupelo Water & Light will be communicated to the public via our web-site – [www.tupeloms.gov](http://www.tupeloms.gov) and through advertisement in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

25. **REVISIONS**: These RULES AND REGULATIONS may be revised, amended, supplemented, or otherwise changed from time to time without specific notice to the customer. Such changes, when effective, shall be available at the Collection Office and shall have the same force as the present RULES AND REGULATIONS.

26. **CONFLICT**: In case of conflict between any provision of any rate schedule and these RULES AND REGULATIONS, the rate schedule shall apply.

27. **TAMPERING WITH METERS**: If Tupelo Water & Light Department finds that there is reasonable ground for believing that any meter or meters intended to measure or register the

quantity of water, electric light or power has been tampered with as to alter the measured usage or that any electric seal is broken, or communication device on an AMI water or electric meter is broken, cut or damaged, a minimum administrative fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) will be assessed the meter holder. The customer may be prosecuted in municipal court notwithstanding the administrative fee.

28. **ESTIMATING BILLS**: In the event that Tupelo Water & Light Department is unable to or prevented from reading a customer's meter(s), then the Tupelo Water & Light Department may charge an estimated bill based on previous usage, an average or other reasonable basis; provided, however, that the estimated bill does not relieve the customer from financial responsibility during the period. After the meters are read, the Tupelo Water & Light Department will notify the customer of any adjustment and amounts owed. These corrections or adjustments will be approved by the city council at the council meeting.

29. **CATASTROPHIC LEAK**: In the event of a catastrophic water leak on the customer's property (beyond the point of delivery), the customer will be responsible to pay for all water meter charges, but the customer may request, in writing or by telephone, an adjustment to sewer charges for the payment period covering the leak. The request must be accompanied by documentation of the leak and the repairs, such as repair bills or a report from the professional contractor or plumber effecting the repair. Upon receipt of the request and proper documentation, the Tupelo Water & Light Department will promptly review the request, the customer's payment history and compliance with these Rules and Regulations. If the customer was in compliance, not in arrears in payment prior to the leak, and promptly repaired the leak, the Tupelo Water & Light Department is authorized to adjust the customer's sewage charges for the period covering the leak to an average sewer billing based on the prior twelve (12) months, or shorter period if a new customer. A maximum of three (3) months billing adjustment is authorized. Tupelo Water & Light Department will not be obligated to make such adjustments if the customer has made more than one such request in a twenty four (24) month period or where the customer has persisted in failing to maintain the customer's water lines and system in good repair and working order. The leak adjustments must approved by the city council at the council meetings.

29B. **BILLING CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS**: Copies of all types of billing corrections or adjustments must be approved each month by the Tupelo City Council in accordance with the MS Attorney General Opinion 2017-00378. Types of adjustments made are as follows:

- Erroneous readings (over/under) which were made by human error
- Voids and rebills
- Services auto billed (situations where the system automatically voids the whole bill of each service and automatically rebills those services previously voided)
- Keying errors (which include wrong information entered for the meter data, such as the number of digits entered being one too few/many which causes the meter to flip)
- Adjustments to sewer for water leaks in accordance with the catastrophic leak policy
- Adjustments made due to electric or water meter malfunctions (i.e. dead meters)
- Estimations due to meters being unable to read or prevented from getting a reading (i.e. locked gates, aggressive dogs or something covering the meter)

All adjustments must have documentation should any questions arise. As an added measure of oversight, TVA regulatory analysts perform monitoring visits as well as compliance evaluations.

In addition, the CSA billing team randomly selects and tests adjustments each billing cycle to ensure adjustments are valid and customers are billed correctly. CSA will contact Tupelo Water and Light if they find an adjustment not entered correctly. Tupelo Water & Light Billing and Collections Office also has an internal system in place to check the daily adjustments report against the adjustment vouchers to ensure no improper adjustments have been made.

If an adjustment is deemed necessary on a customer account by the Tupelo Water and Light Department Billing and Collections Office, the adjustment can be applied. However, the customer will be made aware that this adjustment is pending until final approval is received from the Tupelo City Council. If approved, then the adjustment stands and no further documentation is necessary. If not approved, the adjustment will be removed and rebilled with the next billing cycle.

30. **DEAD METER**: In the event that an electric or water meter malfunctions and dies, Tupelo Water & Light shall set a new meter at the residence or business. The Water & Light Department shall take meter readings covering a period of twenty four (24) hours for the purpose of estimating an electric or water bill. The prior history of seasonal usage shall be taken under consideration with the twenty four (24) hour reading to determine the bill. In the event that no consistent pattern is established, a second twenty four (24) hour reading shall be taken to determine a bill.

