

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1310

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS, TO ESTABLISH UNIT-BASED WATER UTILITY BILLING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, CLARIFYING APPLICATION OF BASE RATES, AND AUTHORIZING ACCOUNT VERIFICATION PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Taft seeks to equitably distribute utility service costs among all properties capable of receiving water service; and

Whereas, the current utility billing structure does not explicitly address accounts serving multiple residential or commercial units, resulting in revenue disparities and administrative confusion; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the City Council to clarify that base charges for water and wastewater services shall apply per unit, regardless of metering configuration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. Amendment to Chapter 54, Article I — In General. Section 54-1 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Taft, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows, with the underlined text added, and the text deleted.

Section 54-1 — Adoption and Definitions

The rules and regulations provided in this chapter shall be followed by the department of public works of the city, and there are hereby adopted such rules and regulations for the operation of the department of public works. Plumbing rules and regulations not mentioned in this ordinance shall be governed by the plumbing code in effect and adopted by the city council.

(b) Definitions. The following terms shall have these meanings when used in this Section:

Unit means any distinct living, working, or serviceable space that is separately occupiable and capable of receiving water service through an existing or shared connection. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Recreational vehicle (RV) spaces;
2. Mobile home spaces;
3. Apartment or Condominiums;
4. Duplex, triplex, or multiplex dwellings;
5. Commercial suites or businesses within a shared structure

6. Vacant seaces or lots that contain water taps or infrastructure ready for connection.

AccotJnf means the customer entity, whether individual or business to whom water service is provide d under one billin g profile or meter .

SECTION 2. Arrieridment to Section 54-3 — Water Rates. The Code of Ordinances, Gity of Taft, Texas, is hereby amended by adding subsections, to be numbered 54-3 (e) through 54-3(g), which subsections read as follows, with the ould underlined text added, and the text deleted.

- (e) Base Rate per Unit.

All utility accounts shall be assesserl a monthly base charae for each unit as defined in Section 54-1. The total base charge shall be calculated as the product of the base rate and the number of units under the account, regardless of whether service is individually or iointlv metered.

- (fl) Applicability to Vacant Units.

Units that are currently unoccupied bgt contain a functional water tag or other means of service delivery shall be included in the monthlv base charge unless the unit has been formally decommissioned and the exclusion is aereroved by the City prior to the beginning of the billing cycle.

- (n) Superseding Conflicts.

In the event of conflict with anv provision that calculate9 base rates ger meter or ger account without consideration of units, this subsection shall control.

SECTION 3. Amendment to Section 54-4 — Application for Service. The Code of Ordinances, City of Taft, Texas, is hereby amended by adding a subsection, to be numbered 54-4(d), which subsection reads as follows, with the o d u de l n d text added, and the text deleted.

(d) Each applicant for utili ty service shall report the number of units associated wi th the servic e location. An y changes to the unit count must be re ported within 30 days. Failure to do so may result in retroactive billin g and penalties as provided in Section 54-21.

SECTION 4. Amendment to Section 54-6 — Monthly Bills. The Code of Ordinances, City of Taff, Texas, is hereby amended by adding a subsection, to be numbered 54-6(k), which section reads as follows, with the bold, underlined text added, and the text deleted.

(k) For accounts with multiple units, the monthly bill shall reflect a base rate charge for each unit as described in Section 54-3(e), in addition to consumption charges.

SECTION 5. Amendment to Section 54-6 — ' letters. The Code of Ordinances, City of Taft, Texas, is hereby amended by adding a subsection, to be numbered 54-8(e), which section reads as follows, with the bold, underlined text added, and the struck through text deleted.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the City's ability to assess base charges per unit under a shared meter configuration. Metering applies to consumption charges; base charges are governed by Section 54-3(e).

SECTION 6. New Section 54-29 — Unit Count Verification. The Code of Ordinances, City of Taft, Texas, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered 54-29, which section reads as follows, with the bold, underlined text added, and the text deleted.

54-29 — Unit Count Verification.

The City of Taft reserves the right to inspect any premises receiving water service to verify the number of units receiving service under a single account. Failure to allow inspection may result in administrative penalties and/or service disconnection.

SECTION 7. Repealer Clause

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8. Severability Clause


If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such finding shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect on [insert effective date], following its adoption and publication as required by law.

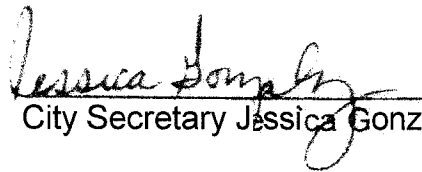
PASSED AND APPROVED this today of _____, 2025.

CITY OF TAFT TEXAS



yor Leonard Vasque

ATTEST:



City Secretary Jessica Gonzalez