CHAPTER 25

WATER*

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Section 25-1. Disconnection for Violation

For any violation of any one (1) of the regulations of this article, the person so offending shall be immediately cut-off from the water supply by the City, and said person shall also forfeit all unearned water deposits.

Source: Ordinance No. 1105-1987, Art. I, § 28-1, 10-20-87; Ordinance No. 1337-1999, 5-4-99

Section 25-2. Wasting Water

It shall be unlawful for any person to allow water to escape or drip continuously because of a worn or otherwise defective water fixture. The owner or person in charge of the premises shall be held responsible for any violations of this Section.

Source: Code 1969, § 44-2; Ordinance 1497-2007; § 25-2, 8-7-07

Section 25-3. Use of Hydrants

It shall be unlawful for any person to take, use or obtain for his home or for any other purpose City water from any fire hydrant without first obtaining the City's permission in writing for such use. It shall be likewise unlawful for the owner or person in control of any premise, to permit water to be used or obtained by any person from City's fire hydrant. The City reserves the right to cut-off the water supply of any subscriber who permits water to be so used in violation of any of the provisions hereof.

Source: Ordinance No. 1105-1987, Art. I, § 28-3, 10-20-87; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. I, § 25-3, 8-7-07, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014

Section 25-4. Abuse to System

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*__Cross References__ --- Responsibilities of water commissioner, § 2-24; buildings and building regulations, Ch. 7; fire prevention and protection, Ch. 9; recreation, Ch. 17; planning and development, Ch. 19; sewers, Ch. 20; subdivisions, App. B; mosquito control, § 11-81 et seq.; protection of water supply at oil drilling site, § 17-96.

__State Law References__ --- Waterworks as a municipal purpose, Miss. Code 1972, §§21-17-1, 21-27-7; municipal utilities generally, §21-27-11 et seq.

Editor's Note – At the Editor's discretion, Chapter 25 was reorganized in its entirety in August, 2017 for clarity and ease of reference. No language or laws were altered in any way.

In the event of any abuses to the water supply system enumerated in this article, it shall be the duty of any person to make, or cause to be made, affidavit against the offender, or to report said abuse forthwith to any City official.

Source: Code 1969, § 444; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. I, § 25-4, 8-7-07

Section 25-5. Leak Repairs

Leaks occurring in any pipe on private property shall be immediately repaired by the owner or person in control. If any delay is likely to occur in the repairs of said pipe, it shall be the duty of said person to immediately notify the City, so that the City may shut-off the water on said property until the repairs are completed.

Source: Ordinance No. 1105-1987, Art. I, § 28-5, 10-20-87; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. I, § 25-5, 8-7-07

Sections 25-6 --- 25-15. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. CONNECTIONS

Section 25-36. Unauthorized Water Use

The water supplied by the City is for the exclusive use of the subscriber. Any person using City water in any manner from any source not on his own premises, or to which he/she does not subscribe, shall be considered a customer and a water fee shall be collected from said person the same as if he/she were regularly connected with the City water system. The owner or person in control of any premises who shall permit, or in any manner acquiesce in any other person's using water from his premises, unless by permission of the City, shall be liable for the water rent incurred by said person, and the same may be collected from either party, provided the said or person in control of said premises had knowledge, or could in any manner have had knowledge that said water was so taken from his premises. If said water rent is not paid by either party on demand, or within five (5) days thereafter, the City may cut-off the water from said premises until said rent is paid.

Source: Ordinance No. 1105-1987, Art. III, § 28-36, 10-20-87; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. III, §25-36, 8-7-07

Section 25-37. Water Use Without Proper Authority

It shall be unlawful for any person without City authority to obtain water from the waterworks system of the City and place into the pipes, vessels, containers and/or conduits of any person or by any device of any nature to cause water from said system to become available for the use of any such person.

Source: Ordinance No. 1105-1987, Art. III, § 28-37, 10-20-87; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. III,§ 25-37, 8-7-07

Section 25-38. Expansion and Development

Any future expansions and/or developments heretofore not being provided water and/or sewer by the City shall obtain a notice of intent from the State of Mississippi Department of

Health with an initial engineering and feasibility outline on the use of water and sewer study for such project and intent. This study shall futuristically provide a system with no less than a six (6) inch minimum line to handle all anticipated needs.

Source: Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. III, § 25-38, 8-7-07

Section 25-39. Approval

No water shall be provided to any potential customer, residential or other, in areas where there is no approved sewer service without approval from the Jones County Health Department or the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Source: Ordinance No. 1504-2007; 11-06-07

ARTICLE III. PRIVATE WATER WELLS

Section 25-40. Private Water Wells Defined

Any well drilled or operated within the city for private use shall not be connected in an unauthorized manner with the city water and sewer system.

Section 25-41. Established Rules and Regulations

Any private well within the city shall conform to the requirements of §§51-3-1 through 51-3-55 and §§51-5-1 through 51-5-9 of the Mississippi Code Annotated, 1972 and all State, Federal and Local regulations including those administered by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi State Board of Health. Only licensed drillers are allowed to drill a well within the corporate limits of the City of Laurel, Mississippi. Every well shall have an approved backflow prevention device that complies with Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Mississippi State Board of Health regulations connected between the well and the distribution piping. This backflow device shall be installed to protect any backflow into the well.

Section 25-42. Letter of Submission

Each private well owner and/or operator within the city shall submit a letter to the City of Laurel Inspection Department stating the size, location and age of their well. Every well will be subject to initial and subsequent inspections to ensure that the well is not attached to or connected with the city water or sewer system.

Section 25-43. Responsibility of Private Well Operator

The owner and/or operator of any private well in the city shall be responsible for complying with any and all applicable health codes and regulations and with all applicable statutes of the State of Mississippi and with all applicable ordinances of the City of Laurel.

Section 25-44. Permit Application and Fee

Prior to beginning construction of a new well, the owner and/or operator shall file a permit application with the City of Laurel Inspection Department or other designated City Departments as directed by the City Administration. The City of Laurel will charge a permit fee for any well(s) drilled within the corporate limits of the City of Laurel, Mississippi or its designated water franchise. Those fees are as follows:

4" and below	$ 500.00/well
Any well greater than 4"	$ 1,500.00/well

Section 25-45. Requirements.

Any owner and/or operator of a private well that requests discharge of water from the well into the City of Laurel Sewer System shall have a water meter, approved by the City Water Department, and the owner and/or operator will be charged for the sewer at the existing rates as established by the City Council in the Sewer User Ordinance.

Section 25-46. Violation

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail in any way to conform with the provisions of this article, and any such person violating any of the terms of this article in any respect shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) and/or imprisonment up to thirty (30) days. The continued operation of said well from and after the date of notice of violation being issued to the owner shall be considered a separate violation for each day of operation thereafter and subjecting the violator to a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) per day for continued operation. Further, the failure of the owner to comply with the ordinance shall result in the City reporting the violation to the appropriate state agency and the commencement of the necessary actions to have said well shut down.

Source: Ordinance No. 1543-2009, 9-8-2009

Sections 25-47 --- 25-50. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. RATES AND CHARGES*

Section 25-51. Meters

All water furnished by the City shall be metered, except fire sprinkler systems. When a meter is not functioning properly, then the City may bill an average of the three (3) monthly water charges prior to the meter malfunctioning. The City shall repair the meter within six (6) months of notice of its malfunctioning, but this requirement does not affect the right of the City

*__Cross Reference__ --- Power of City to set water rates, Miss. Code 1972, §21-27-7

to continue billing on the average method. Bills therefore, shall be rendered monthly and shall be due and payable within ten (10) days of billing. After thirty (30) days a late fee of three percent (3%) of the total bill will be added to the customer's bill.

Source: Ordinance No. 1105-1987, Art. IV, § 28-51, 10-20-87, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014., Ordinance No. 1618-2014 10-7-2014. Ordinance No. 1788-2026, 6-16-2026.

State Law Reference --- Testing of water, electric and gas meters, Miss. Code 1972, §21-27-9

Cross Reference --- Municipal authorities inspecting public utilities, see §21-27-37

***Cross Reference** --- Power of City to set water rates, Miss. Code 1972, Sec. 21-27-7

Section 25-52. Policy

It shall be the normal policy of the Water Collection activity to collect all water-sewer-garbage accounts on a monthly basis. Priorities on collections will be directed toward those accounts that have the largest dollar amount, the longest delinquency period, and the ones which have a history of poor credit.

