

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS AMENDING SECTION 14.126 OF THE SAN MARCOS CITY CODE CONCERNING LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS TO REQUIRE SEPARATE IRRIGATION METERS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**RECITALS:**

**1.** The City Council hereby finds and determines that the adoption of the following ordinance is in the interest of the public health, welfare and safety.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** Sections 14.126 (i) and (j) of the San Marcos City Code, concerning landscape irrigation systems, are amended to read as set forth below. Added text is indicated by underlining. Deleted text is indicated by strikethroughs.

(i) In addition to the requirements under 30 TAC Chapter 344, all new landscape irrigation systems must be designed, installed and operated in accordance with the following requirements:

- (1) A separate metered water service must be utilized for the landscape irrigation system.
- (~~12~~) Above-ground emission devices must be attached to lateral lines with flexible pipe or swing joints.
- (~~23~~) Use of shrub risers is prohibited. Surface or subsurface drip irrigation, or low-angle spray heads that direct water to the base of the plant may be used in lieu of shrub risers.
- (~~34~~) Irrigation controllers must be capable of providing multiple irrigation programs, with at least three (3) start times per program.
- (~~45~~) Irrigation controllers must be capable of limiting irrigation frequency to once every seven (7) days and once every fourteen (14) days as per drought restrictions.
- (~~56~~) Irrigation controllers must have a water budgeting feature.
- (~~67~~) Landscape irrigation systems must have a master valve.

(78) Zone valves must be equipped with an adjustable flow control.

(89) Zone valves must be enclosed in an accessible valve box.

(910) Check valves are required where elevation differences may result in low-head drainage. Check valves may be located at the sprinkler head(s) or on the lateral line.

(j) All new ICI and multi-family residential landscape irrigation systems must also be designed, installed and operated in accordance with the following requirements:

~~(1) A separate metered water service must be utilized for the landscape irrigation system.~~

(21) Landscape irrigation systems must be equipped with a flow sensor that will automatically shut down the irrigation system during excessive water flows.

(32) Landscape irrigation systems must be equipped with a freeze sensor that will automatically shut down the irrigation system when ambient temperatures fall below 32 degrees F.

(43) An irrigation system evaluation must be conducted at least once per year, and the results of the evaluation shall be provided to the director.

**SECTION 2.** In codifying the changes authorized by this ordinance, paragraphs, sections and subsections may be renumbered and reformatted as appropriate consistent with the numbering and formatting of the San Marcos City Code.

**SECTION 3.** 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 other provisions of this ordinance will continue in force if they can be given effect without the invalid portion.

**SECTION 4.** All ordinances and resolutions or parts of ordinances or resolutions in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

**SECTION 5.** This ordinance will take effect after its passage, approval and adoption on second reading.

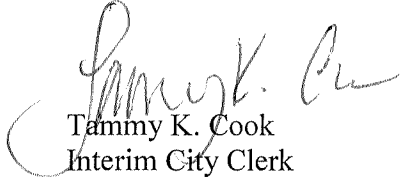
**PASSED AND APPROVED** on first reading on January 19, 2021.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on second reading on March 16, 2021.



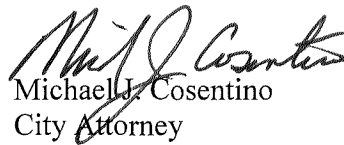
Jane Hughson  
Mayor

Attest:



Tammy K. Cook  
Interim City Clerk

Approved:



Michael J. Cosentino  
City Attorney