

ORDINANCE 724

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, UTILITIES-BILLING CHARGES, OF THE CAMANCHE MUNICIPAL CODE BY DELETING SECTIONS 6-5-3, PAYMENT, AND 6-5-4, ENFORCEMENT, AND INSERTING NEW SECTIONS IN LIEU THEREOF

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMANCHE:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Chapter 5, Utilities-Billing, of the Camanche Municipal Code by deleting existing sections 6-5-3, Payment, and 6-5-4, Enforcement, and inserting new sections in lieu thereof.

SECTION 2. FACTS FOUND. The City Council of the City of Camanche, Iowa hereby makes the following findings of fact:

- 1) It is appropriate and reasonable to make changes to the utility billing process and customer payment timelines.
- 2) These changes are appropriate because new computer software has made it possible to improve the billing timeline.
- 3) Clearly establishing utility billing timelines and customer payment timelines will benefit City staff and customers alike.
- 4) The proposed changes will benefit the City of Camanche water, sewer, and refuse operations by streamlining the billing process, customer payment schedule, and procedures for non-payment on an account.

Section 3. Amendments. Chapter 5, Utilities Billing- Charges, of the Camanche Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

- 1) The current section 6-5-3, PAYMENT, is amended by deleting the current section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6-5-3 PAYMENT. Water bills shall be calculated and billed on a quarterly basis. Bills shall be calculated in March, June, September and December of each year and shall be due and payable in the following month. Bills will be calculated and mailed out on the 10th day of the month. Bills are due and payable no later than the 6th day of the month following the month in which the bills were calculated. Effective the 7th day of the month following the month in which the bills were calculated, a utility bill shall be considered past due, and a penalty charge equal to five per cent (5%) of the total unpaid utility bill shall be added to the amount due.

Accounts which are past due shall receive a reminder notice that the account is past due and requires payment. If an account remains unpaid for ten days after the reminder notice is provided, the account

holder shall be mailed a final "shut off" notice indicating that unless payment in full is received within five days of the date of the final notice, water service will be discontinued until payment in full is received.

The City will assist the customer by establishing a "payment agreement" allowing the customer to make payments on the utility account. Customers must meet the terms established in the payment agreement or the City will discontinue water service on the account. The City will not authorize a payment agreement on any account that has been issued a final "shut off" notice.

- 2) The current section 6-5-4, ENFORCEMENT, is amended by deleting the current section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6-5-4 ENFORCEMENT. Upon receipt of the final "shut off" notice, the customer must make payment in full within five days of all balances due on the utility account. Accounts which have not been paid in full at the expiration of the five day period will be assessed a twenty five dollar (\$25.00) fee. At this time, the City will generate a "shut off" list and the City will discontinue water service by physically turning off the water service to the property. If the water service is physically turned off, the account will be assessed an additional twenty five dollar (\$25.00) reconnection fee. This fee will be added to the past due balance and all balances due must be paid before the water service will be turned back on.

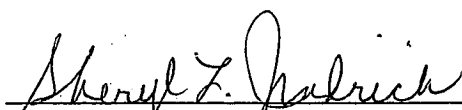
Should the customer require the water service to be turned back on outside of regular working hours, there shall be a seventy five dollar (\$75.00) additional charge to reimburse the water fund for actual costs incurred.

SECTION 4. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudicated invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law:

Passed by the Camanche City Council this 2nd day of October, 2012 and approved this 2nd day of October, 2012.


Attest: Sherri Jindrich, City Clerk


Kenneth Fahlbeck, Mayor