

TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 3 UTILITIES - WATER SYSTEM

6-3-1	Enforcement	6-3-8	Making the Connection
6-3-2	Adoption of State Plumbing Code	6-3-9	Excavations
6-3-3	Approved Plumber	6-3-10	Inspection and Approval
6-3-4	Mandatory Connections	6-3-11	Completion by the City
6-3-5	Permit	6-3-12	User Responsibility
6-3-6	Fee for Permit	6-3-13	Estimated Readings
6-3-7	Water Supply Control	6-3-14	Meter Accuracy and Test

6-3-1 ENFORCEMENT. The Superintendent of public utilities shall supervise the installation of water service pipes and their connections to the water main and enforce all regulations pertaining to water services in this City in accordance with this chapter. This chapter shall apply to all replacements of existing service pipes as well as to new ones. The City Council shall make such rules, not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, as needed for the detailed operation of the waterworks. In the event of an emergency the Superintendent may make temporary rules for the protection of the system until due consideration by the City Council may be had.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-2 ADOPTION OF STATE PLUMBING CODE. The installation of any water-service pipe and any connection with the municipal water system shall comply with all pertinent and applicable provisions, whether regulatory, procedural or enforcement provisions, of the State Plumbing Code as amended and as published by the Iowa Department of Public Health, which is hereby adopted. An official copy of the State Plumbing Code as adopted and a certified copy of this Ordinance are on file in the office of the City Clerk for public inspection.

6-3-3 APPROVED PLUMBER. All installation of water service pipes and connections to the municipal water system shall be made by a plumber approved by this City. The Superintendent shall have the power to suspend the privileges of any plumber for violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance. A suspension, unless revoked, shall continue until the next regular meeting of the City Council. The Superintendent shall notify the plumber immediately by personal written notice of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension, and the time and place of the City Council meeting at which the plumber will be granted a hearing. At this City Council meeting the Superintendent shall make a written report to the City Council stating the Superintendent's reasons for the suspension, and the City Council, after fair hearing, shall revoke the suspension or take any further action that is necessary and proper.

6-3-4 MANDATORY CONNECTIONS. All residences and business establishments within the City limits intended or used for human habitation, occupancy or use shall be connected to the public water supply if it is reasonably available and if the building is not furnished with pure and wholesome water from some other source.

6-3-5 PERMIT. Before any person, firm, corporation or other association shall make a connection with the public water system, a written permit must be obtained from the Superintendent. The application for the permit shall be filed with the Superintendent on blanks furnished by the Superintendent. The application shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, the name and address of the person who will do the work, and the general uses of the water. No different or additional uses shall be allowed except by written permission of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall issue the permit, bearing the Superintendent's signature and stating the time of issuance, if the proposed work meets all the requirements of this Ordinance and if all fees required under this Ordinance have been paid. Work under any permit must be begun within six (6) months after it is issued. The Superintendent may at any time revoke the permit for any violation of this Ordinance and require that the work be stopped. The owner or plumber may appeal such action in the manner provided in Section 6-3-3 of this Ordinance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-6 FEE FOR PERMIT. Before any permit is issued the person who makes the application shall pay \$25.00 to the Clerk to cover the cost of issuing the permit and supervising, regulating and inspecting the work.

6-3-7 WATER SUPPLY CONTROL. The plumber who makes the connection to the municipal water system shall install a main shut-off valve of the inverted key type on the water-service pipe near the curb with a suitable lock of a pattern approved by the Superintendent. The shut-off valve shall be covered with a heavy metal cover having the letter "W" marked thereon, visible and even with the pavement or ground.

The plumber also shall install a shut-off valve and waste cock on every service pipe inside the building near the entrance of the water-service pipe into the building; this must be located so that the water can be shut off conveniently and the pipes drained. Where one service pipe is installed to supply more than one customer, there shall be separate shut-off valves inside the building for each customer so that service to one customer can be shut off without interfering with service to the others.

6-3-8 MAKING THE CONNECTION. Any connection with the municipal water system must be made under the direct supervision of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's authorized assistant. All taps in the water main must be at least (12) inches apart and on the side and near the top and not in any case within 18 inches of the hub.

There shall be a connection charge of one hundred fifty (\$150.00) dollars for each connection to the water main, in addition to the permit fee.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-9 EXCAVATIONS. Excavations to do work under this Ordinance shall be dug so as to occasion the least possible inconvenience to the public and to provide for the passage of water along the gutter. All such excavations shall have proper barricades at all times, and warning lights placed from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. In refilling the excavation the earth must be laid in layers and each layer tamped thoroughly to prevent settlement, and this work, and any street, sidewalk, pavement or other public property that is affected, must be restored to as good a condition as it was previous to the excavation. The plumber must maintain the affected area in good repair to the satisfaction of the City Council for three months after refilling. All water service pipes must be laid so as to prevent rupture by settlement or freezing. No excavation shall be made within six (6) feet of any laid water or sewer pipe while the ground is frozen, and no water or sewer pipe shall be exposed to frost, except by special written permission of the Superintendent.

6-3-10 INSPECTION AND APPROVAL. All water-service pipes and their connections to the municipal water system must be inspected and approved in writing by the Superintendent before they are covered, and the Superintendent shall keep a record of such approvals. If the Superintendent refuses to approve the work, the plumber or owner must proceed immediately to correct the work so that it will meet with the Superintendent's approval. Every person who uses or intends to use the municipal water system shall permit the Superintendent or the Superintendent's authorized assistants to enter the premises to inspect and make necessary alterations or repairs at all reasonable hours and on proof of authority.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(4))

6-3-11 COMPLETION BY THE CITY. Should any excavation be left open or partly refilled for twenty-four (24) hours after the water-service pipe is installed and connected with the municipal water system, or should the work be improperly done, the Superintendent shall have the right to finish or correct the work, and the City Council shall assess the costs to the property owner or the plumber. If the plumber is assessed, the plumber must pay the costs before the plumber can receive another permit, and the plumber's bond required by the Plumbing Ordinance shall be security for the assessment. If the property owner is assessed, such assessment shall be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12(3)(h))

6-3-12 USER RESPONSIBILITY. The consumer shall be fully responsible for the quantity of water metered through the water meter, unless and unusually high reading is caused by a defective meter. Any leakage of water after it has been metered is the responsibility of the consumer, irrespective of cause, and no water bill shall be adjusted by reason thereof. City employees may, but are not required to notify a consumer that the meter reading shows and excessive or unusual use of water.

6-3-13 ESTIMATED READINGS. Where a meter has ceased to register, or meter reading could not be obtained, the quantity of water consumed for billing purpose will be based upon an average of the prior six (6) months consumption, and the conditions of normal water usage expected during the period in which the meter failed to register.

6-3-14 METER ACCURACY AND TEST. Upon the written request of any customer, and following inspection by a plumber at the request and expense of the owner, the meter serving said customer shall be tested by the city. Such test shall be made without charge to the customer if the meter is determined to be defective. If the meter is found not to be defective and within a limit of two (2) percent accuracy, the customer requesting the test may be charged \$25.00 in addition to the cost of the meter to be added to the water bill. If it is found that such meter overruns to the extent of two percent (2%) or more, the cost of the tests shall be paid by the City and a refund shall be made to the customer for overcharges collected since the last known date of accuracy but not for longer than 3 months.

Customers being served by the water system shall be responsible for the water meters. Any meter that is damaged by the owner or customer being served shall be replaced at the expense of the owner.