



# City of Gothenburg



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## ORDINANCE NO. 859

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH ALL UTILITY FEES AND CHARGES IN A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF GOTHENBURG; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOTHENBURG, DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA AS FOLLOWS:

### Section I INTRODUCTION

That the rates, fees, charges, and collections for the provision of utilities by the Gothenburg Public Works Department are those figures and terms set forth in the schedules incorporated into this Ordinance, which schedules and terms shall be on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk for public inspection at any reasonable time.

### Section II UTILITY BILLING

#### A. DEPOSITS AND UTILITY BILLING FEES:

1. Unified Deposit per Gothenburg Municipal Code §3-404
  - a. For all structures for single and multi family dwellings: \$100.00
  - b. For all structures commercial in nature, or where a wholesale, retail or service type business is carried on: \$200.00
  - c. A deposit may be waived if the customer supplies the City with two letters of reference from previous utilities.
  - d. An additional deposit for non-payment may be required at the discretion of the City Administrator up to the customer's highest utility bill.
2. Connect Charges (Non-Refundable):
  - a. Customer Connect Charge:  
\$20 – Applicable to every new account, move, transfer and for reconnection due to non-pay.
  - b. After Hour Customer Connect Charge:  
\$50 – Applicable to every new account, move, transfer and for reconnection due to non-pay. This applies after normal working hours, holidays and weekends.

3. Landlord Connect Charges (Non- Refundable): May be only changed yearly at the request of the landlord.

Option 1 (\$0) – When the tenant requests disconnection of service, the City will disconnect the meter. There is no notification to the Landlord/Property owner. Landlord/Property owner will pay regular customer connect charges upon notification to the city to connect/reconnect service.

Option 2 (\$5) – City will read service into the Landlord/Property Owner's name when the tenant requests disconnection of service. There is no notification to the Landlord of the change of service. Notification will be received when the Landlord receives the bill for service.

Option 3 (\$10) – City will read service into the Landlord/Property Owner's name when the tenant requests disconnection of service. City will notify Landlord of change of service by phone or e-mail within 48 hours of the change in service. Landlord must provide City with a phone number with recordable notification capabilities; or a viable e-mail address.

4. Landlord Non-Routine Disconnect Options:

This option is exercised when the City is requiring disconnection of service. Non-routine disconnect situations include, but are not limited to, failure of a tenant to pay his or her electrical bill, diversion of electrical service and meter tampering.

These options are the same as the Landlord Connect Charges, however the city must have on file a Landlord Notification Form in order for the City to exercise Connect Charges Option 2 or Option 3. It is necessary for the tenant living at the property to have signed the Landlord Notification Form and it is the responsibility of the Landlord to obtain the tenant's signature on the Landlord Notification form and return it to the City office. If the City does not have a signed Landlord Notification Form on file, service will be disconnected with no notification to the Landlord.

It is the responsibility of the Landlord to obtain a new Landlord Notification Form for every change in tenant.

5. Delinquent Service Fee per Gothenburg Municipal Code § 3-401:

Bills not paid by the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of each month shall be deemed to be delinquent and shall be assessed a service fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) or ten percent (10%) of the utility bill, whichever is greater.

6. Insufficient Funds Checks:

The customer shall be billed \$20.00 for any insufficient funds check, plus any late fees accrued. In addition, insufficient funds checks used in the payment of utility billing to avoid disconnection will result in automatic termination of service without notice.

Section III  
ELECTRICAL RATES

A. RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RATE (RS)

1. Availability. To all residential customers in individually metered family residences for all domestic uses within the city limits including lighting, cooking, refrigeration, household appliances, hot water heating, and motors. Individual single-phase motors or heating equipment shall not exceed 15 hp or 15 kW in size without written approval of the City Administrator.
2. Character of Service. Energy will be supplied from the department's regularly available voltages, 60 Hertz, alternating current, single phase. Three-phase service is not available on this schedule.
3. Rate Schedules. The rates for service under this schedule shall be as shown in Section IV of this Ordinance.
4. A customer in a single family dwelling, parts of which are used for the buying or selling of a commodity or service on the premises shall purchase service under the General Service (GS) rate schedule.
5. Any electrical service provided to any customer in a zoned residential area not meeting residential rate requirements shall be billed at the General Service (GS) rate.
6. When available, the Electrical Department is authorized to offer residential electrical service customers a budget payment plan requiring substantially equal monthly payments based upon at least one prior year's actual electrical usage for such residence.
7. General Terms and Conditions: Service under this schedule is subject to General Terms and Conditions of the City of Gothenburg, including the Production Cost Adjustment.

