

NOTICE TO THE CITIZENS OF GROVETOWN

THE FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 234 WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCE TO REPLACE EXISTING ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH WATER & SEWER RATES SCHEDULES, SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS WILL BE READ DECEMBER 12TH, 2016 AT THE REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING. THE SECOND READING WILL BE JANUARY 8TH, 2017 AT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

ANYONE WISHING TO OBTAIN A COPY MAY DO SO BY GOING TO THE CITY OF GROVETOWN WEBSITE, [www.cityofgrovetown.com](http://www.cityofgrovetown.com) OR AT GROVETOWN CITY HALL, 103 OLD WRIGHTSBORO ROAD MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

SHIRLEY BEASLEY

## ORDINANCE 234

### WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING AND REPLACING EXISTING ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH WATER AND SEWER RATE SCHEDULES, SERVICE RULES, AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF GROVETOWN, GEORGIA.

BE IT ORDAINED, BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVETOWN, GEORGIA AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY AUTHORITY OF SAME AS FOLLOWS:

#### SECTION 1. SCHEDULE OF WATER RATES

The schedule of water & sewer rates and connection fees, as set from time to time by the Mayor and Council, shall be kept current and maintained in the office of the City Clerk, upon recommendation of City Accountant

#### SECTION 2. APPLICATION FOR UTILITY SERVICE

The consumer shall make application for water and sewer service, in person, at the City Hall of the City of Grovetown, Georgia and at the same time shall make a set-up fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for residential utility service and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for commercial utility service.

#### SECTION 3. CHARGES FOR INITIAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE.

From and after the passage and adoption of this Ordinance, the water and sewer tap fee schedules will apply for the City of Grovetown, Georgia. The tap fee schedule will be reviewed by the Public Works Director and/or Water/Sewer Operations Manager at least annually and to be approved by Mayor & Council and the City Accountant and revised as needed to provide for the receipt of adequate revenues to meet the requirements of debt service, operation and maintenance, and the establishment of required reserves.

#### 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 Grovetown shall not under any condition furnish water & sewer free of charge to anyone.

#### SECTION 5. CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY.

The City of Grovetown 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. No service charge, other than the connection fee referred to in Section 3 above will be made.

- a. It shall be mandatory for all existing residences, businesses and industries whose property line is within two hundred (200) feet of the sewer service, which have indoor plumbing facilities, to connect to and use the central sewer system within ninety (90) days after service is available. All new single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings including trailer parks, commercial facilities and industries must utilize the central sewer service.
- b. The City may make connections to service other properties not adjacent to its lines upon payment of reasonable costs for the extensions of its distribution lines as may be required to render such service.
- c. 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.

- d. The City reserves the right to refuse service unless the consumer's lines or piping are installed in such a manner as to prevent cross connections or back flow.
- e. Under normal conditions, the City of Grovetown will notify the consumer of any anticipated interruptions of service.

**SECTION 6. CONSUMER'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY.**

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, car washing, or other purposes, except when water is available in sufficient quantity without interfering with regular domestic consumption in the area served. Disregard for this rule shall be sufficient cause for refusal and/or discontinuance of service.

- a. The consumer shall provide a suitable place where meter or meter boxes is placed on the premises of a consumer, therefore, unobstructed and accessible at all times to the meter reader.
- b. The consumer shall furnish and maintain a private cut-off valve on the consumer's side of the meter.
- c. The consumer's piping and apparatus shall be installed and maintained by the consumer at 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 received 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.

**SECTION 7. ACCESS TO PREMISES AND EXTENSIONS OF SYSTEM.**

- a. Duly authorized agents for the City of Grovetown 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 and the sewer service and its facilities.(cleanouts, manholes, etc.)
- b. Extension to the system shall be made only when the consumer shall grant or convey, or shall cause to be granted or conveyed, to the City of Grovetown a permanent easement of right-of-way across any property traversed by the water and sewer lines.

**SECTION 8. CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY.**

Not less than three (3) business days' notice must be given, in person or in writing, at the City Hall of the City of Grovetown 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 service within forty-eighth (48) hours after occupying the premises and failure to do so will make him liable for paying for the water consumed since the last meter reading.

#### **SECTION 9. METER READING – BILLINGS – COLLECTING.**

Bills to customers for water, sewer and other services shall be mailed out on such day or days of each month as may be desirable to the City. Bills shall be made payable to City of Grovetown and a failure to receive bills or notices shall not prevent such bills from becoming delinquent nor relieve the consumer from payment of the same.

The failure of water/or sewer users to pay charges duly imposed shall result in the automatic imposition of the following penalties:

- a. Nonpayment within ten (10) days after the due date (5<sup>th</sup> of each month) will be subject to a ten percent (10%) penalty being added to the delinquent account.
- b. Nonpayment within fifteen (15) days from the due date (5<sup>th</sup> of each month) will result in the water being shut off from the water user's property.
- c. Nonpayment for thirty (30) days after original due date (5<sup>th</sup> of each month) will allow the City, in addition to all other rights and remedies, to terminate agreement, and in such event, the water user shall not be entitled to receive, nor the City obligated to supply, any water under this agreement.