31. **TRANSFER OF SERVICE**: All residential customers making application to transfer utility services to a new service address are required to pay their active account to a zero (\$0) balance before a new service address can be established for that customer. Customer deposits on transferred accounts must be updated to current deposit amounts. See Deposits.

32. **RESIDENTIAL LATE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS**: Residential customers only are allowed to sign a "Late Payment Agreement". A "Late Payment Agreement" shall allow the customer seven (7) days beyond their scheduled disconnection date for nonpayment. All residential customers shall be limited to three (3) late payment agreements over a twelve (12) month period. New customers of Tupelo Water & Light Department are not allowed to sign a late payment agreement for the first six (6) months of service. Customers who fail to pay a "Late Payment Agreement" as agreed shall forfeit future rights to such agreements.

No customer shall be allowed to sign a "Late Payment Agreement" if Tupelo Water & Light Department is waiting on funds from service agencies on their active account. These agencies shall include, but not be limited to, Lift, Inc., Salvation Army, Safe, Inc., Department of Human Service and churches.

Only in extenuating circumstances will additional days and/or "Late Payment Agreements" be authorized with the approval of the Manager to assist customers in need.

33. **CUSTOMERS WITH SEVERE HEALTH ISSUES**: Special attention shall be given to customers with severe health issues when there is a power failure. All efforts shall be made to restore their services in a timely manner when such a failure occurs. Customers with medical devices powered by electricity shall provide Tupelo Water & Light Department with a letter from their medical doctor or nurse practitioner stating that their medical condition "requires electric current for the operation of said device". Customers with severe health issues may file a "Request

for Medical Waiver” form requesting an extension up to thirty (30) days. Tupelo Water & Light Department will only grant this postponement for termination of service two (2) times in a twelve (12) month period. Customers with valid letters or “Request for Medical Waiver” forms from their physicians shall not be relieved from their obligation to pay their monthly utility bill in a timely manner.

34. **DECEASED CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS:** In the event a customer of Tupelo Water & Light Department is deceased, the account can remain active in the deceased customer’s name for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. The widow or widower of the deceased can apply for a name change on the account with no additional deposits required. The widow or widower must apply for the name change in person and provide appropriate personal identification. Children, grandchildren or other relatives are not allowed to assume the account of the deceased and will be required to apply for the utility service in their name for the account to remain active.

35. **“ENERGY RIGHT” INCENTIVES AND REBATES:** Residential customers installing a new all electric “water heater” (minimum of 30 gallons) are eligible to receive a \$120.00 credit to their electric bill. Customer must provide Tupelo Water & Light Department with proof of purchase (copy of plumber’s bill or supply house receipt). Also required is the model number, serial number and energy factor.

36. **DISPUTED BILLS:** Any customer who questions the amount or correctness of charges on their utility bill should contact the Customer Service Manager, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Customer Service Manager is authorized to review disputed bills and correct errors if any exist.

37. **COLLECTION OF BAD DEBTS:** A late notice will be mailed to all customers with an unpaid balance. This late notice will notify the customer of their disconnection date, which will be fifteen (15) after the due date for residential customers and ten (10) days after the due date for general power customers (commercial and industrial) following the due date. A twenty five dollar (\$25.00) service charge will be added to all accounts disconnected for non-payment.

A collection letter (letter 1) shall be mailed to the customer thirty (30) days following the disconnection date for non-payment. A second collection letter (letter2) shall be mailed thirty (30) days from the date of the first collection letter (letter 1) if the account remains unpaid.

Thirty (30) days following the second collection letter (letter 2), a third collection letter (letter 3) shall be mailed to the customer. Letter 3 will inform the customer of all additional charges and collection fees, and will be given notice that the account will be submitted to a Collection Agency if the account is not paid within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter.

From the disconnection date for non-payment, to the submission of the unpaid account to a Collection Agency a total of one-hundred and twenty (120) days will be given for the customer to make payment, or payment arrangements.

All unpaid accounts will be compiled, analyzed and broken down by service. These unpaid accounts will be submitted to the City of Tupelo City Council bi-annually for write-off as bad debt.

38. **INTERCONNECTION, METERING AND PARALLEL OPERATION AGREEMENTS**: Tupelo Water & Light Department, working in conjunction with TVA, allows customers to apply as an Interconnection Customer in order to self-generate and/or sell the output of renewable generation that is owned and operated by the Interconnection Customer at the Interconnection Customer's presently metered location. An Interconnection, Metering and Parallel Operation Agreement is made and entered into between both parties.

39. **TVA COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCESS**- In the case of billing disputes or other service issues, the customer is expected to resolve the dispute by notifying and working with the Distributor. If the dispute is not resolved, the distributor will provide the customer with information regarding TVA's Complaint Resolution Process. Customers will be informed about the availability of the TVA Complaint Resolution Process upon application for service, at any time upon request, and through information provided on the Distributor's website or other technological means of communication, if available.

**See Appendix B**

**Appendix A**

**SCHEDULE OF RATES, CHARGES AND FEES**

**The following Schedule of Customer Service Charges is hereby fixed and established:**

Meter Connection Charge	\$25.00
Transfer Charge	\$25.00
Disconnection/Reconnection Fee for non-payment	\$25.00
During regular hours, 8 am – 5 pm, M-F	
Reconnection after regular hours and weekends	\$75.00
Reconnection for CT (current transformer)	\$50.00
Metering service during regular hours	
Reconnection for CT (current transformer)	\$75.00
Metering service after regular hours and weekends	
Late Notice Charge	\$4.00
Penalty on all customers other than residential	5%
Meter Testing Charge	\$10.00
Minimum Charge for Theft of Electricity or Water	\$100.00
Returned Check Charge	\$30.00
Installation of underground primary electric lines	\$9.00 per foot
(In excess of 200 feet)	
Disconnection for non-payment requiring a	\$100.00
Bucket Truck	
Temporary Electric Service	\$65.00
Permit Fee – CT Meter Can	\$135.00

**The following Schedule of Customer Deposits is hereby fixed and established:**

<u>Residential Electric Deposit</u>	<u>Credit Score</u>
\$0	700-850
\$200	650-699
\$300	Less than 650

  

<u>Residential Water Deposit</u>	<u>Credit Score</u>
\$0	700-850
\$75	650-699
\$100	Less than 650

Additional deposits may be required if service is discontinued for non-payment equal to two (2) month's average bill based on prior twelve (12) months service history.

Customers transferring service after the effective date of this ordinance, who have a poor payment history, will be required to pay the new deposit schedule before transferring their utility service to a new location.

Commercial Customers are required to pay meter deposits equal to two (2) months average billing based on prior twelve (12) months service history.

Minimum Commercial Deposits are as follows:

Electric	Two (2) times the average usage.	Water 1" – Temp	\$250.00 (Fire Plug)
Water	\$150.00	Water 2" – Temp	\$500.00 (Fire Plug)

Tupelo Water & Light Department reserves the right to periodically review deposits and to add additional deposits to protect the City on accounts that have inadequate surety deposits or poor pay history.

Commercial customers will have the option of paying a cash deposit, posting a Utility Surety Bond or filing a Certificate of Deposit with Tupelo Water & Light Department. All Certificates of Deposit must have the business name and Tupelo Water & Light Department on the face of the certificate. Tupelo Water & Light Department Collections and Billing Office will be the custodian of all Utility Surety Bonds and Certificates of Deposit.

**The following Schedule of Water & Sewer Tapping Fees is hereby fixed and established:**

**Water Connection & Tap Charges**  
**Inside City Limits**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Outside Paved Areas</u>	<u>Inside Paved Areas</u>
¾"	\$1,300.00	\$2,100.00
1"	\$1,500.00	\$2,300.00
1 ½"	\$2,600.00	\$3,400.00
2"	\$3,200.00	\$3,800.00
3" and Larger	**	**

\*\*Charge will be based on cost of materials, labor and equipment at the time of installation on a case by case basis.

**Water Connection & Tap Charges**  
**Outside City Limits**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Outside Paved Areas</u>	<u>Inside Paved Areas</u>
¾"	\$1,475.00	\$2,310.00
1"	\$1,725.00	\$2,650.00
1 ½"	\$3,125.00	\$4,050.00
2"	\$3,825.00	\$4,550.00
3" and Larger	**	**

\*\*Charge will be based on cost of materials, labor and equipment at the time of installation on a case by case basis.

**Sewer Service Connection Charges**  
**Inside City Limits**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Outside Paved Areas</u>	<u>Inside Paved Areas</u>
4"	\$1,150.00	\$1,725.00
6"	\$1,300.00	\$1,875.00
8" and Larger	**	**

\*\*Charge will be based on cost of materials, labor and equipment at the time of installation on a case by case basis.

**Sewer Service Connection Charges**  
**Outside City Limits**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Outside Paved Areas</u>	<u>Inside Paved Areas</u>
4"	\$1,375.00	\$2,075.00
6"	\$1,575.00	\$2,250.00
8" and Larger	**	**

\*\* Charge will be based on cost of materials, labor and equipment at the time of installation on a case by case basis.

