

**ORDINANCE NO 2018-O-026**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 31 (UTILITIES), ARTICLE III, (WATER), DIVISION 3 (RATES AND CHARGES) SECTION 31-138 (WATER RATES) BY ADDING A FIXED MONTHLY WATER DEMAND FEE BASED ON METER SIZES AS STATED IN TABLE 4 (FROM \$1 TO \$50 BASED ON METER SIZE); AMENDING SECTION 31-138.1.1 (FEES) BY IMPLEMENTING NEW ACCOUNT CONNECTION FEES FOR SAME BUSINESS DAY SERVICE (FROM \$35 TO \$75 BASED ON THE NEED FOR METER SETUP); AMENDING SECTION 138.1.2 (SERVICE CHARGES) BY ADDING FEES FOR INSTALLATION OF TEE-CONNECTIONS, REDUCING THE WATER TAP FEE FOR IRRIGATION METERS, AMENDING THE COST FOR 2" WATERLINE EXTENSIONS FOR SERVICE CONNECTIONS IF NEEDED, DELETING THE METER AND METER INSTALLATION FEE FOR 5/8" METER, AND REDUCING THE SECURITY DEPOSITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS WHO ARE 65 YEARS OR OLDER AND VETERANS; CREATING SECTION OF 31-138.4 (REFUND SECURITY DEPOSITS); AMENDING SECTION 31-141(B) BY REDUCING THE CONNECTION FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO A FLAT RATE, ADDING A WATER CONNECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO THE COLONIAS, AND REDUCING THE CONNECTION FEES FOR 8" COMMERCIAL METER, AMENDING SECTION 31-141(F) BY INCLUDING THE WATER DEMAND FEES; DELETING SECTION 31-141.1.1 (SECURITY DEPOSITS); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the water system continues to provide the necessary services to assure that the water system continues to provide the highest level of services to our customers; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for acquisitions of additional water rights to meet future demands; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that a monthly fixed water demand fee needs to be implemented to secure additional water rights.

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

**Section 1.** The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 31, Utilities, Article III, Water, Division 3, Rates and Charges, is hereby amended as follows:

# ARTICLE III: WATER

## DIVISION 3: RATES AND CHARGES

### Sec. 31-138. Water Rates

Premises connected with water system. Charges shall be paid by all persons owning or occupying premises which are connected with the water system in accordance with the following schedule of rates; and such charges as are hereinafter described are hereby levied and assessed, as hereinafter provided:

For each defined customer class, monthly water rates and charges shall be based on metered water consumption in units of measure of 1,000 gallons (*Table 2 & Table 3*) with the exception of the minimum fee of 2,000 gallons as described *in (Table 1)* ~~[on the following tables]~~ scheduled for annual adjustments beginning on October 1, 2010, and every year that follows up through October 2014. Thereafter, a two (2) percent increase on all minimum charges and volumetric rates shall be implemented for all active water meters.

Water rates also include a fixed monthly water demand fee based on meter size as described in Table 4. This fee is applicable to Irrigation, Fire Hydrant, Agriculture, Industrial and Temporary construction meters.

Meter Sized Based Minimum Monthly Water Charges for Metered Consumption from Zero (0) to Two Thousand (2,000) Gallons.

TABLE 1. [CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS; PROPOSED] MINIMUM CHARGES

	Effective:							
	<del>{Oct. 2014}</del>	<del>{Oct 2015}</del>	<del>{Oct. 2016}</del>	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2019	Oct. 2020	10/2021 & Forward Annual % Increase
<i>Residential</i>								
5/8" & 3/4" Meter	<del>[\$9.25]</del>	<del>[\$9.44]</del>	<del>[\$9.63]</del>	\$9.82	\$10.02	\$10.22	\$10.42	2%
1" Meter	<del>[\$20.15]</del>	<del>[\$20.55]</del>	<del>[\$20.96]</del>	\$21.38	\$21.81	\$22.25	\$22.70	2%
1½" Meter	<del>[\$28.50]</del>	<del>[\$29.07]</del>	<del>[\$29.65]</del>	\$30.24	\$30.84	\$31.46	\$32.09	2%
2" Meter	<del>[\$44.25]</del>	<del>[\$45.14]</del>	<del>[\$46.04]</del>	\$46.96	\$47.90	\$48.86	\$49.84	2%