Service disconnected for nonpayment of bills will be restored only after bills are **PAID IN FULL** and a delinquent fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) is paid for each delinquent account on the list.

#### **SECTION 10. TAMPERING WITH WATER AND SEWER PROPERTY.**

A fee will be set by Mayor & Council upon recommendation of the City Accountant and Public Works Director for anyone tampering with water and/or sewer property i.e.: straight piping a tap, use of a hydrant without a City meter, tampering with locking devices, etc. Additional charges for estimated water usage may apply when using water without metering devices.

A builder requesting a replacement for a stolen, damaged or missing meter will be charge a fee set by Mayor and Council. Tampering or destroying City's property could also result in being tried before the municipal court of the City of Grovetown and punished as follows: up to 6 months in jail, up to 12 months of probation, and/or a fine of up to \$1000.00.

#### **SECTION 11. SUSPENSION OF SERVICE.**

When water and sewer service is discontinued and all bills paid, the security deposit, if applicable, shall be refunded to the consumer by the City.

- a. Upon discontinuance of service for nonpayment of bills, the City of Grovetown toward the settlement of the account will apply the security deposit, if applicable. Any balance will be refunded to the consumer; however, if the security deposit is insufficient to cover the bill, the City may proceed to collect the balance in the usual way provided by law for collection of debts.
- b. 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 repair.
4. Insufficient water supply due to circumstances beyond the City's control.
5. Legal processes.
6. Direction of public authorities.
7. Strike, riot, fire, floods, unavoidable accident.

#### **SECTION 12. COMPLAINT – ADJUSTMENTS**

If the consumer believes his/her bill to be in error, he/she shall present his claim, in person, at the City Hall of the City of Grovetown 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 such payment shall not prejudice his/her claim.

- a. The City will make a special water meter reading at the request of a consumer for a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) 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 the actual costs of making the test 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 topped for any cause, the consumer shall pay an amount estimated from record of his previous bills and/or from other proper data.
- d. No adjustments will be made on water usage.
- e. Adjustments may be made on Sewer charges when the following conditions are present.
  - Customer notifies the City of Grovetown Utility Billing Division of an excessive utility bill that may be related to a leak
  - Leak occurred on the customer's side of the meter
  - Plumber's receipt or other proof confirms the leak was repaired
- f. No Sewer adjustment will be granted where any of the following situations exist
  - Usage above the customer's average monthly consumption is due to seasonal usage such as watering of sod, gardening, filling swimming pools or whirlpools, washing vehicles, etc.
  - No adjustments shall be made for sprinkler use.
  - Leak was caused by a third party from whom the customer is able to recover their costs. Examples include, but are not limited to, theft, vandalism, negligence and construction damage, unoccupied or vacant properties.
  - When leak continues for one (1) or more months, there will be no adjustment for the third or subsequent months.

- The meter at said property has been accessed, tampered with, or turned on/off by anyone other than a City of Grovetown employee and that action results in loss of water.
- A leak adjustment was issued within the past two (2) years for the same premise.

**SECTION 13. CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.**

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

**THIS ORDINANCE READ AND ADOPTED BY THE** Mayor and City Council of the City of Grovetown, Georgia at their regular meeting of the City Council of Grovetown on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

ATTESTED:

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Roxanne Brown, City Clerk

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Gary Jones, Mayor

## 2017 RESIDENTIAL TAP-IN FEES

Sewer tap fees are based on water meter size.

<b>Cost for 3/4" Service for Residential Use (Inside City Limits)</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$800
<b>Cost for 1" Service for Residential Use (Inside City Limits)</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$950
<b>Cost for 3/4" Service for Residential Use (Outside City Limits)</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$900
<b>Cost for 1" Service for Residential Use (Outside City Limits)</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$1,050
<b>Residential Sewer Tap Fees</b>	
3/4"	\$850
1"	\$900

**2017 COMMERCIAL TAP-IN FEES**

Sewer tap fees are based on water meter size.  
Commercial tap fees are a minimum of 1"

**\*COMMERCIAL TAPS ARE A MINNIMUM OF 1"\***

**\*COMMERCIAL TAPS ARE A MINNIMUM OF 1"\***

**BACKFLOWS 6"-8" ARE COST +**

<b>Cost for 1" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$1,500
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$1,900

<b>Cost for 1 1/2" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$1,900
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$2,300

<b>Cost for 2" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	\$2,800
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$6,500

<b>Cost for 3" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	Cost + \$1,000
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$9,900

<b>Cost for 4" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	Cost + \$1,000
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$16,700

<b>Cost for 6" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	Cost + \$2,000
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$34,800

<b>Cost for 8" Service for Commercial Use</b>	
	<b>Water</b>
	Cost + \$2,000
	<b>Sewer</b>
	\$60,900