

ORDINANCE 2025-3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GROVELAND, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 78 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVELAND TO UPDATE DEPOSIT POLICIES AND TO UPDATE UTILITY RELATED FEES AND RATES BY AMENDING RATES FOR POTABLE WATER AND IRRIGATION WATER METERS AS WELL AS ADOPTING REGULATIONS AND FEES ASSOCIATED WITH PORTABLE HYDRANT METERS; REPEALING PORTIONS OF APPENDIX A – FEE SCHEDULE IN SUBPART B – LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council is authorized pursuant to Chapter 166 and Chapter 180, Florida Statutes to adopt this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City owns and operates a water utility and a wastewater utility to include irrigation; and

WHEREAS, each connection for potable water and irrigation water is metered and the cost of the meter is dependent on the size of the meter; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized by law to recover the costs associated with the meter; and

WHEREAS, the City also makes available a portable hydrant meter to meet needs of a temporary nature, such as construction, and there are costs associated with providing the meter, ensuring its return, installing the meter, relocating the meter and removing the meter, and the City is entitled to recover such costs; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to amend rates of meters to ensure recovery of the expense, adopt fees associated with use of a potable hydrant meter, and move utility related fees and rates from Appendix A in the Land Development Code to Chapter 78; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to adjust the amounts of deposits required to establish utility services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVELAND, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and made an integral part of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. The Code of Ordinance, City of Groveland, Florida, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Sec. 78-502 which said article reads as follows:

Sec. 78-502. – Table of rates, fees and charges.

The following rates, fees and charges are hereby adopted.

<i>Utility Security Deposit:</i>	
• Residential	\$200
• Nonresidential	An amount equal to the estimated water and wastewater billing for that type of establishment for a 2½ month period, but not less than \$200.00. Except that upon re-evaluation additional funds may be required pursuant to Sec. 78-54 so that the total utility security deposit is an amount equal to the commercial customer's utility bill amount for the 2½ months immediately preceding the re-evaluation.
Utility Service Fee - delinquent payment	10% of billed amount
Water connection charge	\$50.00
Re-connection charge	\$50.00
<i>Water meter fees:</i>	
RESIDENTIAL	
<i>Potable water -</i>	
• ¾" meter	\$765.00
• 1" meter	\$1,025.00
• 1½" meter	\$1,710.00
• 2" meter	\$1,930.00
<i>Irrigation -</i>	
• ¾" meter	\$745.00
• 1" meter	\$1,000.00
• 1½" meter	\$1,710.00
• 2" meter	\$1,930.00
• 3" and above will be required to be compound meter types with costs TBD by City via quote	
• Standard Meter Relocation Charge	Actual cost of relocation or adjustment including materials, labor and vehicle charges, plus 15% administrative costs
Replacement meter box charge	\$350.00 - Single \$375.00 - Double
Meter Tampering Fee	\$500.00

Service Line Installation Charge	Actual cost of installation including materials, labor and vehicle charges, plus 15% administrative costs with costs TBD by City via quote
Portable Hydrant Meter	\$2,500.00 deposit per meter \$25.00 administrative service charge \$100.00 monthly meter rental fee \$150.00 late exchange fee \$50.00 installation fee \$50.00 removal fee \$50.00 relocation fee Monthly usage per adopted commercial usage rates
High strength waste charge per Sewer Use Ordinance	\$0.30 per pound

SECTION 3. The Code of Ordinance, City of Groveland, Florida, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Sec. 78-26 which said section reads as follows:

Sec. 78-26 – Portable Hydrant Meters

- a. Water service from a fire hydrant is provided only to meet needs of a temporary nature, such as construction or similar needs, as approved by the City. The initial maximum term of service is twelve (12) months, with extensions of three (3) months each. Extensions must be requested in writing, before the expiration of the current term. The applicant must submit a written application and pay a deposit for each portable meter. Each portable meter is subject to a monthly rental rate referenced in Sec. 78-502 until the meter is returned. Portable hydrant meters are charged the monthly commercial usage rates in effect at the time of usage.
- b. Applications are approved subject to the following conditions:
 1. Only City personnel are authorized to install, relocate, or remove portable meters from fire hydrants. It is unlawful for anyone other than authorized personnel to use unmetered water from a City fire hydrant.
 2. The customer of record is liable for any damages to or theft of the City property and equipment, and as such, agrees to pay all charges in connection with repairing or replacing the City property or equipment including potential relinquishment of security deposit.
 3. The City is not responsible for damages caused by unauthorized placement of a portable meter or other appurtenances.
 4. Portable meters may be used for service from hydrants only. No installations will be

made on trucks. No private meters may be installed on the City hydrants.

