

ORDINANCE 2024-08
CITY OF KINGSLAND, GEORGIA
 TO AMEND WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCE – 2019-08

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSE OF AMENDING SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE SCHEDULE AND FIRE HYDRANT METER FEES:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Kingsland, and it is here ordained by authority of same, as follows:

SECTION 1. RATE SCHEDULE:

Section 1 of that certain water and/or sewer ordinance of the City of Kingsland duly passes and adopted September 8, 1982 as same appears of file and on record in the minute book of said city and as subsequently amended, is hereby amended and consolidated by changing rate schedules as follows:

From and after the passage of this ordinance there be and is hereby the following water and sewer rate schedules for the City of Kingsland, Georgia:

RESIDENTIAL WATER RATE SCHEDULE :

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 12.65 - minimum	\$18. 65 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.13 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 2.95 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons-----		\$ 2.47 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.29 - per 1,000 gals

COMMERCIAL WATER RATE SCHEDULE:

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 14.21 - minimum	\$ 23.52 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.30 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.50 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons-----		\$ 2.65 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.85 - per 1,000 gals

CHURCHES WATER RATE SCHEDULE :

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 12.65 - minimum	\$ 18.65 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.13 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 2.95 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons-----		\$ 2.47 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.29 - per 1,000 gals

RV/TRAVEL TRAILER PARK WATER RATE SCHEDULE (PER METER):

(For Pre-Existing RV Parks. See Note (b)2 below)

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$14.21 – minimum	\$21.31 – minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.30 – per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.45 – per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons -----		\$ 2.65 – per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.98 – per 1,000 gals

LODGING CLASS WATER RATE SCHEDULE (PER UNIT/ROOM):

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 10.35 - minimum	\$ 15.53 -minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.13 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.20 – per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons-----		\$ 2.47 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.71 – per 1,000 gals

FIRE HYDRANT:

**MONTHLY RENTAL FOR METER \$100.00 (minimum, will not be prorated)
 PLUS CONSUMPTION RATES (below)**

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$14.21 – minimum	\$21.31 – minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.30 – per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.45 – per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons -----		\$ 2.65 – per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.98 – per 1,000 gals

SHALLOW WELL:

An additional Surcharge of \$5.00 per month shall be added to the normal billing of all customers that apply for and receive a permit to use a shallow well in the City Limits of Kingsland, Said Surcharge shall be applicable for each and every month that the permit to use shall be in force.
Sewer usage is based on water metered.

RESIDENTIAL SEWER RATE SCHEDULE:

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE	OUTSIDE
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 12.65 - minimum	\$ 17.15 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.13 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.45 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons	-----	\$ 2.47 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.79 - per 1,000 gals

COMMERCIAL SEWER RATE SCHEDULE:

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE	OUTSIDE
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 14.21 - minimum	\$ 19.38 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.30 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.50 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons	-----	\$ 2.65 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.85 - per 1,000 gals

RV/TRAVEL TRAILER PARK SEWER RATE SCHEDULE (PER METER):

(For Pre-Existing RV Parks, See Note (b)2 below)

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$14.21 - minimum	\$ 21.31 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.30 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.45 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons	-----	\$ 2.65 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.98 - per 1,000 gals

LODGING CLASS SEWER RATE SCHEDULE (PER UNIT/ROOM):

CONSUMPTION	Up to--	MONTHLY CHARGE	
		INSIDE CITY	OUTSIDE CITY
0 gallon	0 gallon	\$ 10.35 - minimum	\$ 15.53 - minimum
1 gallon	6,000 gallons	\$ 2.13 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.20 - per 1,000 gals
Over 6,000 gallons	-----	\$ 2.47 - per 1,000 gals	\$ 3.71 - per 1,000 gals

SEPTIC TANK WASTE DISPOSAL FEE SCHEDULE:

<u>Connection Fee</u>		<u>Rate</u>
\$5 - per tank	+	\$.04 - per gallon

- (a) The rate schedule set forth above contemplates a single user, such as a one-family dwelling, one-farm dwelling with appurtenances, or a one-commercial operation.
- (b) Master Meter users such as multiple dwelling units, hotels/motels, RV Parks, Bed & Breakfast lodging establishments, office complexes, shopping centers, and residential mobile home parks shall pay user fees based on Master Meter Billing computed as follows:
 - 1. Minimum charges as outlined herein for each commercial or residential unit/ lodging room/RV camp site (slip/hook up), etc.
 - 2. Water/Sewer rates for RV Parks established in Ordinance #2018-01 will continue to apply to pre-existing RV Parks (in existence prior to February 25, 2019) until such establishment is sold to new owners. Additionally, the portion of expansion of any existing RV Park will be applicable to the current Water/Sewer rates in effect and will not be considered pre-existing. Modifications, including rate adjustments, to future Water/Sewer Ordinances will apply to all existing and new RV Parks proportionately, as applicable. For the purposes of this section, pre-existing RV Parks specifically refers to the following establishments:
 - i. Country Oaks RV Park, Tax Map 108 032A, up to 44 camp sites (slips/hook ups)

- ii. KiKi RV Park, Tax Map 095 003C, up to 22 camp sites (slips/hook ups)
 - iii. Walkabout Campground & RV Park, Tax Map 093 042A, up to 70 camp sites (slips/hook ups)
- (c) Extraordinary circumstances, such as, industrial users, and fire protection shall be governed by special contract agreements made by the Mayor and City Council on recommendations of the City's engineer.
- (d) Remote Read Opt-Out Program
1. An Opt-Out Program is available to customers for the Meter Transmitting Unit (MTU) only; the installation/replacement of water meters is mandated as outlined in the Water/Sewer Ordinance and cannot be opted out of.
 2. The Opt-Out Program is applicable to current property owners only. Current property owners are those listed on City tax records at the time of the opt-out election. Upon the sale or transfer of a property, a MTU must be installed as part of the remote read program unless the new owner elects to opt out under these guidelines.
 3. A customer may, at his/her discretion, opt out of the remote read program. In order to do so, the customer must complete and submit the Opt-Out form provided by the Department.
 4. The customer can enter into agreement with the City by completing the required Opt-Out form. The agreement will include conditions of participation and an acknowledgement of the additional fees and charges that will be assessed due to the election to opt-out.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE SCHEDULE INSIDE CITY:

		<u>MONTHLY RATE</u>
RESIDENTIAL:	PER RESIDENTIAL CAN 1xWEEK <i>(Budget Resolution 2023-06, effective January 1, 2024)</i>	\$15.00
COMMERCIAL:	ONE-96 GALLON CAN 1xWEEK	\$25.00
	TWO-96 GALLON CANS 1xWEEK	\$41.00
	TWO-96 GALLON CANS 2xWEEK	\$81.00

A wheeled garbage container (solid waste receptacle) will be delivered to new customers within 3-5 business days of opening the account. The garbage container will be picked up by the City at the same time the final water meter reading is taken upon account closure by the customer. The current replacement cost of the container will be deducted from the customer's security deposit when the customer fails to return the garbage container to the City in a serviceable condition.

SECTION 2. APPLICATION FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE:

The consumer shall make application for water and sewer service and at the same time shall make a security deposit as follows:

DEPOSIT INSIDE CITY:

RESIDENTIAL:	3/4 "	Meter	\$100.00
COMMERCIAL:	3/4 "	Meter	\$ 125.00
	1 "	Meter	\$ 200.00
	1 1/2 "	Meter	\$ 300.00
	2 "	Meter	\$ 400.00
FIRE HYDRANT		Meter	\$1,400.00

DEPOSIT OUTSIDE CITY

RESIDENTIAL:	3/4 "	Meter	\$100.00
COMMERCIAL:	3/4 "	Meter	\$150.00
	1 "	Meter	\$250.00
	1 1/2 "	Meter	\$350.00
	2 "	Meter	\$450.00
FIRE HYDRANT		Meter	\$1,400.00

Deposits for consumers requiring meters larger than 2 inch shall be determined by estimating two months usage and applying current rate schedules.

The security deposit required inside/outside the City shall be refunded to the customer when the wheeled garbage container is returned to the City in a serviceable condition, and all water & sewer bills are paid in full or when twenty-four (24) consecutive timely payments are made on the customer's account, whichever occurs first. To qualify for deposit refund account cannot have any late fees, disconnect fees, penalties, or returned check fees in the 24 months preceding the issuance of the refund. (Effective date shall be July 1, 2015).

All applicants for water and/or sanitary sewer who desire to not supply the City of Kingsland with a Social Security Number, which is to be used for collection purposes only shall submit a deposit for service in the amount of \$250.00.

SECTION 3. CHARGES FOR INITIAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE:

Section 3 of that certain water and/or sewer ordinance of the City of Kingsland duly passed and adopted September 8, 1982, and subsequently amended as appears office and on record in the minute books of said City, is hereby amended by changing fees as follows:

Each consumer subscribing to use the water and/or sewer service of the City of Kingsland shall execute a water and/or sewer users agreement and shall pay basic connection fees as follows:

(a) FOR WATER SERVICE:

<u>CONNECTION FEE INSIDE CITY:</u>	<u>FEE PLUS METER:</u>
3/4" Meter	\$ 600.00 + Meter
1" Meter	\$ 1,520.00 + Meter
1 1/2" Meter	\$ 2,500.00 + Meter
2" Meter	\$ 3,820.00 + Meter
3" Meter	\$10,595.00 + Meter
4" Meter	\$17,532.00 + Meter
5" Meter	\$26,000.00 + Meter
6" Meter	\$36,600.00 + Meter

<u>CONNECTION FEE OUTSIDE CITY:</u>	<u>FEE PLUS METER:</u>
3/4" Meter	\$ 600.00 + Meter
1" Meter	\$ 2,273.00 + Meter
1 1/2" Meter	\$ 3,694.00 + Meter
2" Meter	\$ 5,731.00 + Meter

Consumers requiring water connections larger than 2" in size shall pay a proportionately higher connection fee based on current costs of labor and materials.

In all cases of new multiple type users subscribing for water and/or sewer service, the City will make the determination as to the installation of either a master meter(s) or individual meters for each unit.

(b) FOR SEWER SERVICE:

The following Average Daily Flow shall be utilized to determine the indicated connection fee:

<u>TYPE OF INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FLOW GPD</u>	<u>\$ PER UNIT</u>
CLUB BUILDING	500	\$3,000.00
BAR		
PER SEAT	50 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 120.00
EMPLOYEE (FTE)	25 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 60.00
BEAUTY/BARBER SHOP		
PER WET CHAIR	333 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 799.00
BOWLING ALLEY		
PER LANE	125 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 300.00
CAR WASH		
PER BAY-SELF OPERATED	100 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 240.00
AUTOMATIC	166	\$ 398.00
CHURCH		
PER SEAT (in largest assembly)	5 (minimum \$1,000)	\$ 12.00
COIN LAUNDRY		
PER MACHINE	400	\$ 800.00

COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY PER MACHINE	640	\$1,536.00
COUNTRY CLUB PER 100 Square feet	250	\$ 600.00
HOSPITAL PER BED	200	\$ 500.00
INDUSTRIAL PER EMPLOYEE	35 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 84.00
LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS PER UNIT/ROOM (Includes Hotel/Motel, RV Parks, B&Bs)	225	\$ 1,080.00
MOBILE HOME PARK SINGLE OR DOUBLE WIDE	300	\$ 1,200.00
Apts. PER UNIT w/o washer/dryer hook up**	225	\$ 1,080.00
Apts. with washer/dryer Hook up** per unit	300	\$1,200.00
NURSING HOME PER BED	125	\$ 300.00
OFFICE PER 1000 SQ FT Medical per 1000 SQ FT	175 (minimum \$3,000) 500	\$ 420.00 \$1,500.00
RESIDENCE PER UNIT-INCLUDES CONDO/T.HOMES	400	\$ 1,200.00
MULTI-FAMILY* PER UNIT 1-2 BEDROOM 3 BEDROOM	300 400	\$1,200.00 \$1,200.00
*Includes duplex, triplex, quadra-plex		
RESTAURANT WITH DRIVE-IN PER SEAT W/O DRIVE-IN	55 (minimum \$3,000) 25 (minimum \$2,000)	\$ 132.00 \$ 50.00
SERVICE STATION/FUEL CTR. REGULAR PUMP TRUCK PUMP OTHERWISE PER PUMP	75	\$ 500.00 \$5,000.00 \$ 180.00
SCHOOL* PER STUDENT WITH GYM	17 (minimum \$1,000) 21 (minimum \$1,500)	\$ 41.00 \$ 50.00
*Includes Day Care Centers		
STORES, SHOPPING CENTER PER 1000 SQ FT	100 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 240.00
THEATER Per seat	5 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 10.00
AUDITORIUM CONVENTION CENTER, ASSEMBLY HALL (NO FOOD SERVICE) PER CAPITA	10 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 24.00
WAREHOUSE PER 1000 SQ FT	25 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 60.00

** Apartments are defined as a building designed for residential occupancy by 3 or more families living in separate units without firewalls separating the units and containing less than 1500 square feet of living space per dwelling unit.

FOR CAPITAL RECOVERY FEE:

The following Average Daily Flow shall be utilized to determine the indicated connection fee:

<u>TYPE OF INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FLOW GPD</u>	<u>\$ PER UNIT</u>
CLUB BUILDING	500	\$3,000.00
BAR		
PER SEAT	50 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 120.00
EMPLOYEE (FTE)	25 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 60.00
BEAUTY/BARBER SHOP		
PER WET CHAIR	333 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 799.00
BOWLING ALLEY		
PER LANE	125 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 300.00
CAR WASH		
PER BAY-SELF OPERATED	100 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 240.00
AUTOMATIC	166	\$ 398.00
CHURCH		
PER SEAT (in largest assembly)	5 (minimum \$1,000)	\$ 12.00
COIN LAUNDRY		
PER MACHINE	400	\$ 800.00
COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY		
PER MACHINE	640	\$1,536.00
COUNTRY CLUB		
PER 100 Square feet	250	\$ 600.00
HOSPITAL		
PER BED	200	\$ 500.00
INDUSTRIAL		
PER EMPLOYEE	35 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 84.00
LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS	225	\$ 1,080.00
PER UNIT/ROOM		
(Includes Hotel/Motel, RV Parks, B&Bs)		
MOBILE HOME PARK		
SINGLE OR DOUBLE WIDE	300	\$ 6,000.00
Apts. PER UNIT		
w/o washer/dryer hook up**	225	\$ 1,080.00
Apts. with washer/dryer		
Hook up** per unit	300	\$ 1,200.00
NURSING HOME		
PER BED	125	\$ 300.00
OFFICE		
PER 1000 SQ FT	175 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 420.00
Medical per 1000 SQ FT	500	\$1,500.00
RESIDENCE		
PER UNIT-INCLUDES		
CONDO/T.HOMES	400	\$ 6,000.00
MULTI-FAMILY*		
PER UNIT 1-2 BEDROOM	300	\$6,000.00
3 BEDROOM	400	\$6,000.00
*Includes duplex, triplex, quadra-plex		
RESTAURANT		
WITH DRIVE-IN	55 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 132.00

PER SEAT W/O DRIVE-IN	25 (minimum \$2,000)	\$ 50.00
SERVICE STATION/FUEL CTR.		
REGULAR PUMP		\$ 500.00
TRUCK PUMP		\$5,000.00
OTHERWISE PER PUMP	75	\$ 180.00
SCHOOL*		
PER STUDENT	17 (minimum \$1,000)	\$ 41.00
WITH GYM	21 (minimum \$1,500)	\$ 50.00
*Includes Day Care Centers		
STORES, SHOPPING CENTER		
PER 1000 SQ FT	100 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 240.00
THEATER		
Per seat	5 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 10.00
AUDITORIUM CONVENTION CENTER, ASSEMBLY HALL (NO FOOD SERVICE)		
PER CAPITA	10 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 24.00
WAREHOUSE		
PER 1000 SQ FT	25 (minimum \$3,000)	\$ 60.00

**Apartments are defined as a building designed for residential occupancy by 3 or more families living in separate units without firewalls separating the units and containing less than 1500 square feet of living space per dwelling unit.

- NOTES:
- (1) Minimum sewer system treatment fee for commercial/industrial buildings: \$800.00 + \$100.00 = \$900.00. All other tap fees will be computed on an individual basis by city engineer/city manager.
 - (2) These fees are for within the City connections.
 - (3) Customer must pay all expenses to bring water/sewer service to the point on the property line where the customer & the city agree that service will be provided. This includes the cost of a wet or dry tap of the lines. Mayor & Council may negotiate this issue.
 - (4) Fee's for outside the city service will be 50% higher.
 - (5) Flow GPD are determined by the City Engineer and may vary or differ from the above in unusual cases. All variance from this ordinance must be substantiated by a study.
 - (6) Any use not covered by this ordinance will be computed by the Engineer.
 - (7) Flow GPD will be computed to the nearest 1000 where applicable.
 - (8) All applicants for water and/or sewer service for existing one-family residential structures located within the City of Kingsland are eligible for service based on a payment plan. All fees shall be paid within 36 months of service.
 - (9) Connection to City of Kingsland sewer system shall only be permitted to those residents and businesses lying within the city limits.

In the case of new multi-family or other large user type projects where the owner/developer installs all water and sewer facilities in accordance with City approved plans, including mains, trunk lines, taps, and meters, the City may establish a special assessment fee in lieu of the normal connection fee(s).

Based on an assessment of the direct impact the development will have on water and sewer facilities, the special assessment fee may be less or greater than the normal connection fee.

The special assessment fee shall be established by the Mayor and Council upon recommendation of the City engineer and in accordance with the agreement between the City of Kingsland and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources dated June 30, 1981.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM:

\$240.00 per inch of pipe diameter. Each private line shall be equipped with an approved detector meter at customer's expense.

- Notes:
1. In all cases of new multiple type users subscribing for water and/or sewer service, the City will make the determination as to the installation of either a master meter(s) or individual meters for each unit.
 2. Customer must pay the full cost of compound or other meters as determined by the City plus shipping cost.
 3. Fee's for outside the city limits are to be 50% higher.

SECTION 4. MINIMUM CHARGES:

The minimum charge, as provided in the rate schedule, shall be made for such connection subscribed for. Water furnished for a given lot shall be used on that lot only, and except for fire protection, the City of Kingsland shall not under any condition furnish water or sewer service free of charge to anyone.

SECTION 5. TIME LIMITATION FOR CONNECTIONS

When basic water and/or sewer connection fees have been paid by an individual type user, the subscriber shall have (12) twelve months to connect to the system without additional charges, except as hereinbefore provided.

If actual connection occurs during the following (12) twelve months, the subscriber shall be required to pay any increase in the basic fee or fees that may have been adopted by the Mayor and Council by amendment to this ordinance.

At the end of twenty-four (24) months, the total amount of connection fee(s) paid shall be reimbursed to the applicant minus an administrative fee of \$100.00 if service tap(s) to the system have not been provided by the City of Kingsland and the connection to the tap has not been made by the applicant.

If a tap service to the system has been made for a location(s), the total amount of connection fee(s) paid shall be forfeited by the subscriber as service rendered even if actual connection by the applicant/subscriber has not been made.

Both Water and Sewer Connection fees shall be transferable if requested and approved by the Mayor and Council, but additional assessment fees shall be assessed and payable to the City based on increased service demand as provided for in SECTIONS 1, 2, and 3 contained herein.

Subscribers for multiple type users shall also be required to comply with this section, however a detailed schedule for development and connection shall be agreed to by written instrument by the owner/developer and adopted by official action by the Mayor and Council of the City of Kingsland.

SECTION 6. CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

The City of Kingsland, Georgia shall run a service line from its distribution line to the property line where the distribution line exists or is to be constructed and runs immediately adjacent and parallel to the property to be served. The basic connection fee shall be for a service line not exceeding one hundred (100) feet.

- (a) The City may make connections to service other properties not adjacent to its lines upon payment of reasonable costs for the extension of its distribution lines as may be required to render such service.
- (b) The City may install its meter at or near the property line or, at the City's option, on the consumer's property within three (3) feet of the property line.
- (c) The City reserves the right to refuse service unless the consumer's line or pipings are installed in such a manner as to prevent cross-connection or back-flow.
- (d) Under normal conditions the consumer will be notified of any anticipated interruptions of service by the City of Kingsland.
- (e) The City of Kingsland, Georgia shall run a sewer service line from its collection line to the property line where the collection line exists and runs immediately adjacent and parallel to the

property to be served. The basic connection fee shall be for a service line not exceeding one hundred (100) feet.

- (f) The City may make connections to service other properties not adjacent to its lines upon payment of reasonable costs for the extensions of its collection lines as may be required to render such service.
- (g) Residential water meters (3/4 inch) and small commercial water meters (3/4 inch) remain the property of the City of Kingsland. The City of Kingsland is responsible for making repairs to the water meters when necessary.
- (h) Commercial water meters are provided by the customer. Occasionally upon request, commercial water meters are ordered by the City and the customer reimburses the City at cost. Either way, commercial water meters, except small commercial (3/4 inch) water meters, are the property of the customer, and the customer is responsible for maintaining and repairing the water meter to City standards.

SECTION 7. CONSUMER'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

Water furnished by the City of Kingsland, Georgia shall be used for consumption by the consumer, members of his household and employees only. The consumer shall not sell water to any other person or permit any other person to use said water. Water shall not be used for irrigation, fire protection, nor other purposes, except when water is available in sufficient quantity without interfering with the regular domestic consumption in the area served. Disregard for this rule shall be sufficient cause for refusal and/or discontinuance of service.

- (a) Where meter or meter box is placed on the premises of a consumer, a suitable place shall be provided by the consumer therefore, unobstructed and accessible at all times to the meter.
- (b) The consumer shall furnish and maintain a private cut-off valve on the consumer's side of the meter. Should the City be called out after 4:30p.m. and/or after the City's normal operating hours to turn on or off a water meter because there is no such cut-off valve for consumer's repairs or maintenance, it will be subject to a \$25.00 service charge.
- (c) The consumer's piping and apparatus shall be installed and maintained by the consumer's expense, in a safe and efficient manner and in accordance with the sanitary regulations of the State Health Department.
- (d) In order to be received as a consumer and entitled to receive water from the City's water system, all applicants must offer proof that any private wells located on their property are not physically connected to the lines of the City's water system and all applicants by becoming consumers of the City covenant and agree that, so long as they continue to be consumers of the City, they will not permit the connection of any private wells on their property to the City's water system, by any piping permanent or temporary.
- (e) Sanitary sewer service furnished by the City of Kingsland, Georgia shall be for wastewater generated only by the Kingsland water system. No wastewater from private wells, storm drains, roof drains or similar sources shall be discharged into the system.
- (f) The consumer's sewer piping and apparatus shall be installed and maintained at the consumer's expense. All contractors or plumbers installing water/or sewer system service lines shall be registered at City Hall and approved by the City. All such connections and service line work shall be done in accordance with City specifications, and all work shall be inspected and approved by the City prior to the piping being covered with earth.

SECTION 8. ACCESS TO PREMISES AND EXTENSIONS OF SYSTEM:

Duly authorized agents of the City of Kingsland shall have access at all hours to the premises of the consumer for the purpose of installing or removing City property, inspecting piping, reading and testing meters, or for any other purpose in connection with the water service and its facilities and the sewer service and its facilities.

Extensions to the system, outside of existing right-of-way shall be made only when the consumer shall grant or convey, or shall cause to be granted or conveyed to the City of Kingsland a permanent easement of right-of -way across any property traversed by the water and sewer lines.

SECTION 9. CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY:

Notice during normal business hours must be given to the City of Kingsland to discontinue water and sewer service or to change occupancy. The outgoing party shall be responsible for all water consumed up to the time of departure or the time specified for departure, whichever period is longer. The new occupant shall apply for water and sewer service prior to occupying the premises, and failure to do so will make him liable for paying for the water consumed since the last meter reading.

SECTION 10. METER READING-BILLING-COLLECTIONS

Bills to customers for water and sewer service shall be mailed out on such day or days of each month as may be determined as desirable by the City. Bills shall be paid according to payment options listed on the bill, and a failure to receive bills or notices shall not prevent such bills from becoming delinquent nor relieve the consumer from payment of same. The failure of water and/or sewer users to pay charges duly imposed shall result in the automatic imposition of the following penalties:

- (a) Nonpayment after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 10% of the delinquent account. City of Kingsland must receive payment no later than 5:00p.m. on the due date to avoid penalties. Postmarks and check dates are not honored.
- (b) Nonpayment within 15 days from the due date will result in the water being shut off from the water user's property. (Effective date shall be July 1, 2015).
- (c) Nonpayment for 20 days after the due date will allow the City, in addition to all other rights and remedies, to terminate agreement, and in such event the water and sewer user shall not be entitled to receive, nor the City obligated to supply any water or sewer service under this ordinance. (Effective date shall be July 1, 2015).
- (d) When consumers have paid by check for services, and the check has been returned by the bank for insufficient funds (NSF), a \$30.00 service charge will be added to the total due. If there was a bank error, upon notification from the bank in writing, the NSF fee will be waived. All NSF checks must be picked up and replaced with cash or a money order. We will not send an NSF check back through the bank for a second approval. If the NSF check was for the customer's security deposit, the water will be disconnected and in addition to the NSF fee an additional service charge of \$25 will be charged.
- (e) Two (2) NSF checks on the same account written within 12 months of each other will result in the City not accepting any checks on that account for a minimum of 24 months from the date of the second check.
- (f) Service disconnected for nonpayment of account will be restored only after account is paid in full, an additional security deposit may be required and a service charge of \$25.00 will be applied to each utility account if it appears on the cut off list. If service is reconnected after 4:30pm, there will be an additional fee of \$25.00 added to each account. If the garbage container has been removed by the City, an additional \$25.00 service charge will be applied to return the garbage container to the customer's residence.
- (g) The consumer shall furnish and maintain a private cut-off valve on the consumer's side of the meter. A service charge of \$25 will be charged for service requested after 4:30p.m. and/or after business hours.
- (h) For fire hydrant meter accounts, failure to report monthly reading will result in a \$50.00 penalty fee. Any meter connected to a fire hydrant without proper application, meter device, and approval will result in a \$1,000 penalty fee. Any damages to fire hydrant and/or fire hydrant nut from not using a proper hydrant wrench will result in a minimum \$50.00 damage fee.

SECTION 11. SUSPENSION OF SERVICE:

When water and sewer service is discontinued by the customer, the security deposit shall be refunded to the customer by the City provided (1) the wheeled garbage container is returned to the City in a serviceable condition, and (2) all water & sewer bills are paid in full.

- (a) Upon discontinuance of service for nonpayment, the customer's water meter will be turned off and the garbage container picked up by the City. The security deposit will be applied by the City toward settlement of the account and any balance will be refunded to the customer. However, if the security deposit is insufficient to cover the outstanding balance, the City may proceed to collect the balance in the usual manner provided by law for collection of debts.
- (b) As stated in SECTION 10 above, service disconnected for nonpayment of bills will be restored only after bills and service charges (to reconnect water and to return the garbage container) are paid in full and an additional security deposit as may be required is made.

- (c) The City reserves the right to discontinue its service without notice for the following additional reasons:
1. To prevent fraud or abuse.
 2. Consumer's willful disregard of the City's rules.
 3. Emergency repairs.
 4. Insufficiency of water supply due to circumstances beyond the control of the City.
 5. Legal Processes.
 6. Direction of Public authorities.
 7. Strike, riot, fire, flood, or unavoidable accident.
 8. Incomplete water/sewer or tap application.
 9. Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) check given to City.

There is a transfer fee of \$20.00 for transferring from one address to another within the City's water system. This will be added to the customer's bill at the time the transfer occurs.

SECTION 12. COMPLAINTS/ADJUSTMENTS

If the consumer believes his bill to be in error, he shall present his claim to the City of Kingsland before the bill becomes delinquent. Such claim, if made after the bill has become delinquent, shall not be effective in preventing discontinuance of service as heretofore provided. The consumer may pay such bill under protest, and said payment shall not prejudice his claim.

- (a) The City will make a special water meter reading at the request of a consumer for a fee of \$20.00 provided, however, that if such special reading discloses that the meter was over-read, no charge will be made.
- (b) Water meters will be tested at the request of the consumer upon payment to the City of a fee of \$20.00 provided, however, that if the meter is found to over-register beyond 3% of the correct volume, no charge will be made.
- (c) If the seal of a meter is broken by other than the City's representative, or if the meter fails to register correctly or is stopped for any cause, the consumer shall pay an amount estimated from the record of his previous bills and/or from other proper data. If the meter is tampered or broken by other than the City's representative, cost of damages will be charged on consumer's account.
- (d) The statute of limitations applicable to refunding water/sewer/garbage service overpayments, whether due to a billing error, meter reading error or a faulty meter, etc, shall be three (3) years from the date the error was discovered. If the utility billing department discovers that it has been undercharging a customer, the billing department shall require the customer to render the amount of any underpayment up to the preceding three (3) years from the date the underpayment was discovered, if applicable.
- (e) In the occurrence of an unforeseeable or unpreventable failure or malfunction resulting in excessive water usage or water flow caused by an act of nature or a severe weather event, at the written request of the customer an adjustment for water and sewer may be available based on average usage. To be eligible, water leak must be repaired, request must be written, supporting documentation must be provided, and request must be made within three months from the bill date of the abnormal bill.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE:

This ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and ratification by the Mayor and City council of the City of Kingsland, Georgia unless otherwise indicated in ordinance.

SECTION 14. CONFLICTING ORDINANCE:

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

THIS ORDINANCE AMENDED and ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Kingsland, Georgia at a Meeting of the City Council of Kingsland, Georgia on the 28th day of May 2024.

THE CITY OF KINGSLAND

BY: _____
Dr. C. Grayson Day, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Jean Seigler-Horne, City Clerk