

City of Thomson, Georgia

Ordinance Number: 548

1st Reading: 10/14/10

2nd Reading: 11/11/10

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR WATERING OF LANDSCAPE

WHEREAS, The City of Thomson, Georgia (hereafter "City") recognizes an imminent need to create a culture of water conservation and to plan for water supply enhancement during future extreme drought conditions and other water emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, reasonable restrictions on the outdoor watering of landscape are necessary to address same in furtherance of addressing this need; and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Georgia has required all municipalities in Georgia to adopt an ordinance to be in effect no later than January 1, 2011, to allow outdoor watering of landscape to between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. (with certain exceptions); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C. G. A. §12-5-7, the Mayor and Council have prepared an ordinance to address outdoor watering of landscape.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED that the following is adopted as an Ordinance to read as follows:

Section 1. Restriction on Outdoor Watering of Landscape. Outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants in the City may occur only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.; provided, however, that this limitation shall not create any limitation upon the following outdoor water uses:

(A) Commercial raising, harvesting, or storing of crops; feeding, breeding, or managing livestock or poultry; the commercial production or storing of feed for use in the production of livestock, including, but not limited to, cattle, calves, swine, hogs, goats, sheep, and rabbits, or for use in the production of poultry, including, but not limited to, chickens, hens, ratites, and turkeys; producing plants, trees, fowl, or animals; or the commercial production of aquacultural, horticultural, dairy, livestock, poultry, eggs, and apiarian products or as otherwise defined in O.C.G.A. §1-3-3;

(B) Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable City ordinances and state guidelines;

(C) Reuse of gray water in compliance with O.C.G.A. §31-3-5.2 and applicable local Board of Health regulations;

(D) Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to provide reclaimed waste water:

(E) Watering personal food gardens;

(F) Watering new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;

(G) Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;

(H) Hand watering with a hose with an automatic cutoff or handheld container;

(I) Use of water withdrawn from an existing private water well or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;

(J) Watering horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;

(K) Watering athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;

(L) Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or,

(M) Hydroseeding.

Section 2. Enforcement.

(A) No person shall use or allow the use of water in violation of the restrictions on outdoor water use contained herein.

(B) The code enforcement office of the City shall be the enforcement authority for this ordinance.

(C) Any violation of the provision of this ordinance may be enforced by citation or accusation returnable to the Municipal Court or by any other legal means as set forth therein.

Section 3. Penalty

Unless otherwise expressly provided, any violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or 60 days imprisonment, or both. Each act of violation, and each day upon which any such violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense.