

Ordinance no 2024-O-256

An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas amending Chapter 31 (Utilities), Article III, (Water), Division 3 (Rates and Charges), Section 31-141 (Water Availability) (f); providing for publication and an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Utilities Department needs to amend the ordinance to allow the water availability fund to cover the goodwill rebate and small business assistance program related to the October 2024 Boil Water Notice incident; and

WHEREAS, the goodwill rebate will cover in the amount equivalent to 33% water for residential and commercial accounts with an additional 1-day credit towards the sewer usage due to the requested flushing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that a goodwill credit will provide financial relief to Utilities customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

ARTICLE III: WATER

DIVISION 3: RATES AND CHARGES

Sec. 31-141. Water Availability

Water availability charges applicable to all platted property.

- (a) Lot charges. In addition to all other charges provided for herein and in addition to all requirements of the subdivision ordinance or other ordinances regulating the subdivision or platting of land, there shall be an additional charge for the creation of every new lot as set forth below:

(1) Residential lots:

- a. For each lot that is under 6,000 square feet.....\$300.00
- b. For each lot that is 6,000 to 8000 square feet.....\$500.00
- c. For each lot that is 8,001 to 9,999 square feet..... \$1500.00
- d. For each lot that is 10,000 square feet and over..... \$2,000.00

(2) Nonresidential lots (commercial lots):

- a. For each and every lot created which is less than one (1) acre, the equivalent of one third (1/3) acre-feet of municipal use water right, per lot..... \$1000.00.
- b. For every lot which is greater than one (1) acre (any fractional acreage within such lot shall incur a proportionate charge), the equivalent of one-half (1/2) acre-feet of municipal use water right, per acre.....\$1500.00.
- c. For every lot regardless of size created by a replat that has been previously paid under subsection 1. or 2. above, the equivalent of one-half (1/2) acre-feet of municipal use water right, per lot.....\$1500.00.

(b) Connection charges. For each connection to the water system or increase in meter size, the following charges will be collected at the time of connection, as shown below, except for a five-eighths (5/8) and three-fourths (3/4) meter connection to a lot of record as defined in section 24-61(b)(59)(ii) of the zoning ordinance, for which there shall be no charge.

(1) Residential lots....\$300.00

Residential lots at the Colonias will be charged a \$450.00 water connection fee. Water LUEs will be charged in accordance with Ordinance No. 2011-0- 019 or any amendments to this ordinance.

(2) Multifamily will be charged as two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per unit. Any lot created as multifamily use requires the installation of a master meter with backflow preventer for all the units. Any individual meter/unit request will be reviewed by the Utilities Director on case by case basis and may be approved by the Utilities Director.

(3) Nonresidential lots (commercial lots) excluding multifamily will have a connection fee based on the meter size:

Size of meter in inches:

5/8"\$500.00

¾"\$500.00

1".....\$1,000.00

1 ½".....\$2,000.00

2.....\$4,000.00

3.....\$8,000.00

4.....\$16,000.00

6 & 8\$40,000.00

(C) Excluded from the water availability charge are any lot or lots created prior to September 9, 1979, by a subdivision or a re-subdivision of land described by metes and bounds contained in an instrument of grant or conveyance legally executed, duly acknowledged and properly recorded at the county deeds records office, and filed on September 9, 1979, or afterwards within thirty (30) days from such date, which date is the publication date of the public notice printed on page 12A of the Laredo Times at the direction of the planning and zoning commission; and upon proof thereof to the appropriate city official or officials, such lot or lots shall be excluded from the water availability charge.

(d) Prohibit the use of water rights to pay capital improvement contribution fees.

(e) The city council hereby ratifies, adopts and approves the water availability charge as passed and approved by the waterworks board at its regular meeting of August 17, 1983.

(f) Funds collected for water availability, connection charges, and water demand fees shall be allocated to a "water availability fund" in the city's annual budget and shall be used to purchase water, groundwater, or water rights and/or finance studies, secondary water supply and pilot programs which tend to diversify and augment the water supply. *In addition, a one-time use of the water availability fund to cover the goodwill rebate and small business assistance program related to the October 2024 boil water notice.*

Section 2. Severability.

If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this ordinance shall remain in effect as if the unconstitutional or invalid portion had not been adopted.

Section 3. Repeal law in conflict.

All ordinances and resolutions or parts of ordinances or resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Publication.

This Ordinance shall be published according to Section 2.09(D) of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect 60 days from the date of the introductory ordinance, pursuant to the City Charter, Section 2.09(B).

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS

THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO

MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO I. MALDONADO JR.

CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOANH T. NGUYEN

CITY ATTORNEY

BY: JOAQUIN A. RODRIGUEZ

FIRST ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY