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**CHAPTER SEVEN
WATER AND SEWER**ARTICLE 1 - UTILITY ESTABLISHED7.0101 Water and Sewer Department Established

There is hereby established and created within the City a department to be known as the City Water and Sewer Department. The department shall have general charge of all plants, systems, works, instrumentalities, equipment, materials, supplies, sewage disposal plants, lagoons, intercepting sewer, trunk connections, sewer and water mains, filtration works, pumping stations and all parts and appurtenances of the foregoing which are used or useful in connection with the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage, waste and storm sewers for the inhabitants of this City, subject to all ordinances, rules and regulations.

7.0102 City Water and Sewer Department to be Independent Agency

All of the business affairs of the said City Water and Sewer Department shall be conducted, insofar as is possible within the ordinances of the City, as a completely separate and distinct division of the City. Separate and distinct accounts shall be set up on the books of the city auditor. These accounts shall at all times reflect the true condition of the Water and Sewer Department, as distinct from the remaining business of the City and shall be so devised as to disclose the annual profit or loss of the department. The funds of the department shall be held in the custody of the city auditor and disbursed upon warrant in the same manner as other funds, but the Water and Sewer Department shall be given credit upon the books of the City for any and all funds paid by it into the City Treasury and shall be charged on the books of the City with all payments made by the City on its behalf. Transfers from the Water and Sewer Department to the General Fund or any other fund of the City shall not be made except upon order of the City Council (Source: North Dakota Century Code Section 40-33-12) nor shall transfer be made from City funds to the Water and Sewer Department without like order. Where bonds have now been, or may hereafter be issued against any water works improvement or sewage improvement, which constitute a general obligation of the City, the taxes levied for the payment of such bonds and interest shall be levied and expended for such purpose in the manner provided by law, until such time as it may be possible out of the proceeds of the Water and Sewer Department, after setting up a reasonable reserve for depreciation and new construction, to make payment of the bond requirements from the profits of the Water and Sewer Department. It is expressly declared to be the purpose of this ordinance that as soon as the same can be accomplished without undue burden to the water users of this City, the Water and Sewer Department shall be placed upon an entirely independent basis as a separate business enterprise.

7.0103 Scope of Utility

The properties of the City Water and Sewer Department and all future improvements, extensions and enlargements thereof, together with all cash and other assets held in the City's Water and Sewer Utility Fund and all moneys to be derived thereafter from the services, facilities, products and by-products of said utility, shall be and are hereby appropriated and dedicated to the purpose of insuring the public health, safety and welfare by furnishing and making available water and sewerage service to the City and its inhabitants and industries. Said utility shall at all times be under the management and control of the City Council of the City and shall by it be operated

and maintained in such manner as to provide its service with maximum efficiency and at the minimum cost which is compatible with the plan of operation herein described.

7.0104 Service Charges - Use of

The City Water and Sewer Department shall at all times be so operated and maintained, and rates and charges for its services, facilities, products and by-products shall be such, as to make the utility self-supporting and self-perpetuating. Such charges from time to time imposed and collected shall be made and kept adequate to pay as incurred all costs of operation and maintenance of said utility and to establish and maintain reasonable operating reserves; to produce net revenues which shall be sufficient at all times to pay promptly the principal and interest due on all obligations of the City incurred for the improvement, extension and enlargement of said utility, to the extent that such obligations are according to their terms payable from said net revenues, and to establish and maintain adequate reserves for the security of said obligations. Charges may be set to produce surplus net revenues, over and above current principal, interest and reserve requirements, in amounts sufficient to provide reasonable allowances for depreciation and replacement of the utility plus a reasonable return on the City's capital investment therein which surplus net revenues, when actually on hand, and to the extent that they are not required as a reserve for depreciation and replacement, may from time to time be appropriated by the governing board to pay or contribute to the cost of any other City functions, subject to the limitations now or hereafter prescribed by law.

The foregoing appropriations shall not, however, be deemed or construed to preclude the City from defraying any part or all of the expense of any improvement, enlargement or extension of the water and sewer utility by the levy of special assessments or taxes or the issuance of general obligation bonds, whenever and to the extent that such action is authorized in the manner provided by law and is deemed fair and equitable by the City Council.

7.0105 Policy on Improvements - Extensions

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City, subject to such modifications as shall be deemed by the City Council to be required by special circumstances in individual cases, and subject to such modifications as may hereafter be made by ordinance amendatory hereof or supplemental hereto, that the cost of capital improvements, enlargements and extensions of said utility shall be paid in the following manner:

1. Where water mains not exceeding six inches or sanitary sewer mains not exceeding eight inches in diameter are installed adjacent to residential properties, and where water mains not exceeding eight inches or sewer mains not exceeding ten inches in diameter are installed adjacent to commercial properties, the total cost thereof shall be assessed against the properties abutting on such improvements, in sums proportionate to and not exceeding the total benefits determined to be derived therefrom by the respective properties. Water and sewer mains of the dimensions above described are referred to herein as "lateral" mains and other mains are referred to as "trunk" mains.
2. Where a trunk main is installed, the City Council upon advice of the city engineer shall estimate the probable cost of construction of a lateral main at the same time and place and such estimated cost shall be assessed against the properties abutting on such main and in the manner above provided.