B. GENERAL SERVICE ELECTRIC RATE (GS)

1. Availability: To any non-residential customer, and for master-metered commercial customers providing service to residential type customers, for lighting, heating, and power purposes where the customer's electric demand does not exceed 100 kW for three consecutive months. Not applicable to resale,

supplemental, auxiliary or shared service. Individual single-phase motors or heating equipment shall not exceed 15 hp or 15 kW in size without written approval of the City Administrator. All master metered trailer courts or mobile home parks shall charge all tenants therein according to the residential service rate schedule, based on actual usage of each tenant.

2. Character of Service: Energy will be supplied from the department's regularly available voltages, 60 Hertz, alternating current, single or three-phase.
3. Rate Schedules: The rates for service under this schedule shall be as shown in Section IV of this Ordinance.

General Terms and Conditions: Service under this schedule is subject to General Terms and Conditions of the City of Gothenburg, including the Production Cost Adjustment.

C. GENERAL SERVICE DEMAND ELECTRIC RATE (GSD)

1. Availability: This rate is mandatory for any customer whose demand exceeds 100 kW for three consecutive months. Not applicable to resale, supplemental, auxiliary, or shared service.
2. Character of Service: Service shall be 60 Hertz, alternating current, three-phase, at standard primary and secondary voltages in use by the electric department.
3. Rate Schedules: The rates for service under this schedule shall be as shown in Section IV of this Ordinance.
4. General Terms and Conditions: Service under this schedule is subject to General Terms and Conditions of the City of Gothenburg, including the Production Cost Adjustment.

D. GENERAL SERVICE DEMAND -- TIME OF USE ELECTRIC RATE (GSD-TOU)

1. Availability. Optional to any customer that is eligible for the general service demand rate. The customer shall be required to demonstrate the ability to be able to shed a minimum load of 50 kW at the time of the customer's seasonal peak demand in order to qualify for such rates. Customers on the time of use rate must remain on the rate for one full season (Winter or Summer) at a time. It shall be the responsibility of the customer to notify the city of their desire to be billed under the GSD-TOU rate schedule. The customer shall be billed under the GSD-TOU rate schedule until it is no longer qualified or by notice to the city of no longer desiring to be in the program, which must occur at least thirty days prior to the start of the next season.

2. Character of Service: Service shall be 60 Hertz, alternating current, three-phase, at standard primary and secondary voltages in use by the electric department.
3. Rate Schedules: The rates for service under this schedule shall be as shown in Section IV of this Ordinance.
4. General Terms and Conditions: Service under this schedule is subject to General Terms and Conditions of the City of Gothenburg, including the Production Cost Adjustment.
5. Summer Off-Peak Rates: Summer Off-Peak rates are available for customers who qualify under Section D.1 for the summer season (June 1 through September 30). This rate may require a customer contribution in aid of construction for the installation of hourly recording metering devices. On-Peak billing for customers converting to the summer Time of Use rate shall be the current monthly peak demand until a new on-peak demand is established during the City's non-waived demand period(s). Thereafter the on-peak billing demand shall be the highest on-peak usage during the current month or during the summer season of the past 11 months, not to exceed the total demand of the current billing period.
6. Summer On and Off-Peak Periods Defined: During the summer season, the on-peak rates shall apply to any usage between the hours of 0901 to 2300, Monday through Sunday except: (i) Independence Day and Labor Day; (ii) all hours on the days from September 16 through September 30; (iii) and all other hours waived at the City's discretion.
7. Winter Off-Peak Rates: Off-peak rates may be available for customers whose off-peak loads exceed the on-peak load for any month in the winter season (October 1 through May 31).
8. Winter On and Off-Peak Periods Defined: During the winter season, on-peak rates shall apply to any usage between the hours of 0801 to 1000 and between the hours of 1801 to 2100 Monday through Friday. All other hours, including all day on Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day, during the winter season shall be considered off-peak.

#### E. IRRIGATION ELECTRIC RATE

1. Availability: To any irrigation usage served by the City of Gothenburg.
2. Character of Service: Service shall be 60 Hertz, alternating current, single or three-phase, at standard primary and secondary voltages in use by the electric department.