<i>Commercial</i>								
5/8" & 3/4" Meter	<del>[\$34.85]</del>	<del>[\$35.55]</del>	<del>[\$36.26]</del>	\$36.99	\$37.73	\$38.48	\$39.25	2%
1" Meter	<del>[\$37.86]</del>	<del>[\$38.62]</del>	<del>[\$39.39]</del>	\$40.18	\$40.98	\$41.80	\$42.64	2%
1½" Meter	<del>[\$42.11]</del>	<del>[\$42.95]</del>	<del>[\$43.81]</del>	\$44.69	\$45.58	\$46.49	\$47.42	2%
2" Meter	<del>[\$58.11]</del>	<del>[\$59.27]</del>	<del>[\$60.46]</del>	\$61.67	\$62.90	\$64.16	\$65.44	2%
3" Meter	<del>[\$115.61]</del>	<del>[\$117.92]</del>	<del>[\$120.28]</del>	\$122.69	\$125.14	\$127.64	\$130.19	2%
4" Meter	<del>[\$174.61]</del>	<del>[\$178.10]</del>	<del>[\$181.66]</del>	\$185.29	\$189.00	\$192.78	\$196.64	2%
6" Meter	<del>[\$314.46]</del>	<del>[\$320.75]</del>	<del>[\$327.17]</del>	\$333.71	\$340.38	\$347.19	\$354.13	2%
8" Meter	<del>[\$463.51]</del>	<del>[\$472.78]</del>	<del>[\$482.24]</del>	\$491.88	\$501.72	\$511.75	\$521.99	2%

Customer Class Based Volumetric Monthly Water Rates for Metered Consumption greater than 2,000 Gallons

~~[CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS  
PROPOSED WATER RATES: Residential]~~ TABLE 2. RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES

Begin Gallons	End Gallons	<del>[Oct.-2014]</del>	<del>[Oct.-2015]</del>	<del>[Oct.-2016]</del>	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2019	Oct. 2020	10/2021 & Forward Annual % Increase
2,001	4,000	<del>[\$1.80]</del>	<del>[\$1.84]</del>	<del>[\$1.88]</del>	\$1.92	\$1.96	\$2.00	\$2.04	2%
4,001	10,000	<del>[\$1.93]</del>	<del>[\$1.97]</del>	<del>[\$2.01]</del>	\$2.05	\$2.09	\$2.13	\$2.17	2%
10,001	20,000	<del>[\$2.00]</del>	<del>[\$2.04]</del>	<del>[\$2.08]</del>	\$2.12	\$2.16	\$2.20	\$2.24	2%
20,001	30,000	<del>[\$2.13]</del>	<del>[\$2.17]</del>	<del>[\$2.21]</del>	\$2.25	\$2.30	\$2.35	\$2.40	2%
30,001	40,000	<del>[\$2.25]</del>	<del>[\$2.30]</del>	<del>[\$2.35]</del>	\$2.40	\$2.45	\$2.50	\$2.55	2%
40,001	50,000	<del>[\$2.36]</del>	<del>[\$2.41]</del>	<del>[\$2.46]</del>	\$2.51	\$2.56	\$2.61	\$2.66	2%
50,001	Greater	<del>[\$4.71]</del>	<del>[\$4.80]</del>	<del>[\$4.90]</del>	\$5.00	\$5.10	\$5.20	\$5.30	2%

~~[CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS  
PROPOSED WATER RATES: Commercial]~~ TABLE 3. COMMERCIAL WATER RATES

Begin	End	<del>[Oct.-</del>	<del>[Oct.-</del>	<del>[Oct.-</del>	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	10/2021
-------	-----	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------	------	------	------	---------

Gallons	Gallons	2014]	2015]	2016]	2017	2018	2019	2020	& Forward Annual % Increase
2,001	4,000	<del>[\$1.93]</del>	<del>[\$1.97]</del>	<del>[\$2.01]</del>	\$2.05	\$2.09	\$2.13	\$2.17	2%
4,001	10,000	<del>[\$2.37]</del>	<del>[\$2.42]</del>	<del>[\$2.47]</del>	\$2.52	\$2.57	\$2.62	\$2.67	2%
10,001	40,000	<del>[\$2.99]</del>	<del>[\$3.05]</del>	<del>[\$3.11]</del>	\$3.17	\$3.23	\$3.29	\$3.36	2%
40,001	150,000	<del>[\$3.16]</del>	<del>[\$3.22]</del>	<del>[\$3.28]</del>	\$3.35	\$3.42	\$3.49	\$3.56	2%
150,001	300,000	<del>[\$3.41]</del>	<del>[\$3.48]</del>	<del>[\$3.55]</del>	\$3.62	\$3.69	\$3.76	\$3.84	2%
300,001	600,000	<del>[\$3.76]</del>	<del>[\$3.84]</del>	<del>[\$3.92]</del>	\$4.00	\$4.08	\$4.16	\$4.24	2%
600,001	1,000,000	<del>[\$4.45]</del>	<del>[\$4.54]</del>	<del>[\$4.63]</del>	\$4.72	\$4.81	\$4.91	\$5.01	2%
1,000,001	Greater	<del>[\$4.56]</del>	<del>[\$4.65]</del>	<del>[\$4.74]</del>	\$4.83	\$4.93	\$5.03	\$5.13	2%