The following procedures will apply to all customer accounts. Exceptions to these rules can only be made by Council action.

A. **Obtaining and Maintaining Service**

(1) Water and sewer services may be obtained after all deposits and fees have been paid and proof of residency provided

Source: Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014.

Water Service Deposit:

Customers will be required to deposit with the City of Laurel a deposit of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for residences. Commercial and industrial users will be charged a deposit of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars ($150.00) and can be required to make a deposit equal to two (2) months estimated consumption; and may be required to provide a surety bond or request special consideration from the City Council. These deposits will be retained by the City of Laurel until service is disconnected. At that time the deposit will be applied to any outstanding balance on the account. Any balance remaining in the account will be refunded to the customer.

Landlord/Realtor Policy

a. Temporary Water Service Deposit

Landlords and Realtors within the City of Laurel may apply for a temporary five (5) day permit which allows them to turn on the water, sewer, and garbage pickup for a specific residence within the City of Laurel. The cost of this permit is one-month's minimum bill, whatever amount is applicable in the Laurel Code of Ordinances on the beginning date of the five (5) day permit.

Source: Ordinance No. 1608-2013, 10-22-2013

b. Notification of Rental of Premises.

The owner of any premises connected with the City water mains shall, upon renting or delivering the use of such premises to another, immediately give notice in writing of such rental or delivery of use of said premises, to the Water Department.

Source: Code 1969, § 44-40

c. Disconnection---Removal of Tenant.

The owner of any premises connected with the City water mains shall, upon the removal of a tenant from the premises, immediately give notice in writing to the Water Department to cut-off the water connection with the City water mains, and upon receipt of such notice the Water Department shall immediately cut- off the water from said premises.

Source: Code 1969, § 44-39

d. Failure of Owner to Give Notice.

The failure of an owner of premises to give the notices in writing, as required in this article, shall make the owner of such premises liable for water rental for such period as such owner fails to give such notice, and water shall not be used by any person on said premises until payment shall be made for such period.

Source: Code 1969, § 44-41

Apartments, Multi-Family Units, and Mobile Home Parks/Subdivisions

a. All owners of apartment buildings/complexes, multi-dwelling units or mobile home parks/subdivisions within the City of Laurel must complete and submit an informational form to be provided by the City of Laurel Water Department within seven (7) business days of receiving the same.

a1. At a minimum, the owner or other representative will be required to furnish the name of the complex, property or mobile home park; address of the same, the owner's name, mailing address and daytime telephone number, the property manager's name, mailing address, daytime telephone number if different than the owner, the total number of rental units available (occupied and unoccupied).

a2. If the owner or other representative fails to submit this form then the City of Laurel shall have the right to disconnect water service at the address of the apartment building/complex, multi-dwelling unit or mobile home park/subdivision upon ten (10) days written notice thereof. All reinstatement fees will apply.

a3. All owners shall inform the Water Department of the City of Laurel as to the number of units on the existing water meter. Each unit will be charged at the minimum rate whether they are presently occupied or unoccupied

Source: Ordinance No. 1156-1989, § 1, 10-3-89; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-53, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1504-2007, 11-06-07; Ordinance No. 1509-2008, 2-5-08

b. Water service and sewer service for multiple family units, duplexes, triplexes, etc. must be turned on in the manager or owner's name if only one (1) meter is installed. However, the minimum charge for water and sewer for such units will be based on the number of units.

c. Apartments are required to pay the minimum water and sewer fee for each apartment unit or space (hereinafter "unit"). Each unit is entitled to three thousand (3,000) gallons for each minimum charge; the owner will begin paying excess charges for water and sewer after three thousand (3,000) gallons per unit has been reached.

d. In the event the owners of any property described as Apartment Buildings, Apartment Houses, Apartment Complexes, Duplexes, Trailer Parks, Trailer Facilities and other Multi-family Dwelling desires a separate water meter or meters installed on his premises for individual units, the City upon sixty (60) days' notice will furnish and install the same at the site of the existing meter or meters after all applicable fees are paid. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to install at his expense all additional water pipes or lines leading to individual units from the main water pipe or line presently located on the property and the owner will be responsible to the City for any and all damage to City property incurred during the installation of such water pipes or line.

Source: Ordinance No. 1156-1989, § 1, 10-3-89; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-53, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1504-2007, 11-06-07; Ordinance No. 1509-2008, 2-5-08

e. Multi-Family Units: (supersedes Resolution of 10/17/89, Minute Book #60, Page 230)
   e1. The minimum rate charge for each unit will be assessed.
   e2. Owner of said multi-family units has the option of having the City install water meters for each separate unit.
   e3. A tap fee is required for each meter.

Source: Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1504-2007, 11-06-07

Transfer Fee:

Customers are required to pay a transfer fee of Thirty-five Dollars ($35.00) when moving from one location to another. It must be determined before transferring service that the customer has a deposit with the City of Laurel. The transfer fee is not refundable. If no deposit is

recorded for the current address, a deposit will be charged and no new service established until the current balance is paid in full.

Tap Fees:

The fees for the various sizes are listed below:

Water Tap Size	*Water Tap Fee*
5/8 --- 3/4"	$ 430.00
1"	$560.00
2"*	
4"*	
6"*	
8"*	
10"*	
12"*	

* Water taps larger than a 1 inch will be priced at the time the tap is requested

** Water tap sizes 2" and up, the customer must also pay for the meter, installation cost and saddles.

For a 5/8" water tap the anti-backflow cost will be Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00).
1" and 2" anti-backflow cost will be Seventy-five Dollars ($75.00).
Water meters and anti-backflow are taxed at seven percent (7%).
For a tap in excess of 2", an anti-backflow charge will be added in an amount to cover costs.

Source: Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014

B. ***Water Bill Collections***

In order to avoid interruption of service, accounts must be kept current. All accounts which have not been paid within ten days of due date will be charged a late fee of three percent (3%) of balance.

(1) Should a bill reflect a previous balance, payment of the past due balance is due immediately upon receipt of the monthly bill. Failure to pay the past due balance may result in interruption of service. Failure to receive a bill does not release customer from obligation to pay. NO SEPARATE NOTICE OF IMPENDING DISCONNECTION WILL BE SENT to the customer prior to interruption of service. If payment of account scheduled for cut-off is not paid by 4:00pm on the day prior to cut-off, a service fee of sixty-four dollars ($64.00) will be added to the balance.

(2) Customers with previous balances may be given special consideration for extension of payment in only two ways

a. Special arrangements may be made under conditions and terms enumerated in Sub-Section *C. Water Customer Service Manager and Administration Duties and Roles* found in Article IV. *Rates and Charges*, Section 25-52, *Policy,* of this Chapter.

b. Customers on a low fixed income consisting of one check per month may be granted a grace period consisting of the number of days between receipt of water bill and date on which said check is received each month. In order to qualify for this exception, the customer must verify that he/she receives only one check per month, must disclose the amount of the check, and document the date upon which the check is received each month.

Source: Ordinance No. 1337-1999, 5-4-99; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1527-2008, Art. IV, §25-52, 11-26-08, Ordinance 1613-2014, 6-18-2014; Ordinance 1629-2015, 11-03-2015; Ordinance 1789-2026, 6-16-2026.

c Customers that receive a large bill due to a leak on his/her water line can request an adjustment in the charges. Only one (1) leak adjustment will be allowed per customer in any twelve (12) month period. To receive an adjustment in charges the customer shall provide proof that his /her leak was repaired. Proof would include a copy of bill from a licensed plumber along with proof of payment. If the repair was made by the customer, a written statement along with copies of receipts for any material used in the repair will be considered proof. If the customer provides the required proof of repairs, the billing department is authorized to adjust his/her account to the average of the last three (3) months after the leak is fixed (the account will be monitored for three (3) months to insure the leak was fixed before the adjustment will be made). However, the monthly bill cannot be adjusted below the minimum water usage set forth by the City Ordinance of three thousand (3000) gallons. The adjustment also can be retroactive for more than two (2) months.

Source: Ordinance No. 1337-1999, 5-4-1999; Ordinance No. 1487-2007,Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014; Ordinance No. 1621-2015, 2-5-2015; Ordinance 1629-2015, 11-03-2015.

d. Regardless of all other adjustments, pending adjustments, and other reasons for delaying full payment, the customer is responsible for paying the minimum water and sewer bill. Service will be terminated if the minimum charges are not paid.

Source: Ordinance No. 1461-2005, 7-5-2005; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-2007; Ordinance No. 1509-2008, 2-05-2008; Ordinance No. 1597-2012,, 11-20-2012

(3) Water may be reinstated after receipt of the delinquent amount plus a reinstatement fee and/or damage fees. No service disconnected for non-payment will be restored after 5:00 P.M. unless the arrears and late payment fee are paid before 4:00 P.M.

Source: Ordinance No. 1337-1999, 5-4-99; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1527-2008, Art. IV, § 25-52, 11-26-08; Ordinance No. 1621-2015, 2-05-2015

(4) If the check for the payment of water, sewer and garbage is not honored upon the first presentation to the bank, a Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) fee in

the amount of $40.00 will be charged to the customer. If a second presentation is made and the check is not honored, the customer's water service will be disconnected and a second NSF Fee in the amount of $50.00 will be charged. The City may require cash or money order payment only from any customer with a history of NSF. All re-instatements will require the payment of the current balance including any fees charged. No partial payments will be accepted once the water has been turned off.

Source: Ordinance No. 1337-1999, 5-4-99; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014.

(5). FEES:

Insufficient Fund Fee	*---*	*$ 40.00*
Transfer Fee	*---*	*$ 35.00*
Reinstatement Fee	*---*	*$ 64.00*

Source: Ordinance No. 1171-1990, 6-19-90; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-53, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1527-2008; Art. IV, §25-53, 11-26-08, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014. Ordinance No. 1789-2026, 6-16-2026.

C. Customer Service Manager and Administration Duties and Roles

(1) The Chief Administrator and Customer Service Manager are authorized to work with any customer and make any agreement necessary to bring the account up to date with the objective of maintaining the highest possible collection percentage. Any adjustment to a customer's account exceeding One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) (this does not include billing corrections due to a billing error which are the responsibility of the Billing Department) will require two (2) of the above mentioned signatures. No adjustments exceeding Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) per year per customer will be allowed. The Chief Administrator or Customer Service Manager is authorized to deviate from this policy where it has been determined and demonstrated that an error has been made or that extraordinary circumstances and sound judgment dictate that an adjustment is needed. Adjustments cannot be made purely for political reasons or because an elected official has requested an adjustment to a particular customer's account. All adjustments will be documented and such documentation will be open for inspection. The term "adjustments", as used herein, shall not constitute a forgiveness or monies due to the City.

(2) The Mayor and Chief Administrator are authorized to allow a customer to enter into a binding contract to collect arrears. The criteria for this contract is as follows:

a. Customer must pay the current amount in full each month. Failure to keep all current charges paid negates the contract and the City will demand all charges paid to continue water service.
b. A MINIMUM of ten percent (10%) of arrears must be paid before the contract is agreed to.
c. The arrears balance must be paid within six (6) months for all balances

less than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00). Only the Mayor or City Administrator can extend this payment for more than six (6) months. Any balance greater than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) must be paid within twelve (12) months. Only the City Administrator or Mayor can extend this payment for more than twelve (12) months.

Source: Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1527-2008, Art. IV, § 25-52, 11-26-08; Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-3-2014

D. City Council Responsibility

The Council members may report discrepancies, problems, and citizen complaints and make recommendations for relief. But, they have no authority, individually, to direct an adjustment to accounts. They can, as a whole, elect to deviate from this policy as an official Council action only.

E. Violations

Water will be disconnected and customers will be assessed additional charges under the following conditions.

(1) If a water meter is intentionally defaced, destroyed, or in any manner altered or tampered with, the customer will be charged a minimum of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for unreported water consumption plus the cost of repairs, including labor and materials. Materials include the cost of the meter and any devices attached to aid in the reading of the meter.

(2) Water service will be disconnected immediately if meter reader staff find "jumpers" installed to either connect to the City water system or to by-pass the water meter. ("Jumpers" are defined as any method of pipes, tubes, device or devices used to connect to the City's water system or to by-pass a meter.) The customer's deposit will be taken for unrecorded consumption. Reinstatement will require a new deposit of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) and reinstatement fee and full payment of account. If no deposit has been made, proof of length of residence is required. (Any employee or employees found making, providing or installing "jumpers" will be terminated immediately and will be subject to prosecution. *See Civil Service Rule 15(c) and Rules and regulations (2)(f).) This will also apply to Contract employees.

(3) Fees will be assessed against residential or business customers who illegally tap fire hydrants. For the first offense, the responsible person or customer will be charged a fee of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00). For the second and subsequent offenses, the fee will be One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) for each occurrence.

(4) Water service may be disconnected if the meter reader or service personnel identify a major leak, technical or mechanical problem that

requires immediate attention. Water will be reinstated as soon as the problem has been corrected.

(5) Special cases: fire, acts of God and other unpredictable situations, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

(6) Tampering with water meters or locks, use of jumpers or any unauthorized use of City water without proper authorization is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) or thirty (30) days in jail or both.

F. Miscellaneous Policy Procedures

(1) Sewer fees cannot be adjusted in the following cases:

a. Solely because water is consumed for product or cleanup process.

b. Where water is used and cannot be returned to sewer system, *i.e.*, watering lawns, unless a second meter is installed exclusively for irrigation only. Installation of a second meter will require a second tap fee, cost of the meter, cost of the riser, cost of the meter box, and Curb Stops and couplings.

c. Construction: Meters requested for construction will be issued after a deposit is collected. This deposit will be the cost of the meter plus 10%. Upon return of the meter all water use will be deducted from the deposit and the balance will be refunded.

Source: Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-3-2014

d. Where privately owned distribution systems have been previously installed outside the City limits, a charge, the same as set forth outside for the City limits, will be assessed. Further, systems with 3" or smaller meters shall be maintained by the City.

Source: Ordinance No. 1497-2007, ART. IV, §25-52, 8-07-2007, Ordinance No. 1504-2007, 11-06-2007

(2). Consumption used for filling swimming pools will NOT be charged sewer fees.

(3). Taxation:
Sales of potable water will be taxed to all commercial and industrial accounts serviced by the City of Laurel, Mississippi. Sales to all apartments and trailer parks with one meter shall be charged and taxed as a commercial account.
Residential, noncommercial or non-agricultural use and "service related thereto" are exempt from this taxation.

Source: Ordinance No. 1461-2005, 7-5-05; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07; Ordinance No.1509-2008, 2-05-08; Ordinance No. 1567-2010, § 25-52, 8-17-10, Ordinance No. 1597-2012, 11-21-2012. Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014.

Section 25-53. Water Rate Schedule.

A. The Finance Director shall review, not less often than every two (2) years, the water charges and make a comparison of the payment and collection of said charges to the total cost of operation and maintenance (including replacement) of the water works, and total other costs, related to and included in, the water charge system. The Finance Director shall submit for final approval by the City Council his/her recommendation of rates for water and sewer to ensure that sufficient revenue from said charges is generated to pay the total operation and maintenance costs necessary for the proper operation and maintenance (including replacement) of the Revolving Fund Loans. Any increase put in place shall be based on the following United States Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Cost Component, Chemical Cost Component, and Non-Labor Costs Component.

*The ECI is the current Employment Cost Index, CIU1010000000000A (B,C), as published by the U.S. Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics. The PPI is the current Producer Price Index, PCU325188325188 as published by U.S. Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI is the current Consumer Price Index, CUUR0300SA0, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: Ordinance No. 1432-2003, 8-19-03; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-53, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1542-2009, §25-53, 9-8-09; Ordinance No. 1630-2015, §25-53, 12-8-2015.

B. The following Water Rate Schedule shall apply monthly to each user of the water works for the City of Laurel.

WATER RATE SCHEDULE

Service Charge Monthly and For Fractional Periods

The following Rate Schedule shall apply monthly to each user unless (a) the initial billing period is for a fraction of a month, in which case the quantity used shall be included in the quantity consumed in the next following month billing period and the assessment or charge made as if the total had been consumed in one billing period, or (b) the final billing period is for a fraction of a month in which case the quantity consumed shall be prorated.

Residential Customers:

Inside City Rate - minimum charge of $16.36 for 3,000 gallons or any part thereof plus Four Dollars and eleven cents per thousand gallons used beyond the first 3,000 gallons ($4.11/1,000)

Outside City Rate – minimum charge of $24.63 for 3,000 gallons or any part thereof plus Six Dollars and thirteen cents per thousand gallons used beyond the first 3,000 gallons ($6.13/1,000)

Commercial Customers:

Inside City Rate - minimum charge of $24.63 for 3,000 gallons or any part thereof plus Four Dollars and eleven cents per thousand gallons used beyond the first 3,000 gallons ($4.11/1,000)

Outside City Rate – minimum charge of $36.88 for 3,000 gallons or any part thereof plus Six Dollars and thirteen cents per thousand gallons used beyond the first 3,000 gallons ($6.13/1,000)

Industrial Customers:

Will be charged a combined water/sewer rate of Four Dollars and ninety-nine cents per thousand gallons used ($4.99/1,000). To qualify for Industrial rates, the meter shall average five million (5,000,000) or more gallons/month for twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the following month's City of Laurel Water Department billing cycle.

County-Owned Health Care Facility:
Will be charged a combined water/sewer rate of Seven Dollars and Forty-nine cents per thousand gallons used ($7.49/1,000).

Bulk Water Sales: All bulk water sales from Water Plant #2 shall be charged Six Dollars and thirty-seven cents per thousand gallons ($6.37/1,000)

Source: Ordinance No. 1415-2002, 9-3-02; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-53, 8-7-07; Ordinance No. 1527-2008, Art. IV, §25-53, 11-26-08; Ordinance No. 1542-2009, §25-53. 9-8-2009; Ordinance No. 1569-2010, §25-53, 9-21-10 §25-53, 10-18-2011 Ordinance No. 1583-2011, Ordinance No. 1595-2012, 10-4- 2012. Ordinance No. 1603-2012, 10-10-2013, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014. Ordinance No. 1616-2014, 10-7-2014; Ordinance No. 1634-2016, 3-22-2016; Ordinance No. 1655-2017, 4-4-2017; Ordinance No. 1676-2018. 3-20-2018, Ordinance No. 1686-2018. 3-19-2019, Ordinance No. 1696-2020. 3-17-2020, Ordinance No. 1707-2021, 3-16-2021, Ordinance No. 1743-2023. 4-19-2023; Ordinance 1772-2025, §25-53, 07-08-2025, Ordinance No. 1776-2025, §25-53, 10-07-2025; Ordinance 1783-2026, §25-53, 4-07-2026.

Apartment Buildings, Apartment Houses, Apartment Complexes, Duplexes, Trailer Parks, Trailer Facilities and other Multi-family Dwellings

> All owners of apartment buildings, apartment houses, apartment complexes, duplexes, trailer parks, trailer facilities, and other multi-family dwellings or separate-dwelling located on the same lot or lots as primary dwelling shall be assessed the minimum rate charge established above for each unit.

Source: Ordinance No. 1461-2005, 7-5-05; Ordinance No. 1497-2007, Art. IV, § 25-52, 8-7-07; Ordinance No.1509-2008, 2-05-08; Ordinance No. 1527-2008, Art. IV, §25-53, 11-26-08; Ordinance No. 1542-2009, §25-53. 9-8-2009; Ordinance No. 1569-2010, §25-53, 9-21-10 §25-53, 10-18-2011 Ordinance No. 1583-2011, Ordinance No. 1595-2012, 10-4- 2012. Ordinance No. 1603-2012, 10-10-2013, Ordinance No. 1613-2014, 6-18-2014. Ordinance No. 1616-2014, 10-7-2014; Ordinance No. 1634-2016, 3-22-2016; Ordinance No. 1655-2017, 4-4-2017; Ordinance No. 1686-2018. 3-19-2019, Ordinance No. 1696-2020. 3-17-2020, Ordinance No. 1743-2023, 4-19-2023, Ordinance No. 1756-2024, 3/19/2024

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