5. Portable meters are issued for a maximum period of 12 months. At the end of the twelve-month period, the meter must be returned and a new meter issued. The City of Groveland will attempt to notify the customer by letter one month prior to the 12-month exchange date. Failure to exchange a portable meter during the exchange month will result in a per month late exchange fee until the meter is exchanged, returned, or confiscated. In addition, if the account is delinquent, a replacement meter will not be issued until the balance is paid in full.

6. All requests for installations, relocation and removals of portable meters must be made to the City's Utility Billing Department. Charges for water consumption and meter rental remain in effect until the written request for removal is received and the meter is removed.

7. A portable meter will be removed without notice when:

i) The customer account is in arrears.

ii) The term of service has ended, including any extensions, and the customer has failed to further extend the term of service or to exchange the meter.

iii) The meter is used, for any reason, as a permanent meter to avoid payment of fees for permanent service.

iv) No water consumption is registered for a period of three (3) consecutive months.

8. A deposit refund can be processed when:

i) An appointment is made for the pickup of the hydrant meter and the final reading is recorded.

ii) The deposit is applied to the final bill

9. In the event of the theft of an issued portable meter, a police report must be filed. Customer must notify the City of Groveland in writing and provide a copy of the police report in order to halt the monthly billing on the meter. Customer will forfeit the existing deposit. If a replacement meter is needed an additional deposit must be paid and the account made current prior to the new issue.

SECTION 4. Division 2. consisting of Sec. 78-54 through and including Sec. 78-58 of the Code of Ordinance, City of Groveland, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

DIVISION 2. - DEPOSITS

Sec. 78-54. - Amount of deposit.

- (a) A utility security deposit is required of and from all city utility customers per each individual utility account. ~~A property owner of multiple properties who has not been late with a city utility payment in his name within the last 12 months is only required to submit one utility security deposit to cover multiple accounts in his name.~~ Deposits should be in the amount provided in Sec. 78-502. The deposit shall be collected, deposited, and refunded in accordance with existing laws and regulations of the city.

- (b) Commercial utility security deposits are subject to review after six months of service to re-evaluate and adjust the deposit upward depending upon billing history. If the average bill amount over the preceding six months of service is greater than the initial utility security deposit collected, additional funds must be deposited so that the total utility security deposit is an amount equal to the consumer's utility bill amount for the 2½ months immediately preceding the re-evaluation.

Sec. 78-55. - Custody of deposits.

- (a) The city manager shall assign administrative responsibility for the collection and custody of utility security deposit monies.
- (b) Name change on a residential utility security deposit can only be transferred to a different customer in the event of death or divorce. Legal documents must be provided to substantiate qualification under this section.
- (c) Name change on commercial utility security deposits can only be transferred to a different customer when a business has purchased all assets and the legal documents specifically state that the utility deposits are part of the sale to the new owners. Legal documents must be provided to substantiate qualification under this section.

Sec. 78-56. - Issuance of deposit receipts.

Water security deposit receipts required by this article shall be issued at the time the deposits are made. Deposits on closed accounts shall not be refunded until any and all outstanding charges are paid in full for utility services.

Sec. 78-57. - Penalty for nonpayment of utility deposit.

Any consumer who fails to pay the required water security deposit shall be terminated as a customer and the supply of water to such customer immediately turned off.

Sec. 78-58. - Refund of deposit.

- (a) Refunds of residential deposits for accounts held by the property owner will be made after receiving city water for a minimum period of one year with no delinquencies occurring in the payment of the water bills during this one-year period. The city shall refund all amounts held as deposits to the customer at the property owner's written request, with the deposit amount applied as a credit to the account.
- (b) Refunds to tenants of properties will be made at the time the account is closed once the balance is paid in full.
- (c) Commercial account refunds will be made at the time the account is closed once the balance is paid in full.
- (~~b~~)(d) The deposit required by this article shall be refunded upon proof that the one seeking the refund is in fact the customer or one authorized to act on behalf of the customer in collecting the refund.

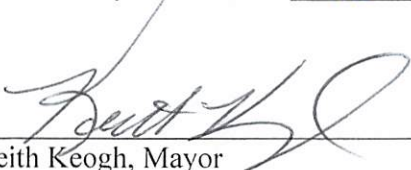
SECTION 5. Repeal of portions of Appendix A – Fee Schedule in Subpart B – Land Development Code. The provisions set forth in Exhibit A attached to this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. It is the intention of the City Council of the City of Groveland that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be codified and made a part of the City of Groveland Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 7. If any portion, clause, phrase, sentence or classification of this ordinance is held or declared to be either unconstitutional, invalid, inapplicable, inoperative or void, then such declaration shall not be construed to affect other portions of the ordinance; it is hereby declared to be the express opinion of the City Council of the City of Groveland that any such unconstitutional, invalid, inapplicable, inoperative or void portion or portions of this ordinance did not induce its passage, and that without the inclusion of any such portion or portions of this ordinance, the City Council would have enacted the valid constitutional portions thereof.