3. Twenty percent (20%) of the cost of any sanitary sewer in excess of the estimated cost of a lateral sewer at the same time and place shall be assessed against all properties determined by the City Council to require the immediate construction of such main as a trunk sewer, including properties abutting thereon and properties served or capable of being served by lateral sewers connected thereto, in amounts proportionate to and not exceeding the benefits determined to be derived by said respective properties from such trunk sewer.
4. The total cost of storm sewers shall be assessed against properties within the area determined to be benefited thereby, in amounts proportionate to and not exceeding the benefits determined to be derived therefrom by the respective properties.
5. Where a portion of the benefits of any of the foregoing improvements is deemed to accrue primarily to the City at large, a portion not exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the cost thereof, as determined by the City Council, may be paid by the levy of ad valorem taxes upon all property within the City over the same period as the levies of assessments for such improvements, or any portion or all of such cost may be paid out of current funds duly provided in the budget, or from the proceeds of general obligation bonds duly authorized by the electors.
6. Such portion of the cost of any improvement, extension or addition to the utility as is not paid by special assessments and taxes levied and actually collected in respect thereof shall be paid from the net revenues of the utility.
7. Where due to any error or omissions or to any special circumstances a special assessment is not levied against any property benefited by an improvement at the time of the construction thereof in accordance with the program described in this section, the City reserves the right to levy a supplemental special assessment upon such property or to impose and collect a special charge for the connection of such property with the utility system in such amount as shall be required to pay its just share of the assessable cost of such improvement.

7.0106 Utility Fund - Separate Accounts

All moneys received by the City in respect of the services, facilities, products and by-products furnished and made available by the City Water and Sewer Department, except collections of special assessments and taxes appropriated to improvement district funds and moneys borrowed for capital improvements, and all money, receipt and returns received from any investments of such earnings, shall be paid into the treasure of the City and kept in a special fund which shall be permanently maintained on the books of the City, separate and distinct from other funds, and designated as the Water and Sewer Utility Fund. In the records of this fund, all receipts and disbursements of money on account of or in connection with the utility shall be entered and reflected; but the moneys from time to time on hand therein shall always constitute public municipal funds and shall be deposited and their safekeeping secured like other City funds. Separate accounts within the Water and Sewer Utility Fund shall be permanently maintained for the purpose of segregating the revenues required to meet the several expenses and obligations of the utility, as provided below, and such revenues shall be administered and accounted for as follows:

1. Operation and Maintenance Account. There shall be credited at least once in each calendar month to the Operation and Maintenance Account of said fund, as a first lien and charge on the gross revenues of the utility such sum as shall be needed, over and above any credit balance then

- held therein, to pay all claims due which by accepted accounting practices constitute normal, reasonable and current expenses of operation and maintenance of the utility, and to pay such expenses estimated to accrue for a period of approximately one month, and to maintain a reasonable reserve for contingencies. Moneys in said account shall be used only to pay expenses of the foregoing type, and not for repairs or replacements or for capital improvements properly chargeable to replacement and depreciation reserves or surplus funds.
2. Principal and Interest Account. The Principal and Interest Account of the Fund shall continue to be maintained as provided until the payment in full of the improvement warrants issued against said fund.
 3. Revenue Bond Account. The net revenues of the utility are herein defined as the aggregate of all sums on hand in the Water and Sewer Utility Fund from time to time in excess of the current requirements defined in (1) and (2) above. The entirety of the said net revenues shall be credited each month to the Revenue Bond Account of the Water and Sewer Fund until there shall have been credited within said account, and thereafter so much of the net revenues as shall be necessary to maintain at all times, a reserve in an amount at least equal to the sum of the principal and interest payments due within each next succeeding twelve-month period upon all revenue bonds of the City heretofore or hereafter issued and made payable from said accounts. After this reserve has been created, there shall continue to be credited out of the net revenues to the Revenue Bond Account each month, over and above sums required to maintain such reserve, an amount not less than one-twelfth (1/12) of the sum of the principal and interest to become due on all such revenue bonds within the next succeeding twelve months. Moneys in said account shall be used only for the payment of principal and interest as it becomes due on said revenue bonds, and the reserve shall be used for such purpose only when other moneys in the account are insufficient. All revenue bonds heretofore and hereafter issued and made payable from said account, subject to the limitations upon such issuance contained in Section (6) hereof, shall constitute a first lien and charge on the net revenues of said utility without preference or priority of one bond over any other. However, if at any time the moneys in the Revenue Bond Account should be insufficient to make all payments of principal and interest due on such revenue bonds, and cannot be made sufficient by transfer of moneys from the other accounts described below, the moneys available shall be first used to pay interest then accrued on all bonds payable from said account, and any excess moneys available shall be used to pay matured principal of such bonds in order of their maturity dates, provided that moneys available for payment of bonds maturing on the same date shall be prorated equally among such bonds.
 4. Improvement Warrant Account. There shall also be maintained in said fund an Improvement Warrant Account, for the purpose of segregating net revenues required for the payment of any portion of the cost of improvements hereafter instituted, for which such revenues have been pledged in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40-22 of the North Dakota Century Code. There shall be transferred from said account as required, to the fund of each improvement district for which such pledge has been made, sums sufficient, together with tax and assessment collections held in such funds, to pay when due the principal and interest on all improvement warrants drawn upon such funds for the financing of such improvements. Moneys sufficient for the requirements of said improvement district funds shall be credited and paid into the Improvement

Warrant Account out of the net revenues remaining from time to time after provision for the current requirements of the Revenue Bond Account, and the lien and charge on said net revenues in favor improvement warrants for the payment of which such pledges have been made shall be subordinate only to the lien and charge on said net revenues in favor of revenue bonds payable from the Revenue Bond Account. In the event that moneys in the Improvement Warrant Account shall be insufficient for the making of all transfers required to be made to the several improvement district funds to which such pledges have been made, and cannot be made sufficient by the transfer of funds from the remaining accounts described below, the available moneys shall be apportioned first to the several improvement district funds in sums sufficient to pay interest then accrued on all warrants drawn on such district funds, and any remainder shall be applied in payment of matured principal of such warrants in order of the maturity dates thereof. As among warrants maturing on the same date, such available moneys shall be applied to the warrants of the several issues in proportion to the matured principal amount thereof for the payment of which taxes and assessments in the respective improvement funds are insufficient.

5. Replacement and Depreciation Account. There shall be maintained a Replacement and Depreciation Account, into which there shall be credited and paid as received, except as otherwise stated below, all net revenues in excess of the current requirements of the other accounts above described. In said account there shall be maintained such balances as the City Council shall from time to time determine to constitute an adequate reserve for depreciation and replacement of the utility, which reserve may be used to redeem prior to maturity obligations payable from the net revenues as and when the same become pre-payable according to their terms, or to replace worn out or obsolete properties of the utility, or to make extensions, enlargements or improvements thereto. Any moneys in said account determined to be surplus to the immediate requirements therefore may be invested or may be transferred to other City funds in the discretion of the Board, in the manner and subject to the limitations set forth in Section 40-33-12 of the North Dakota Century Code; and any acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto.
6. Moneys on Hand. The moneys on hand in any of the accounts of the Water and Sewer Utility Fund shall at all times be available and shall be used to the extent necessary to restore any deficiency in the funds on hand in any of the preceding accounts, in the order listed above, for the fulfillment of the requirements of such preceding accounts as herein defined.
7. Additional Accounts. The City also reserves the right to create additional accounts within the Water and Sewer Utility Fund for the purpose of segregating any surplus net revenues which may be pledged and appropriated to the payment of obligations hereafter issued to finance improvements, enlargements or extensions of said utility, other than the obligations made payable from the Revenue Bond Account and the Improvement Warrant Account, pursuant to the authority for such issuance reserved in Section 7.0107 hereof. Moneys on hand in any such account shall at all times be available for and used to the extent necessary to meet the current requirements of all of the foregoing accounts except the Replacement and Depreciation Account.

7.0107 Provisions for Financing Capital Improvements

In borrowing money for capital improvements, extensions or additions to said utility the following provisions shall at all times be observed:

1. For the purpose of this section, whenever the net revenues of the utility hereinabove appropriated to the Improvement Warrant Account are pledged to pay a portion of the cost of any improvement to be financed by improvement warrants, such warrants and the interest accruing thereon shall be deemed to be payable from said net revenues in the same proportion as that part of the cost payable from said net revenues bears to the principal amount of such warrants. The portion of costs payable from net revenues shall be deemed equal to the principal amount of the warrants less the principal amount of the taxes and assessments agreed to be levied for the payment thereof.
2. Except as provided in parts (3) and (4) below, no obligations shall be issued and made payable from the Revenue Bond Account or the Improvement Warrant Account at any time unless the net revenues of the utility, as defined in Section 7.0106 (3) hereof, received during the next preceding fiscal year, shall have been in an aggregate amount at least equal to 125% of the average annual principal and interest payments due on all bonds payable from the Revenue Bond Account which are then outstanding or then to be issued, plus such percentage of the average of the annual principal and interest payments due on each issue of improvement warrants then outstanding or then to be issued as shall be payable from said net revenues, which averages shall be computed on the basis of the principal and interest payments due in the fiscal years of the then remaining term of all such revenue bonds and improvement warrants then outstanding. For the purpose of such computation, whenever rates for water and sewerage service have been changed in the course of any fiscal year, the net revenues for such year shall be deemed to be those which would have been received if such amended rates had been in effect during the entirety of such year, based upon the actual quantities of service furnished to each class of customers and the actual expenses of the utility during such year; provided that in no case shall the net revenues so computed be deemed to exceed 125% of the net revenues actually received during such year.
3. Refunding revenue bonds may be issued for the purpose of prepaying and refunding bonds payable from the Revenue Bond Account when and as they become pre-payable according to their terms, in the manner and to the extent permitted by law, provided that such refunding revenue bonds shall be subject to the requirements set forth in part (2) hereof, as applied to the past net revenues and future principal and interest requirements as of the date of the issuance of such refunding revenue bonds. However, the City shall and does hereby also reserve the right and privilege of issuing refunding revenue bonds, when permitted by law, for the maturities of any bonds payable from the Revenue Bond Account which have matured and for the payment of which the moneys in the Revenue Bond Account are insufficient, and cannot be made sufficient by transfer of moneys from other accounts, and such refunding revenue bonds shall be payable from the Revenue Bond Account on a parity as to interest with all then outstanding bonds payable therefrom, but the maturities of such refunding revenue bonds shall be subsequent to the maturities of all such outstanding bonds. Nothing herein shall be deemed to require the holder of any revenue bond to accept a refunding revenue bond in exchange therefore.

4. The City also reserves the right and privilege of issuing refunding improvement warrants in the manner and to the extent provided in Chapter 40-27 of the North Dakota Century Code and acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto. The lien and charge of such refunding warrants on the net revenues appropriated to the Improvement Warrant Account shall be the same as that in favor of the improvement warrants refunded thereby; provided that for the purpose of the computations directed to be made in this section, the maturities and the rate or rates of interest payable on such refunding warrants shall be substituted for the maturities and interest rates of the improvement warrants refunded thereby.
5. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect the obligation of the City, under the laws of the State of North Dakota, to levy ad valorem taxes upon all taxable property within its corporate limits for the purpose of paying a deficiency, if any, in the fund of any improvement district, at the time of the maturity of the last warrant drawn thereon, or at such earlier time as may be hereafter directed by such laws; provided that it shall be the policy of the City that the amounts of any deficiency tax levies so made shall be restored to the general funds of the City out of any surplus net revenues thereafter received, over and above the requirements of the several accounts of the Water and Sewer Utility Fund as stated in Section 7.0106 hereof.
6. Except as hereinbefore authorized, no obligation of any kind shall be issued and made payable from said net revenues unless the lien thereof is expressly made subordinate and junior to the lien and charge on said net revenues in favor of all revenue bonds and improvement warrants payable from the Revenue Bond Account and the Improvement Warrant Account.

7.0108 Agreements with Bond and Warrant Purchasers

The City shall and does hereby covenant and agree with the original purchaser and each holder from time to time of each bond or warrant issued and made payable from the Revenue Bond Account or the Improvement Warrant Account, as follows:

1. It will complete all improvements financed by the issuance of such obligations with due diligence and with the greatest economy consistent with good workmanship and efficient results, and will do so without creating or permitting the creation of any liens or encumbrances on said utility or on the revenues thereof other than the liens and charges of said revenues expressly authorized in this article.
2. As long as any obligations payable from said accounts are outstanding, it will continue to own and operate said utility as a municipal utility, free from all competitions as to the services thereby provided and in good and efficient operating condition.
3. It will at all times maintain a schedule of rates, charges and rentals for all services, facilities, commodities and benefits furnished by said utility and will impose and collect the same in amounts at least sufficient to make the minimum payments into the respective accounts of the Water and Sewer Utility Fund as specified in Section 7.0106 hereof, and will revise such schedules in such manner and as often as needed to perform this covenant.
4. Under each such schedule, the City shall be obligated to pay and will pay from its other funds to the Water and Sewer Utility Fund a fair and equitable amount for any and all services, facilities, commodities and benefits furnished to the City or any of its departments by the utility.

5. It will at all times maintain books of account adequate to show all receipts and disbursements of the City respecting the utility, and application of such receipts to the purposes of the several accounts described in Section 7.0106 hereof, which books of account shall be open to inspection by the holder of any obligation payable from the Revenue Bond Account or the Improvement Warrant Account at any reasonable time. The City will furnish a certified transcript therefrom of any information which any such bond or warrant holder may request, upon payment of a reasonable fee therefore.
6. It will cause the annual financial statement of the City required by the provisions of Section 40-16-05 of the North Dakota Century Code to include a statement as to the financial condition and the receipts and disbursements of the Water and Sewer Utility Fund and of its several accounts during each fiscal year, and will furnish a copy of such statement to the original purchaser of each issue of bonds or warrants upon request.
7. Upon written demand of the holder of twenty percent (20%) or more of the bonds or warrants of any issue payable from the Revenue Bond Account or Improvement Warrant Account and then outstanding, it will cause an audit of the books of account of the utility to be made by a certified public accountant satisfactory to the holders of such obligations, the cost thereof to be paid as an operating expense of the utility and will furnish a copy of the report of any such audit to such party as shall be designated in such demand.
8. It will at all times keep the properties of said utility insured in reasonable amounts against loss or damage by fire, tornado and other risks for which similar properties are customarily insured by prudent owners, and will carry adequate public liability insurance, insuring against any claim of personal injury of property damage which is or may become a charge against the revenues of the utility. The City will also cause all persons handling funds of the utility to be bonded in suitable amounts for the protection of the City and the holders of obligations of the utility, and the expense of all such insurance and bonds shall be accounted for as an operating cost of the utility. The City will use the proceeds of any such insurance and bonds to restore the loss or damage compensated thereby.
9. The City and its City Council and each and all of its officers will punctually perform all duties with reference to said utility and the revenues thereof and the obligations issued hereunder which are imposed by the ordinances and resolutions of the City in force on the date upon which any such obligations are issued. All provisions of the Constitution and laws and of such ordinances and resolutions which are provide security for the holders of bonds issued hereunder are acknowledged to be a part of the City's contract with the holders of such obligations; provided that nothing herein shall be deemed to preclude the City from modifying the policies set forth in Section 7.0105 hereof with reference to any improvements constructed and financed after the effective date of such modification.
10. The holders of twenty percent (20%) or more in principal amount of each issue of bonds or warrants payable from the Revenue Bond Account or the Improvement Warrant Account and at the time outstanding shall be privileged, and are hereby empowered, to institute and maintain, on behalf of the holders of all outstanding obligations of the same issue, any suit or proceeding at law or in equity for the protection and enforcement of any covenant, agreement or stipulation herein provided to be performed or observed by the City or its City Council or any of its officers, whether or not any such obligations are then in default as to principal and interest. Each and all of the rights and remedies provided by Sections 40-35-15 and 40-35-

19 of the North Dakota Century Code are hereby acknowledged to be available to the holders of such obligations.

ARTICLE 2 - WATER SERVICE

7.0201 Water System

All land, buildings, machinery, equipment, tools and apparatus, water mains, hydrants, service connections and all other property used for the purpose of furnishing a water supply to this City, and the inhabitants thereof, now owned or to be owned by this City, whether acquired by the issue of general obligation bonds, special assessment warrants or other obligations of this City, shall constitute and be known as the waterworks system.

7.0202 Superintendent of City Water and Sewer Department

A water and sewer utility superintendent shall be appointed by the governing board. If the superintendent is a part-time employee and is also a City employee in some other capacity, only those services respecting the utility shall be an operating charge of the system. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to exercise control and management of the operation of the utility system. He shall have power and authority to employ, subject to the approval of the City Council, all such engineers, filter plant operators, meter readers, laborers and other employees, as may be necessary to the operation of the utility system. All such employees shall be subject to his orders and directions, and he shall be responsible for their acts. He shall have power and authority to purchase such materials, supplies and repairs for the water-sewer system, with the approval of the governing board of the City, as shall be reasonably necessary for the operation of such system. He shall keep such books and records of matters pertaining to the operation of the system, as are necessary to show the operation and condition thereof. He shall at all times be subject to the supervision and direction of the governing board. He shall perform such other duties and have such other powers and authority as are hereinafter provided for.

7.0203 Same: Reports

The water and sewer utility superintendent shall make monthly reports to the City Council concerning the operation of the department.

7.0204 Application for Water Service and Service Connection Charge

Any party desiring water and sewer service from said utility for premises not heretofore connected with the system, shall apply for a connection on a form provided by the City. Such application shall state an exact description of the premises to be served, and the uses, both general and special, to which the water is to be put, the nature of sewage to be discharged, and the estimated amount of water to be used for a quarter-annual period. Such application shall be filed with the city auditor, and the applicant shall thereupon pay to the city auditor, as a connection charge, the sum set by resolution of the City Council for a residential building, commercial building or multiple dwelling.

Any person desiring to construct, repair and maintain new and or existing water and sewer lines must notify the City supervisor prior to any excavation. In addition, the person shall notify the City supervisor and the city auditor of the time and place where excavation will take place.

Furthermore, said person shall pay to the city at the city auditor's office an inspection fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

No person shall excavate for water or sewer lines within the City without having complied with the ordinances in this chapter.

Any person who fails to abide by this ordinance shall pay an administration fine to the city in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Failure to pay such fine if levied upon the contractor, shall be assessed against the property owner of the real estate in which the excavation work is being done.

7.0205 Subsequent Connection to Premises

Any party, other than the original applicant, desiring service for premises where a connection has been made pursuant to Sections 7.0204 hereof shall make written application therefore as in cases described in Section 7.0204 hereof, and if the connection charge for such premises has not been fully paid at such time, the applicant shall pay or agree to pay the remainder thereof in like manner and time as described in Section 7.0204 hereof.

7.0206 Separate Connections for each Premise - Exception

Unless special permission is granted by the City Council, all persons and each premise within the City limits must have a separate and distinct water service connection and sewer service connection, and where permission is granted for branch service systems, each unit on the branch shall pay the fees as set by resolution.

Any building located within two hundred (200) feet from any public water or sewer main must be connected to the system (See Uniform Plumbing Code 2000 Edition Section 713.4), unless specifically stated by resolution adopted by the City Council.

7.0207 Service Outside City Limits - Prohibited - Exception

No application for water and/or sewer service outside the city limits of the City shall be approved and no person outside the corporate limits of the City shall hook up to or make connection with the city water and/or sewer system whether the same now is outside or inside the incorporated limits of the City. Water service outside the corporate limits of the City may be permitted pursuant to contractual agreement of the City Council arising in limited and extraordinary circumstances but shall be permitted only upon a resolution adopted by the City Council. (Source: North Dakota Century Code Section 40-33-13, 14)

7.0208 Service in Unplatted Areas

No application for water and/or sewer service shall be approved and no person shall hook up to or make connection with the City water and sewer system unless the area to be served by said water and/or sewer connection has been duly platted and the plat approved by the City Council and recorded in the County Register of Deeds Office. The City may be permitted pursuant to contractual agreement of the City Council arising in limited and extraordinary circumstances but shall be permitted only upon a resolution adopted by the City Council.

7.0209 Water Service - Construction of - Maintenance of by City & Owner

The cost of the installation of all plumbing between the city main and curb stop (including the curb stop), as well as repairs to and from the city main up to and including

curb stop, shall be the legal responsibility of the City of Oakes, unless specifically stated otherwise by resolution of the City Council at the schedule meeting of the Council.

The cost of the installation of all plumbing from the curb stop to any service hookup to the customer's residence or other structure, including all extensions made to such plumbing, as well as well repairs to and from the curb stop to the residence or other structure, shall be the legal responsibility of the consumer, and not the City of Oakes, unless specifically stated otherwise by resolution of the City Council at the scheduled meeting of the Council.

Although such plumbing and services as well as the meters shall at all reasonable times shall be subject to inspection by duly authorized representatives of the City. Any repairs found to be necessary by such representatives shall be made promptly, or the City will discontinue service.

All services shall be constructed by licensed water and sewer contractors or plumbers at the owner's expense, and each service shall be maintained by the owner. Services heretofore acquired by the issuance of special assessment warrants and assessed against the property, or which may be acquired in the future in like manner, shall likewise be maintained by the owner. Services mean the service line running from the point of connection with the City main or curb stop to owner's premises.

7.0210 Right of Access for City

The City of Oakes shall have the right of ingress and egress for its authorized employees and representatives for entry and access to any property within the City limits. Authorized employees and representatives shall have access to any premises supplied with or to be supplied with city water. Access shall be reasonable hours to inspect and ascertain the condition of water meters and fixture for the reading of water meters and for installing or replacing water meters. The City shall have the right to enter any premise at reasonable hours and may remove a water meter for the purpose of examination and testing. The owner occupant or tenant shall be notified by the City prior to entry.

No owner occupant or tenant shall refuse such entry and access to the property by an authorized city employee or representative. The City of Oakes reserves the right to shut off the water to premises where free access is prevented.

7.0211 Water Meters - Checked - Fees

Every consumer of water shall provide a suitable place where a water meter can be installed and each consumer shall supply, maintain and change when necessary, the same, and if at any time the consumer desires to have the meter tested for accuracy, the same shall be done by the City and a fee of \$10.00 charged therefore to the consumer if the meter registers 98% or more accurate. If the meter registers less than 98% accurate, it shall be replaced and the fee refunded.

7.0212 Water Meters – Damage To

Should a water meter become damaged by the act or neglect of owner or occupant of premises or his/her agent or servant, or in use it is injured by freezing, then the cost of repairing or replacing shall be paid by owner or occupant of premises where meter is installed. In the case of neglect or refusal to pay the same on demand, the water supply shall be turned off, and shall not again be turned on until such costs, together with a reconnection fee, are paid.

7.0213 Water Meters – Interference

Any individual, corporation or other entity that breaks the seal on any water meter installed by the City of Oakes, without the authority by the City Auditor, or who shall obstruct, alter, injure, or prevent the action of any water meter, or who shall make any connection by means of pipe or otherwise, with any main or pipe used for the delivery of water to a consumer, in such manner as to take water from said main or pipe without it passing through the meter, or shall use any water so obtained, or who shall, with intent to defraud, make any connections or reconnections with such main or pipe, or turn water on or off, or in any manner interfere with any valve, stop cock, or other appliance connected therewith, shall be prosecuted.

7.0214 Unlawful to Use Water Not Metered - Unlawful to Tamper with Curb Stop

It shall be unlawful for any person to use water from any premises without the consent of the owner or to use water from the City water system except when drawn through a meter installed by the City. No person except an employee or authorized representative of the City shall turn on or off or tamper with any curb stop.

7.0215 Defective Service - Consumers Duty to Report

All claims for defective service shall be made in writing and filed with the city auditor on or before the fifteenth day of the month next succeeding such defective service, or be deemed waived by the claimant. It shall be the duty of the city supervisor to investigate the facts alleged in each claim and determine the amount, if any, which should be refunded to a claimant by reason of defective service and report such determination to the City Council. If a claim is approved by that body, such amount shall be allowed as credit on the following bill or paid as other claims, but no claim shall be made against the City for any fire or any injuries to the person or property of any consumer of water or sewer service under the provisions hereof.

7.0216 Users Consent to Regulations

Every person applying for water and sewer service from the municipal system, and every owner of property for which such application is made, shall be deemed to consent to all the rules, regulations and rates contained in the resolution or ordinances of the City and to any modification thereof and to all new rules, regulations or rates duly adopted.

7.0217 Regulations Governing Service

The following rules and regulations shall be considered a part of the contract with every person who takes water and/or sewer service supplied by the City through the city waterworks system and every such person who takes such service shall be considered to be bound thereby.

1. Shutting Off Water - Who Authorized. No person except an authorized employee of the water department shall shut off or turn off the water at the curb stop to any premises without first obtaining permission from the water department.
2. City Reserves Right to Shut Off Water - Notice. In the case of making repairs or constructing new work, the City reserves the right to shut off the water at once and keep the same shut off as long as may be necessary to accomplish such purposes. Service may also be discontinued for

nonpayment of bills or for disregard of rules and regulations affecting the service.

3. Non-liability of City for Deficient Supply or Quality of Water. It is expressly provided that the City shall in no event be or become liable to any consumer of water for a deficiency in the supply of water or the quality thereof, whether by shutting off the same to make repairs or to construct new work or for any other cause whatsoever.
4. Shutting Off Water - Charge for. The water department shall make a charge of \$45.00 each for shutting off or turning on services.
5. Shutting Off Water – Right To. The City shall have the right to turn off the water to a premise if the city water, sewer, and garbage utility bill is delinquent by more than 90 days.
The City shall have the right to turn off any water at the request of the owner of the property when the tenant or other occupant is delinquent in paying his/her water, sewer, and garbage utility bill that is more than 90 days delinquent.
6. Fire Hydrants - Who May Open. No person except City employees in the performance of their official duties shall open or cause to be opened any fire hydrant without the written permission of the water superintendent.

7.0218 Connection to be Supervised by City Employees

In installing water and sewer service, all taps shall be driven, street excavations made, corporation cocks inserted, pipes installed from the main and the curb stop installed in an iron box to which the service is to be connected by the individual, his/her agent or employee under the supervision, direction and control of the water and sewer department. Ten feet spacing shall be allowed between all water and sewer lines in new connections to service. Failure to comply with this section shall be considered a disregard of the rules of the department and service to the affected property can be withheld or discontinued as the case may be.

7.0219 Service Pipes Specifications

All service pipes connected with the water and sewer utility shall be laid five feet and six inches below the established grades or as low as the street mains. All water and sewer pipes shall be of a material approved by the Public Works Supervisor.

7.0220 Curb Stop Specifications

There shall be a curb stop in every service line attached to the water mains, the same to be placed as near as possible to the curb if on a street, or within one foot of the alley line if the main is located in the alley. Curb stops shall be supplied with strong and suitable "T" handles and shall be enclosed in a substantial iron case covered with a tight fitting iron lid with the letter "W" cast upon it. There shall be one or more stops and waste cocks attached to every supply pipe at some point between the curb stop and the meter so that the water can be shut off and the house plumbing entirely drained. There shall be another such stop and waste cock in the pipe on the house side of the meter.

7.0221 Check Valves Required When Necessary

Check valves are hereby required on all water connections to stem boilers or any other connection deemed by the utility superintendent to require one. Safety and release valves shall be placed on all boilers or other steam apparatus connection with

the water system where the steam pressure may be raised in excess of fifty pounds per square inch.

7.0222 Use of Water During Fire - Unlawful

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person in This City or any person owning or occupying premises connected to the utility to use or allow to be used during a fire any water from said utility except for the purpose of extinguishing said fire; and upon the sounding of a fire alarm, it shall be the duty of every such person to see that all water services are tightly closed and that no water is used, except for necessary household purposes during said fire.

7.0223 Waterworks Customers May Lay Larger Pipes with Hydrants - When

Whenever proprietors of lumber yards, manufactories, halls, stores, hotels, public buildings or regular customers from the water works wish to lay larger pipes with hydrants and hose couplings, to be used only in case of fire, they will be permitted to connect with the street main at their own expense, upon application for a permit to the city auditor, and under the direction of the City Council will be allowed the use of water, for fire purposes only, free of charge. No standpipe will be allowed on the premises where the water is not taken for other than fire purposes.

7.0224 Rates and Charges

Water and sewer rates shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the City Council and the City reserves the right to change the rates from time to time as it deems best. The resolution fixing water and sewer rates and charges shall be kept on file in the office of the city auditor and shall be open for public inspection.

7.0225 Utility Billing Policies

1. The charge for services of water, sewer, garbage collection, mosquito, and street lights begins when the curb stop is installed and connection made, whether used or not.
2. Billing is done monthly based on the meter readings for the month. Meter readings will be collected at the end of each month. (Bills will be completed and mailed by the following business day of the reading collection)
3. All bills are due on the 15th of each month. If the bill is not paid by the next billing date, an additional \$3.00 late charge will be applied.
(NDCC 13-01-14)
4. If balance is outstanding in sixty (60) days and is over \$10.00, it shall be declared delinquent. The City reserves the right to discontinue its service once an account has been considered delinquent.
If an account is delinquent on October 15 of each year, the entire balance will assessed to the property taxes. Instead of delinquent notices, notices will be mailed informing balance will be turned over to taxes (no disconnects in month of October).
5. There is a re-connect fee of \$45.00
6. Bills will only be adjusted one billing cycle once the notice of change is received from resident or owner.

7.0226 Rates and Charges - Liability for

The owner or owners of all real property in the City furnished water or sewer service or service line repairs shall be responsible for the payment of any and all such charges regardless of who the occupant or tenant may be. Owners of premises where water or sewer service is supplied shall notify the water or sewer department or the city auditor in case any tenant moves from said premises, prior to such moving. On request of the owner or owners, the city auditor will bill or cause to be billed the occupant or tenant for such charges, but if such charges are not paid when due by the occupant or tenant, the owner or owners shall be responsible for such charges and they shall be assessed to the property served. It shall be the duty of the city auditor to certify to the county auditor such unpaid water or service charges that are unpaid in the same manner and at the same time as other assessments are certified, and they shall be assessed and collected in the same manner.

7.0227 Excavators

No person, firm or corporation shall excavate in or on any street, alley or other public place for the purpose of installing any water and/or sewer connection until they have complied with the provisions of Sections 3.0220 through 3.0227 of Chapter 3 of these ordinances.

7.0228 Restriction of Use of Water

The City Council may from time to time declare that water may not be used for specific purposes or may only be used in certain parts of the City on certain days for certain purposes. The City shall have the right to prohibit the watering of lawns and gardens, the washing of cars or such other uses of the water as may be necessary to preserve for the general public an adequate supply of water for consumption and use by the general public.

7.0229 Water/Sewer Service Connection

Connection to City Water Service: (see 7.0206)

Cost of Service Hookup: (see 7.0209)

Right of Access for City: (see 7.0210)

Use of City Water: (see 7.214)

Right to Disconnect: (see 7.0217)

Consent for City: (see 7.0216)

Penalty Provisions: Any person violating provisions of the city water and sewer ordinances shall receive written notice stating the nature of the violation. The person, firm, occupant, tenant or partnership shall have seven (7) days to comply with the notice.

Anyone who continues the violation after the seven (7) day notice shall be guilty of an infraction. Upon conviction of the District Court, the person shall be fined a sum determined by the District Court and not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each violation. Each day in which any such violation shall continued after the seven (7) day notice shall be deemed a separate offense.

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