**Meter Installation Charges In Developments**

<b><u>Inside City Limits</u></b>		<b><u>Outside City Limits</u></b>	
<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>
3/4"	\$700.00	3/4"	\$825.00
1"	\$800.00	1"	\$950.00

**Non-Metered Connection Charges for Existing Water System & Sprinkler Connections**  
**Inside City Limits**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Outside Paved Areas</u>	<u>Inside Paved Areas</u>
6" x 6"	\$2,700.00	\$3,275.00
8" x 6"	\$2,900.00	\$3,475.00
8" x 8"	\$3,200.00	\$3,775.00

\*\*Larger connections - Charge will be based on cost of materials, labor and equipment at the time of installation on a case-by-case basis.

**Non-Metered Connection Charges for Existing Water System & Sprinkler Connections**  
**Outside City Limits**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Outside Paved Areas</u>	<u>Inside Paved Areas</u>
6" x 6"	\$3,300.00	\$4,000.00
8" x 6"	\$3,500.00	\$4,200.00

8" x 8"                      \$3,900.00                      \$4,600.00

\*\*Larger connections - Charge will be based on cost of materials, labor and equipment at the time of installation on a case-by-case basis.

**Fire Protection Fees**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Monthly Charges</u>
4"	\$19.00
6"	\$27.00
8"	\$53.00
10"	\$106.00
12"	\$172.00

\*NOTE: Tupelo Water & Light Department will review the rates, charges and fees annually on or before the beginning of each calendar year.

## Appendix B

### **Tupelo Water & Light Interconnection, Metering and Parallel Operation Agreement**

1. **Scope of Agreement:** Tupelo Water & Light Department and the Interconnection Customer agree that one or more generations systems and all related interconnection equipment (as described in the application and referred to as “Qualifying System” located at interconnection Customer’s current metered location with gross power rating of \_\_\_\_\_kW and to be interconnected at \_\_\_\_\_ kV may be interconnected to Tupelo Water & Light Department’s electric power distribution system in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Execution of this Agreement allows the Interconnection Customer to proceed with procurement and installation of the system but Interconnection Customer is not allowed to proceed with parallel operation until Tupelo Water & Light Department has received a completed certification of Completion, Tupelo Water & Light Department has conducted an onsite review and witnessed any required commissioning test or waived such test, and has given Interconnection Customer written authorization to proceed with parallel operation.
2. **Establishment of Point of Interconnection:** The point where the electric first leaves the wires or facilities owned by Tupelo Water & Light Department and enters the wires or facilities provided by Interconnection Customer is the “Point of Interconnection.” Tupelo Water & Light Department and Interconnection Customer agree to interconnect the “Qualifying System” at the point of Interconnection in accordance with this Agreement, Tupelo Water & Light Department’s rules, regulations, policies and rates, WHICH ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, and the Interconnection Customer and the Qualifying System shall comply with Tupelo Water & Light Department’s Distributed Generation Interconnection Procedures.
3. **General Responsibilities of the Parties:**

3.1 Tupelo Water & Light has reviewed the proposed Qualifying system as described in the attached Application for compliance with Tupelo Water & Light Department’s Distribution Generation Interconnection Procedures and approved the Qualifying System for interconnection based on one of the following conditions:

- 3.1.1. The Qualifying System has been reviewed by Tupelo Water & Light Department based on the applicable codes and standards and has passed any applicable screening process in the Tupelo Water & Light Department’s Distributed Interconnection Procedures, or;
- 3.1.2. Tupelo Water & Light Department, in agreement with Interconnection customer, has conducted additional engineering evaluations or detailed impact studies at Interconnection Customer’s expense, and any necessary System upgrades or changes identified by these additional studies have been implemented and Interconnection Customer has paid for such upgrades or changes where necessary.

3.2 Interconnection customer shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, zoning codes, building codes, safety rules, and environmental restrictions, including the latest version of the National Electric Code, and codes issued by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the American National

Standards Institute (ANSI), that are applicable to the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of its Qualifying System.

3.3 Tupelo Water & Light Department shall, at Interconnection Customer's expense, provide and install such meters and related facilities (Metering Installation) as in Tupelo Water & Light Department's judgment are needed to measure the electrical output from qualifying System. Thereafter, Tupelo Water & Light Department shall, at Interconnection Customer's expense, test, calibrate, operate, maintain, and if necessary, replace the meter(s) in the Metering Installation. The Metering Installation shall conform to applicable industry standards and shall be for Tupelo Water & Light Department's exclusive use and control unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. If the Interconnection Customer is selling the power output of the Qualifying System to a third party, the Interconnection Customer shall notify Tupelo Water & Light Department of any metering requirements of the power purchaser, any cost of which shall be borne by the Interconnection customer.

3.4 The Interconnection Customer shall provide the City of Tupelo building code official inspection and certification of installation forms to Tupelo Water & Light Department. The certification shall reflect that City of Tupelo Code Official has inspected and certified that the installation was permitted, has been approved, and has met all electrical and mechanical qualifications.