SECTION 8. The provisions within this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of the enactment.

PASSED AND ORDAINED in regular session of the City Council of the City of Groveland, Lake County, Florida, this 16th day of June, 2025.



Keith Keogh, Mayor
City of Groveland, Florida


ATTEST:



Virginia Wright
City Clerk



Approved as to Form:


Anita Geraci-Carver / Sandy Minkoff
City Attorney

Passed First Reading 6-2-2025
Passed Second Reading 6-16-2025

Council Member Carroll moved the passage and adoption of the above and foregoing Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Council Member Fike and upon roll call on the motion the vote was as follows:

	YEA	NAY
Amy Jo Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Judith Fike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barbara Gaines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Keith Keogh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mike Radzik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

EXHIBIT A

Subpart B - LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE Appendix A FEE SCHEDULE

Appendix A FEE SCHEDULE

• First 4,000 gallons	• \$27.13 Inside City • \$33.92 Outside City	
• > 4,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons, maximum 20,000 gallons (no charge over 20,000 gallons)	• \$2.10 Inside City • \$2.63 Outside City	
Commercial (includes schools and industrial)		
Sewer availability charge; includes 0 gallons of usage		
INSIDE CITY		
• 5/8" or 3/4" meter	• \$27.13	
• 1" meter	• \$67.86	
• 1½" meter	• \$135.71	
• 2" meter	• \$217.15	
• 3" meter	• \$407.18	
• 4" meter	• \$678.62	
• 6" meter	• \$1,357.26	
Sewer usage charge: \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons (all usage)		
OUTSIDE CITY		
• 5/8" or 3/4" meter	• \$33.90	
• 1" meter	• \$84.82	
• 1½" meter	• \$169.62	
• 2" meter	• \$271.43	
• 3" meter	• \$508.97	
• 4" meter	• \$848.26	
• 6" meter	• \$1,696.57	
Sewer usage charge: \$2.63 per 1,000 gallons (all usage)	(outside city is charged the inside rate times a factor of 1.25 as permitted by Florida State Statute)	
Green Valley West Commercial	Charged the above rates plus an additional \$10.00 availability surcharge on each meter size and sewer	Sec. 78-24

	usage charge \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons (all usage)	
High Strength waste charge	\$ TBD	Sec. 78-25(a)
<i>Utility Security Deposit:</i>		Sec. 78-54(a)
— Residential	\$75.00 good credit \$150.00 bad credit (as determined by credit check)	
— Residents that are tenants of a leased or rented property	Tenants: \$150.00	
— Nonresidential	An amount equal to the estimated water and wastewater billing for that type of establishment for a 2½ month period, but not less than \$150.00. Except that upon re-evaluation additional funds may be required pursuant to Sec. 78-54 so that the total utility security deposit is an amount equal to the consumer's utility bill amount for the 2½ months immediately preceding the re-evaluation.	
Utility Service Fee—delinquent payment	10% of billed amount	Sec. 78-92(b)
Water connection charge	\$25.00	Sec. 78-118
Re-connection charge	\$25.00	
Privilege fee—extensions of water utilities based on size of tap:		Sec. 78-157
— ¾"	— \$300.00	
— 1"	— \$400.00	
— 2"	— \$800.00	
— 4" and greater	— Subject to negotiation	
Line extension fee for wastewater service	\$300.00	
<i>Water meter installation fees:</i>		
RESIDENTIAL	With service line installation	
— Potable water—		
— ¾" meter	— \$412.10	

• 1" meter	• \$530.32	
• 1½" meter	• \$663.76	
• 2" meter	• \$835.39	
Irrigation		
• ¾" meter	• \$412.10	
• 1" meter	• \$530.32	
• 1½" meter	• \$663.76	
• 2" meter	• \$835.39	
• 3" and above will be required to be compound meter types with costs TBD by City		
Standard Meter Relocation Charge	Actual cost of relocation or adjustment including materials, labor and vehicle charges, plus 15% administrative costs	
Replacement meter box charge	\$106.50 Single \$114.90 Double	
Meter Tampering Fee	\$500.00	
Service Line Installation Charge	Actual cost of installation including materials, labor and vehicle charges, plus 15% administrative costs	