Ordinance No. 6150

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE LATE FEES APPLIED TO UTILITY BILLS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 13.08.470, 13.08.510, AND 8.08.070 OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has implemented a new financial software system; and

WHEREAS, the City’s intends to transition its utility billing system to the new software system; and

WHEREAS, the new software system requires certain changes to the way late fees are applied to utility bills.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 13.08.470 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.08.470 Billing generally.
A. Billing for water service shall be made on a monthly basis with such monthly date to be determined by the Finance Officer. The water bill shall be based upon the monthly reading of water usage, except as provided in § 13.08.480, and such bills shall be payable at the city Finance office or at an authorized bank depository by automatic withdrawal upon a written agreement with the city. Net monthly utility bills are due and payable when received. Any utility bills unpaid 23 days after the billing date shall be considered delinquent. A late payment charge of six and one-half percent (6½%) or a flat rate charge of $5, whichever is the greater amount, shall be assessed on the current unpaid balance of a delinquent account.

B. A water account opened after the first or closed before the last day of a monthly billing period as established by the city Finance Officer, when such account uses less than the monthly minimum provided in § 13.08.430, shall be billed on a prorated daily basis, with each month considered to be 30 calendar days.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 13.08.510 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby deleted in its entirety.

13.08.510 Shut off policy for new accounts.
A. A new account on which a deposit and service charge is owed shall become delinquent if not paid within 15 days after the new account has first been billed. Water for any new account is subject to shut off if the delinquent amount is not paid in full within 7 days after receipt of a delinquent notice.
B. This shut off policy shall apply only to the first billing of new accounts on which a deposit and service charge is owed. All future billings will be subject to the provisions of § 13.08.500.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 8.08.070 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

8.08.070 Collection–Charges.
As required by Title 13 of this code, a non-refundable 1-time new account fee shall be paid to the city. The new account fee covers water, sewer, and/or garbage service account(s); meaning a single new account fee shall be charged for the opening of a single account type of any combination of accounts thereof.
Further as required by Title 13, an advanced payment shall be charged for each account and shall be included in the first month’s billing, to be applied as a credit against the final bill.

A. The city shall make a charge for each month for the collection of refuse from each family domestic unit within the garbage service district as established by this chapter. In addition to, and separate from, the charge for collection of refuse, the city shall make a charge for each month for disposal of refuse from each family domestic unit within the garbage service district as established by this chapter. The charges for collection and disposal of refuse shall be payable by, and chargeable to, either the owner or occupant of each dwelling unit occupied by a family domestic unit. The charge shall be billed on the monthly water bill to each such family domestic unit and shall be immediately due and payable upon the billing date and shall be payable with, and addition to, the water bill.

B. In the event refuse collection and disposal service shall be provided by the city under the provisions of this chapter from any family domestic unit within the garbage service district, not independently served by the city water service and billed therefor, the owner and occupant of the dwelling unit occupied by the family domestic unit shall be billed for each month at the same rate that the water users are billed. The refuse collection and disposal service charge shall be forthwith payable to the city by either the owner or occupant of the dwelling unit.

C. Bills shall be payable at the City Finance office or at an authorized bank depository by automatic withdrawal upon a written agreement with the city. Net monthly utility bills are due and payable when received. Any garbage bills unpaid 23 days after the billing date shall be considered delinquent. A late payment charge of six and one-half percent (6½%) shall be assessed on the current unpaid balance of a delinquent account. Payment for garbage services on landfill charge accounts may be extended up to 30 days in the commercial hauler permit for landfill disposal from the Finance Officer and having paid the permit fee. In the event of failure of payment of the charges, refuse collection and disposal service to the dwelling unit may be forthwith discontinued.

D. The rates for any and all charges the city shall make under this provision shall be prescribed by resolution of the Common Council.

E. In addition to the foregoing methods of billing and collecting the charges for refuse collection and disposal, the Finance Officer, with the approval of the Mayor, may from time to time adopt, use and enforce such other methods of billing and collection of the charges as may be reasonably efficient, feasible, and appropriate, to the end that in every case all collection and disposal charges provided by this section shall be paid.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Attest

Mayor

Finance Officer

(seal)