*TABLE 4. WATER DEMAND FEES*

<i><u>Meter size in inches</u></i>	<i><u>Proposed fixed fees/month</u></i>
<i><u>5/8 and 3/4</u></i>	<i><u>\$1.00</u></i>
<i><u>1 and 1 ½</u></i>	<i><u>\$2.00</u></i>
<i><u>2</u></i>	<i><u>\$6.00</u></i>
<i><u>3</u></i>	<i><u>\$8.00</u></i>
<i><u>4</u></i>	<i><u>\$15.00</u></i>
<i><u>6 and 8</u></i>	<i><u>\$50.00</u></i>

Sec. 31-138.1.1 FEES

Meter Service fee .....\$ 10.00

Reconnection fees for existing accounts:

~~[(DFNP = Disconnect for nonpayment)]~~

Next business day (M—F) .....\$35.00

Same business day ~~[and after business hours up to midnight]~~ ...\$55.00

Weekends and holidays .....\$75.00

Connection fees for new accounts:

Next business day (M—F) .....\$0.00

Same business day residential account ..... \$35.00 or \$75.00 if a new meter setup is required.

Nonsufficient fund checks fees:

N.S.F. check service charge ~~[before 5:00 p.m.]~~ .....\$25.00

~~[N.S.F. check service charge after 5:00 p.m. ....\$25.00]~~

Late fee:

~~A-[L]~~late fee ~~of [.....]~~ 5% or \$5.00, ~~[W]~~whichever is greater, is charged to the balance owed on the account at the beginning of the second business day after the bill due date of each month

Exemptions: 1. Customers who are 65 years and older (must provide driver's license or Texas I.D.), 2. ~~[All v]~~Veterans (must provide DD214 certification and Valid I.D.)

Meter installation fee:

Meter Size	<del>Proposed</del> Cost
<del>5/8" x 3/4"</del>	<del>\$93.20</del>
3/4" x 3/4"	\$93.20
1"	\$94.53
1 1/2"	\$404.74
2" Compound	\$406.31
3"	\$836.29
4"	Actual Cost
6"	Actual Cost
8"	Actual Cost

SECURITY DEPOSITS REQUIRED

Size of meter, residential:

3/4" .....\$100.00

1" .....\$150.00

1 1/2" ...\$150.00

2" .....\$300.00

3" .....\$600.00

4" .....\$800.00

For (1) customers who are sixty-five (65) years and older (must provide driver's license or Texas I.D.) and (2) veterans (must provide DD214 certification and valid I.D.) the deposit is \$30.00.

Size of meter, commercial:

3/4" .....\$150.00

1" .....\$225.00

1 1/2" ....\$225.00

2" .....\$300.00

3" .....\$600.00

4" .....\$800.00

6"....\$1,000.00

8"....\$1,200.00

COST OF METER  
(DOES NOT INCLUDE WATER AVAILABILITY FEES)

Meter Size	[*AMI- New] Cost	[*AMR New Cost]
5/8" x 3/4"	[\$180.90]	[\$156.81]

	<u>\$180.90</u>	
3/4" x 3/4"	<del>[\$206.20]</del>	<del>[\$182.11]</del>
1"	\$253.01	<del>[\$228.92]</del>
1 1/2"	\$572.15	<del>[\$547.93]</del>
2" Turbine	\$1,031.24	<del>[\$856.54]</del>
2" Compound	\$1,324.91	<del>[\$1,278.10]</del>
3"	\$2,400.43	<del>[\$2,349.83]</del>
4"	\$2,991.24	<del>[\$2,940.73]</del>
6"	\$4,898.28	<del>[\$4,847.68]</del>
8"	\$6,882.46	<del>[\$6,831.86]</del>

~~[\*The installation of an AMI or AMR depends on the location of service account.]~~

#### SIX-INCH WATER TAP FOR FIRE PROTECTION

6" water tap .....\$3,801.00

#### Sec. 31-138.1.2 SERVICE CHARGES

Valve Operating Crew Fee...\$200.00

The Utilities Department can install a connection "Tee" to the City's water system. Any connection "Tee" fee will be based on a cost estimate prepared by a Licensed Professional Engineer Consultant (Texas) and provided by the contractor, and must be approved by the Utilities Director/City Manager if the amount is less than \$50,000.00 or by the City Council if the amount is \$50,000.00 or more.

~~{Cost of wet connections:}~~

~~{Eight" X eight" .....\$2,000.00}~~

~~{Ten" X six" .....\$2,000.00}~~

~~{Ten" X eight" .....\$2,000.00}~~

~~{Ten" X ten" .....\$2,000.00}~~

~~{Twelve" X six" .....\$3,000.00}~~

~~{Twelve" X eight" .....\$3,000.00}~~

~~{Twelve" X ten" .....\$3,000.00}~~

~~{Sixteen" X six" .....\$3,000.00}~~

~~{Sixteen" X eight" .....\$3,000.00}~~

~~{Sixteen" X ten" .....\$4,000.00}~~

~~{Sixteen" X twelve" .....\$4,000.00}~~

Cost of water taps: Not including Water availability and deposit

3/4".....\$1,590.74

1" .....\$1,675.23

1 1/2" ...\$1,749.21

2" .....\$2,032.00

3" .....\$2,914.00

4" .....\$2,969.00

6" .....\$3,928.00

Cost of 3/4" water taps for irrigation meter with existing domestic meter \$800.00

Cost for T-Connections and for irrigation (only allowed with single service line of 3/4" or dual service line of 1 1/2" taps).

3/4"..... \$240.61

Cost for service relocation

3/4"....\$240.61

1".....\$248.18

CITY OF LAREDO WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT COST OF WATER  
LINE EXTENSIONS, MATERIAL AND LABOR

On polyvinyl chloride (P.V.C.) pipe C-900 or C-905:

The Utilities Department can extend waterline for residential service connections. Any commercial service extension fee will be based on a cost estimate prepared by a Licensed



Professional Engineer (Texas) and provided by the contractor, and must be approved by the Utilities Director/City Manager if the amount is less than \$50,000.00 or by the City Council if the amount is \$50,000.00 or more.

2" P.V.C., per linear foot.....~~{2.00}~~ \$8.50

~~{6" P.V.C, per linear foot .....20.00}~~

~~{8" P.V.C, per linear foot .....25.00}~~

~~{10" P.V.C, per linear foot .....27.00}~~

~~{12" P.V.C, per linear foot .....30.00}~~

~~{16" P.V.C, per linear foot .....50.00}~~

#### LINE DESINFECTION OF WATER

##### PIPES:~~{+}~~

The contractor will furnish all labor and equipment necessary to complete the proper disinfection of the line and the cost of this operation shall be included in the bid price for the installation of the distribution system.

The City of Laredo will pay for the cost of the PASSING bacteria test, any failures will be at the expense of the contractor.

#### Changes or adjustments.

Based on the Public Utility Commission's rule regarding overbilling and underbilling, contained in title 16, Texas Administrative Code, section ~~[, Chapter 24, subchapter E,]~~ 24.87(h)

~~[Overbilling and underbilling]~~. "If billings for utility service are found to differ from the utility's lawful rates for the services being provided to the customer, or if the utility fails to bill the customer for such services, a billing adjustment shall be calculated by the utility. If the customer is due a refund, an adjustment must be made for the entire period of the overcharges. If the customer was undercharged, the utility may backbill the customer for the amount that was underbilled. The backbilling may not exceed 12 months unless such undercharge is a result of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion by the customer as defined in §24.89 of this title (relating to Meters). If the underbilling is \$25 or more, the utility shall offer to such customer a deferred

payment plan option for the same length of time as that of the underbilling. In cases of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion, a utility may, but is not required to, offer a customer a deferred payment plan.”

(a) Adjustments

Rates and charges described in sections 31-138 are set by action of the city council of the city. Any changes or adjustments to those rates are prohibited unless approved by the city council, except in the event that there is a clear error in calculation or meter reading. The Utility Director or his designee may, in the case of a clear error of calculation or meter reading, allow certain adjustments of amounts billed if sufficient evidence is presented by the customer.

Any adjustments will be based on the Public Utility Commission’s rule contained in section 24.87(h) of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code ~~{Chapter 24, subchapter E,(h)}~~.

(b) Back Billings/Under Billings

Any adjustments will be based on the Public Utility Commission’s rule contained in section 24.87(h) of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code ~~{Chapter 24, subchapter E,(h)}~~. .

Sec. 31-138.2. – Fire Protection Fees For Fire Protection Tanks

Annual Inspection Fee.....\$30.00

Refilling of fire protection tanks will be charged as bulk water as established under Section 31-139.

Sec. 31-138.3 Connection Fees For Temporary Construction Meters

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION METERS (RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL)

Before requesting a temporary construction meter, a plumbing permit must be obtained from the Building Department. The Utilities Department will approve the sizing of the temporary construction meter(s) based on required flow rate submitted by customer or customer representative at the time of the request for the development. In addition, for commercial meters, an appropriate backflow preventer must be registered with the Utilities Department and then installed by the customer at the location. For commercial locations, if a plat approval has not been issued, then the request for a temporary construction meter will be forwarded to the Utilities

Department for review and approval in order to ensure that the bacteriological and pressure tests are in compliance. The person desiring such meter shall first make an application and payment of fees (water availability, deposit, meter and meter installation) with the Utilities Department under section 31-138.1 and 31-141. The meter will be read and billed for water only during this period based on the current rates

Temporary Construction meters shall be allowed for **no longer than six months for residential and no longer than 9 months for commercial construction**. During these time frames, if a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Building Department is obtained, the temporary construction meter would become a permanent meter and all costs of services will be added to the bill (sewer, garbage, federal/state mandates, stormwater, tax and any other fees approved by City Council). The meter shall be installed, read and finally removed, if needed, by Utilities' employees only. It is illegal to remove or replace the meter by any person other than a Utilities Department employee and is subject to an illegal connection fee as established under Section 31-133 (e).

Sec. 31.138.4 – Refund of Security Deposits.

(a) A refundable security deposit for utility services is required from all customers according to section 31-138.1.2.

(b) For the purpose of this section "unsatisfactory credit history" means, according to the city tax department records, that utility service has been cut off more than once for nonpayment within the previous two (2) years or a bill has been left unpaid after any previous service was discontinued or there are balances overdue on any utility and paving contract and liens for forced lot cleaning or demolition are due to the city.

(c) The city shall review customer's payment histories in April of every year to determine eligibility for a one-time security deposit refund in the amount of thirty dollars (\$30.00) when a customer has met all of the following conditions:

(1) The account is on a residential meter; and

(2) The account currently has a utility security deposit posted in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or greater; and

(3) The customer has been receiving utility service for more than twelve (12) continuous months; and

(4) The customer has a good credit record of paying in thirty (30) days from the date of billing or less every month in accordance to the city tax department records; and

(5) The customer's service has not been cut off more than twice during the past two (2) years or less for nonpayment of a bill; and

(6) The customer is current on all utility and paving contracts and has no liens for forced lot cleaning or demolition due to the city.

(d) Customers eligible for refunds will receive their refunds according to the following guidelines:

- (1) Any refund of a portion of the security deposit will normally be credited to a customer's May bill. If the deposit is greater than the outstanding bill, the credit may be applied to the customer's next monthly bill.
- (e) All sums of money collected as cash deposit securing the utilities department against losses that may be sustained when a customer discontinues his/her utility services shall be deposited in a special fund to be used for the payment or adjustment of final amounts due the city for utility service when the account is being closed.
- (f) If a person makes a deposit and becomes insolvent or bankrupt, or makes an assignment for the benefit of the person's creditors, the city shall apply the person's deposit to offset the outstanding bill.
- (g) Any customer who has a posted security deposit of less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) because of a refund, senior citizen reduction, transfer reduction, a prior ordinance or other reason, but subsequently develops an unsatisfactory credit history, may be required as a condition for continuing utility service to post a security deposit in the full amount currently charged to new applicants.

Sec. 31-139. - Bulk water rates.

Bulk water is used in residential and commercial construction for the testing of the water lines.

(a) General requirements.

- (1) Without prior permission of the utilities department, no water may be removed from the city water system, except by the city fire department for firefighting purposes or the city water department.
- (2) No water shall be removed from the city water system unless it is dispensed by a device approved by the city.
- (3) The city makes no guarantees regarding the quality of water after it leaves the city water system, and persons purchasing bulk water agree to hold the city harmless regarding water quality if it is removed from the city's water system.
- (4) The utilities director or his designee may at any time halt the sale of bulk water.

(b) Bulk water categories and rates. Thirty dollar (\$30.00) administrative fee.

Potable water category (rate per 1,000 gallons up to 53,750 gallons) ..... \$ 8.00

Anything above the fifty-three thousand seven hundred fifty (53,750) gallons will be charged as commercial water rates as established in water rates, section 31-138.

Effluent water category (rate per 1,000 gallons) ..... \$ 4.00

Sec. 31-140. - Fire hydrant meters.

- (a) *System connection and water use.* The city's utilities department issues on-location fire hydrant meters for water usage on projects to contractors/customers on a short-term basis. Water taken from fire hydrants may be used only for non-potable, non-recreational purposes within the utilities department service area. The use of non-potable water taken from fire hydrants for swimming pools is prohibited. Fire hydrant meters may not be used for long-term irrigation or other uses where a permanently installed meter would be appropriate. No garden hose adaptors will be allowed to be connected to the two (2) inch fire hydrant meter. The utilities director may remove any fire hydrant meter due to pressure issues.
- (b) *Application process and inspection.* The contractor/customer shall submit the applicable fee and complete a fire hydrant meter application stating the exact location for the meter installation. The applicant shall provide the reason for the meter and an approximate time frame the meter will be in service. At the conclusion of each and every project, it will be necessary to finalize the meter reading. Upon request, the application will be updated for the new project location, time frame and transferring of applicable fees. The use of a meter other than what is indicated on the application shall cause the meter to be confiscated immediately. The contractor/customer must use a city meter and pay any and all applicable fees. Failure to comply with one (1) or more of the terms and conditions shall be cause for terminating the permit. Under a standard fire hydrant meter permit, the applicant may request the use of any fire hydrant from the utilities department's designated network fire hydrants. The utilities department staff will review such requests on a case by case basis and a decision shall be issued within five (5) business days of receiving the request. The utilities department reserves the right to refuse to issue a fire hydrant meter permit to any applicant or to require an applicant to pay all current charges on the applicant's utilities account as a condition to the issuance of a permit. The utilities department can inspect fire hydrant meters at any time and the permit holders shall make provisions for such inspections. The permit holder shall use the backflow preventer provided with the fire hydrant meter at all times to protect the city's water supply. Removal of the backflow prevention device shall be cause for confiscating the fire hydrant meter and terminating the permit. Any contractor, customer, builder, or person found connected to the water system without the city's approval shall be considered an illegal connection and subject to a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) illegal connection fee.
- (c) *Fees and charges.*
- (1) A deposit of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) is required for each fire hydrant meter account.
  - (2) The nonrefundable installation fee is three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) for each fire hydrant meter permit.
  - (3) All fire hydrant meter(s) shall be charged a minimum monthly charge of four hundred thirty dollars (\$430.00) which will provide up to fifty-three thousand seven hundred fifty (53,750) gallons. Anything above the minimum consumption will be charged as established in section 31-138, water rates.
  - (4) A contractor/customer may request for an on-location fire hydrant meter. If no fire hydrant exists at the location, the total cost for the installation of a new fire hydrant for on-location service is four thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,625.00) one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the fire hydrant, two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the fire hydrant installation, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) deposit and three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) for the fire hydrant meter installation).

- (5) The permit holder shall be required to remit payment for all water withdrawn from fire hydrants on a monthly basis. A late fee of five (5) percent or five dollars (\$5.00) whichever is greater is charged to the balance owed on the account at the beginning of the second business day after the bill due date of each month.
- (6) Fire hydrant flow test (if required) ~~\$\$\$~~ one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (d) *Loss, damage and payment.* For permit holders that contract with the utilities department, the director is authorized to withhold all or a portion of the deposit for outstanding fire hydrant meter charges including but not limited to repair and replacement of the hydrant meter and usage.
- If a fire hydrant meter is lost or stolen, the permit holder must file a police report and pay the minimum charge for one (1) month.

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

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 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 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 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 and three-fourths 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 [~~for which either the five-eighths by three-fourths inch or one-inch meter size applies~~] will pay a connection fee as follows: \$300.00.

{Meter Size (inches)}	{Lot Size (square feet)}	{Amount}
{ $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ }	{under 6,000}	{ <del>\$300.00</del> }
{ $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ }	{6,000 to 8000}	{500.00}
{ $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ }	{8001 to 9,999}	{750.00}
{ $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ }	{10,000 and over}	{1,000.00}
{1}	{any size lot}	{1,000.00}

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-O-019 or any amendments to this ordinance.

2. Multifamily will be charged as \$200 per unit [~~per meter~~]. 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 City Manager.

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

Size of meter in inches:

<del>{<math>\frac{3}{8}</math>"}</del> $\frac{3}{4}$ "	.....\$500.00
1"	.....\$1,000.00
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	.....\$2,000.00
2"	.....\$4,000.00
3"	.....\$8,000.00
4"	.....\$16,000.00
6" & 8"	.....\$40,000.00
<del>{8"}</del>	<del>.....\$64,000.00</del>

( 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.

~~{Sec. 31-141.1. Security deposits.}~~

~~{(a) A refundable security deposit for utility services is required from all customers according to section 31-138.1.2, rates and charges inside the city.}~~

~~{(b) An applicant for residential service to a three-quarter inch meter, who has not previous unsatisfactory credit history with the city, is only required to deposit thirty dollars (\$30.00) of the required deposit amount if the applicant complies with one of the following:}~~



- ~~[(1) — The applicant is sixty five (65) years or older, and has presented proof of age.]~~
- ~~[(c) — For the purpose of this section "unsatisfactory credit history" means, according to the city tax department records, that utility service has been cut off more than once for nonpayment within the previous two (2) years or a bill has been left unpaid after any previous service was discontinued or there are balances overdue on any utility and paving contract and liens for forced lot cleaning or demolition are due to the city.]~~
- ~~[(d) — The city shall review customer's payment histories in April of every year to determine eligibility for a one time security deposit refund in the amount of seventy dollars (\$70). The city may refund seventy dollars (\$70.00) of the required utilities security deposit when a customer meets the requirements under subsection (b) or has met all of the following conditions:]~~
- ~~[(1) — The account is on a residential meter inside city limits; and]~~
- ~~[(2) — The account currently has a utility security deposit posted in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or greater; and]~~
- ~~[(3) — The customer has been receiving utility service for more than twelve (12) continuous months; and]~~
- ~~[(4) — The customer has a good credit record of paying in thirty (30) days from the date of billing or less every month in accordance to the city tax department records; and]~~
- ~~[(5) — The customer's service has not been cut off more than twice during the past two (2) years or less for nonpayment of a bill; and]~~
- ~~[(6) — The customer is current on all utility and paving contracts and has no liens for forced lot cleaning or demolition due to the city.]~~
- ~~[(e) — Customers eligible for refunds will receive their refunds according to the following guidelines:]~~
- ~~[(1) — Any refund of a portion of the security deposit will normally be credited to a customer's May bill. If the deposit is greater than the outstanding bill, the credit may be applied to the customer's next monthly bill.]~~
- ~~[(f) — A customer who has a current utility service account and is eligible to receive a refund according to subsection (d) above may transfer the account from one (1) location to another within the city. If the customer has paid all the utility bills on the account in a prompt manner of within thirty (30) days of the billing according to the city tax department records, said customers shall only be required to deposit thirty dollars (\$30.00) of the current utility services deposit rate.]~~
- ~~[(g) — All sums of money collected as cash deposit securing the utilities department against losses that may be sustained when a customer discontinues his/her utility services shall be deposited in a special fund to be used for the payment or adjustment of final amounts due the city for utility service when the account is being closed.]~~
- ~~[(h) — If a person makes a deposit and becomes insolvent or bankrupt, or makes an assignment for the benefit of the person's creditors, the city shall apply the person's deposit to offset the outstanding bill.]~~
- ~~[(i) — Any customer who has a posted security deposit of less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) because of a refund, senior citizen reduction, transfer reduction, a prior ordinance or other reason, but subsequently develops an unsatisfactory credit history, may be required as a condition for continuing utility service to post a security deposit in the full amount currently charged to new applicants.]~~

~~[(i) If a person required to make a deposit in accordance with this section fails to make the deposit after applying for service or after notification of the deposit being due, or after notification of liability for an increased deposit, the city may discontinue service until payment or satisfactory arrangements for payment have been made.]~~

**Section 2.** 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.** This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall be published according to Section 2.09(D) of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

**Section 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect as of April 1, 2018, pursuant to the City Charter, Section 2.09(B).

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS  
THE 5 DAY OF February, 2018.

  
PETE SAENZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.  
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
KRISTINA LAUREL HALE  
CITY ATTORNEY

  
BY: LISA M. PAUL  
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY



## Final Reading of Ordinances 26.

### City Council-Regular

**Meeting Date:** 02/05/2018

**Initiated By:** Martin Aleman, Executive Director of Finance and Technology

**Initiated By:** Riazul Mia, P.E., Utilities Director

**Staff Source:** Riazul I Mia, PE, Utilities Director

---

### SUBJECT

**2018-O-026** Amending Chapter 31 (Utilities), Article III, (Water), Division 3 (Rates and Charges) section 31-138 (Water rates) by adding a fixed monthly water demand fee based on meter sizes as stated in table 4 (from \$1 to \$50 based on meter size); amending section 31-138.1.1 (fees) by implementing new account connection fees for same business day service (from \$35 to \$75 based on the need for meter setup); amending section 138.1.2 (service charges) by adding fees for installation of tee-connections, reducing the water tap fee for irrigation meters, amending the cost for 2" waterline extensions for service connections if needed, deleting the meter and meter installation fee for 5/8" meter, and reducing the security deposits for new customers who are 65 years or older and veterans; creating section of 31-138.4 (refund security deposits); amending section 31-141(b) by reducing the connection fees for residential services to a flat rate, adding a water connection fee for residential services to the Colonias, and reducing the connection fees for 8" commercial meter, amending section 31-141(f) by including the water demand fees; deleting section 31-141.1.1 (security deposits); providing for severability; providing this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for publication; and providing an effective date.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

The ordinance was introduced by the City council on January 24, 2018.

### BACKGROUND

The cost of water rights was \$720/ac-ft in 1996 and \$3000/ac-ft in 2015. City needs to acquire more water rights to meet the future demands and staff is recommending to implement a fixed monthly demand fees based on the meter size to generate additional revenue to additional water rights. Currently the only revenue collected during platting and meter connection fees are close to \$1.0 million which can only provide additional 300 ac-ft of water.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

## Introduction of the Ordinance

---

### **Fiscal Impact**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Budgeted Y/N?:**

**Source of Funds:**

**Account #:**

**Change Order: Exceeds 25% Y/N:**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Revenues generated will be deposited into the Utilities Funds.

---

### **Attachments**

water-demand

---



**CITY OF LAREDO ORDINANCE NO.  
2018-O-023**

AMENDING THE LAREDO LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 24.94.5, BY REVISING THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL CRITERIA; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-40

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-O-019**

AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE (MAP) OF THE CITY OF LAREDO BY REZONING APPROXIMATELY 16.96 ACRES, OUT OF D.M.J. SANCHEZ PORCION 22, ABSTRACT 277, LOCATED ON THE WEST END OF MONACO BLVD AND NORTH OF SHILOH DR., FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO R-1A (SINGLE FAMILY REDUCED AREA DISTRICT); PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-44

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-O-020**

AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE (MAP) OF THE CITY OF LAREDO BY REZONING LOTS 6 AND 8, BLOCK 218, WESTERN DIVISION, LOCATED AT 1219 SAN DARIO AVE., FROM B-1 (LIMITED BUSINESS DISTRICT) TO B-3 (COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT); PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-43

**ORDINANCE NO.**

AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE (MAP) OF THE CITY OF LAREDO BY AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR TOWNHOMES, PHASE 1, LOCATED AT 1219 SAN DARIO RD.; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-46

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-O-011**

AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE (MAP) OF THE CITY OF LAREDO BY REZONING APPROXIMATELY .084 ACRES AS FURTHER DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS IN EXHIBIT A, LOCATED AT NORTH OF PITA MANGANA RD., AND EAST OF CUATRO VIENTOS RD., FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO B-4 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT); PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-52

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-O-027**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 23 "PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES" BY REPEALING SECTION 23-8 "PROHIBITION REGARDING CHILD SEX OFFENDER IN CHILD SAFETY ZONE" AND REPLACING WITH A NEW SECTION "PROHIBITION REGARDING SEX OFFENDER IN SAFETY ZONE," AND AMENDING SECTION 23-9 "ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES" TO RESTRICT THE ACTIVITIES OF REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN AS WELL AS ADULTS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT, PENALTY FOR VIOLATION; SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-38

**ORDINANCE NO 2018-O-026**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 31 (UTILITIES), ARTICLE III, (WATER), DIVISION 3 (RATES AND CHARGES) SECTION 31-138 (WATER RATES) BY ADDING A FIXED MONTHLY WATER DEMAND FEE BASED ON METER SIZES AS STATED IN TABLE 4 (FROM \$1 TO \$50 BASED ON METER SIZE); AMENDING SECTION 31-138.1.1 (FEES) BY IMPLEMENTING NEW ACCOUNT CONNECTION FEES FOR SAME BUSINESS DAY SERVICE (FROM \$35 TO \$75 BASED ON THE NEED FOR METER SETUP); AMENDING SECTION 31-138.1.2 (SERVICE CHARGES) BY ADDING FEES FOR INSTALLATION OF TEE CONNECTIONS, REDUCING THE WATER TAP FEE FOR IRRIGATION METERS, AMENDING THE COST FOR 2" WATERLINE EXTENSIONS FOR SERVICE CONNECTIONS IF NEEDED, DELETING THE METER AND METER INSTALLATION FEE FOR 5/8" METER, AND REDUCING THE SECURITY DEPOSITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS WHO ARE 65 YEARS OR OLDER AND VETERANS; CREATING SECTION OF 31-138.4 (REFUND SECURITY DEPOSITS); AMENDING SECTION 31-141(B) BY REDUCING THE CONNECTION FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO A FLAT RATE, ADDING A WATER CONNECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO THE COLONIAS, AND REDUCING THE CONNECTION FEES FOR 8" COMMERCIAL METER, AMENDING SECTION 31-141(F) BY INCLUDING THE WATER DEMAND FEES; DELETING SECTION 31-141.1.1 (SECURITY DEPOSITS); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

L-39

# El Mercadito

**LAREDO • ZAPATA**

**FREE  
GRATIS**

**El Mercadito**  
LAREDO • ZAPATA

**Now Building in Aquero on Mines Rd. with access from Loop 20**  
Homes Starting at \$89,990 with payments in the low 700's

**Lots for Sale**  
Owners financing \$200 Down, payments starting at \$225 plus. No Credit. No Social Security needed.

**Cindy**  
Call 956-728-2511

**Carla Interiors**  
720 Chihuahua • (956) 727-4418  
www.carlainteriors.com

**Mobile Home & Residential**  
OWNER FINANCED  
NO CREDIT CHECK  
\$500 DOWN  
718-2892

**Ready to Buy?**  
We pay up to 5% for closing cost  
Bad credit, no problem. You can contract your home today, while we fix your credit!

**LAS FLORES**  
from \$118k

**EL EDEN**  
from \$70k

307 Dormin, 316 Dormin, 5102 Pirul, 5106 Pirul

CALL (956) 568-1811 - OPEN DAILY  
Sales Agent - Roberto Gonzalez 771-5192

**El Mercadito is the Largest weekly marketplace**

**Now with 54,000 sq ft in Laredo and Zapata**

**Ad space is available To advertise, please call sales representative**

**RETAIL:**

- Araceli Guerra 728.2513
- Amy Gonzalez 728.2520
- Kazandra Gonzalez 728.2508
- Anita Lopez 728.2534

**CLASSIFIED:**

- Jennifer Garcia 728.2511
- Gaby Calcano 728.2512
- Esmeralda Garza 728.2513
- Rosie Camacho 728.2514

**LAREDO MORNING TIMES**

**956-728-2511**