

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-25

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 18.12.081
RELATED TO METERED FIRE HYDRANT DEPOSITS AND
REFUNDS.**

WHEREAS, the City has need, from time to time, to update the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to eliminate ambiguities and bring the code into alignment with current practices; and

WHEREAS, in early 2022, through Ordinance No. 2022-11, the City made changes to Title 18 RMC to reduce water rates and adjust billing practices; and

WHEREAS, the code amendments related to billing practices created discord with the Utility Billing process for finalizing accounts for metered fire hydrant use; and

WHEREAS, this housekeeping ordinance will restore the flexibility needed by Utility Billing to efficiently and effectively reconcile accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Section 18.12.081, entitled Temporary supply – Metered fire hydrant deposit/refund, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 29-98, and last amended by Ordinance No. 2022-11, is hereby amended as follows:

18.12.081 Temporary supply – Metered fire hydrant deposit/refund.

Any persons making application for temporary construction water from a fire hydrant shall pay a deposit of \$1,500 for a hydrant meter; said deposit is to guarantee the return of the meter in good condition to the city.

When any person no longer needs temporary water service from a fire hydrant meter, notice shall be given to the water division to have the meter recovered and a final reading taken.

For service durations less than 30 days, the service charge, consumption charge, and any repair costs will be charged against the deposit. If charges exceed the deposit, the city will issue an invoice to the user. If charges are less than the deposit, the balance remaining will be refunded to the user.

For service durations in excess of 30 days, each month the city will read the meter to determine consumption, after which the city will issue an invoice capturing the service charge, consumption charge, and repair charges. Users who fail to promptly pay the invoiced amount are subject to discontinuance of service. When service is discontinued, either by notice from the user or discontinuance by the city, charges consisting of outstanding balances owed, current service charges, consumption charges, and repair charges ~~may will~~ be charged against the deposit. After the account is reconciled, any remaining deposit will be refunded. Any remaining balance will be

~~billed to the user. If charges exceed the deposit, the city will issue an invoice to the user. If charges are less than the deposit, the balance remaining will be refunded to the user.~~

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

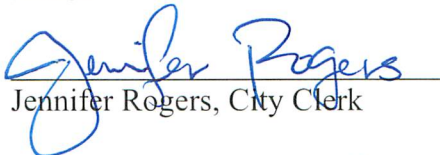
Section 3. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 4. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

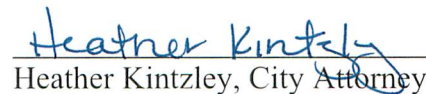
PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a special meeting on the 1st day of August, 2022.


Michael Alvarez, Mayor

Attest:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

First Reading: July 19, 2022
Second Reading: August 1, 2022
Date Published: August 7, 2022