3. Rate Schedules: The rates for service under this schedule shall be as shown in Section IV of this Ordinance.
4. General Terms and Conditions: Service under this schedule is subject to General Terms and Conditions of the City of Gothenburg, including the Production Cost Adjustment.
5. Irrigation Season: Irrigation season shall be the six-month period from April 1 through September 30. If the customer requests service for the period not covered in the regular season, customer will pay the City all charges as set out in the General Service rate.
6. Minimum Seasonal Charge: The minimum charge shall be the horsepower charge. The City will bill the horsepower charge to all irrigation customers no later than February 15. If payment is received on or before April 15, the service will be energized no later than May 1. Payments received after April 15 may result in service connections later than May 1 and an additional service charge of \$50.00 per connection.

Section IV

A. Rates and Fees. The electric rates and charges as shown below shall be effective with the first billing on or after January 1, 2010:

<b>Residential</b>	Summer	Winter
Customer Charge, per month:	\$11.00	\$11.00
First 750 kWh	\$0.07650	\$0.06920
Balance	\$0.07650	\$0.05000
Load Management Credit	\$5.50	Summer months only
<b>General Service</b>	Summer	Winter
Customer Charge, per month:	\$17.00	\$17.00
First 2,500 kWh	\$0.08370	\$0.08370
Balance	\$0.08370	\$0.05600
Load Management Credit	\$1.38 per hp/ \$5.50 minimum	Summer months only
<b>General Service Demand</b>	Summer	Winter
Customer Charge, per month:	\$90.75	\$90.75
Demand Charge per kW:	\$17.00	\$10.75
Energy, per kWh:	\$0.03500	\$0.02570
Load Management Credit	\$1.45 per hp/ \$5.50 minimum	Summer months only
<b>General Service Demand – Time of Use</b>	Summer	Winter
Customer Charge, per month:	\$200.00	\$200.00
Demand Charge, On-Peak per kW:	\$17.00	\$10.75
Demand Charge, Off-Peak per kW:	\$ 9.20	\$ 4.60
Energy, per kWh:	\$0.03500	\$0.02570
<b>Irrigation</b>	Summer	
Horsepower Charge, per hp-year:		
Uncontrolled:	\$54.50 per hp of actual load	
Controlled:	\$ 22.50	
Energy, per kWh:	\$0.06300	
Winter usage billed at the applicable General Service Rate.		
<b>Municipal Service</b>	Summer	Winter
Customer Charge, per month:	\$17.00	\$17.00
Energy, per kWh:	\$0.08450	\$0.06800
Load Management Credit	\$1.38 per hp	Summer months only

## **Yard Lights**

Rates effective January 1, 2010	Per Month
150 HPS Yard Light/Non-metered:	\$ 8.94
250 HPS Yard Light/Non-metered:	\$ 11.37
Yard Light/Metered:	\$ 5.30
Pole rental for private lights:	\$ 1.25

## **B. SECURITY AND YARD LIGHT POLICY**

### **SYSTEM A- METERED:**

Light will be metered through customer's existing service. Customer shall purchase all materials necessary for the system per city billing policies. City may also provide, at the city's convenience, all labor necessary for the installation at the prevailing rates of the City. Customer shall retain ownership of the system and shall be responsible for all maintenance excluding bulbs and photo cell which will be maintained by the City.

### **SYSTEM B- NON-METERED:**

Non-metered systems are owned by the city and therefore all materials and labor shall be supplied by the city at no charge to the customer. Customer shall be required to sign an agreement to be billed for a period of not less than five years. The system shall include the distance of one pole (if required), which shall also be supplied by the city. If the system exceeds the distance of one pole, excess materials and labor shall be billed to the customers at city. All material shall remain under the ownership of the city and shall be maintained by the city.

SYSTEMS A-B: Conditions applicable to both systems are as follows:

1. Customers must apply at the city office for system.
2. All applicable charges for labor and materials are per current city rates.
3. Electrical foreman shall have the authority to determine if there is room on a distribution pole for a light. If in the foreman's determination there is not sufficient room for the light, the customer will be required to locate the light on the customer's premises.
4. Customer may rent space and locate private lights on city poles. Rental may be obtained only if it is the determination of the electrical foreman that such light will not interfere or create a safety hazard for the electrical system. Any lights located will be installed under the direction and the supervision of the foreman. The customer shall be billed for any time involved in the project. Rent shall be set at \$1.00 per month until such time as the rate is changed in the "Utility Fee and Charges Comprehensive Schedule". Customer also agrees that said lights may be removed at any time at the discretion of the Electrical Foreman.



C. GENERAL DEFINITIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. Payment Schedules and Regulations.

The procedure for utility billing and collection for service shall be as set forth in Chapter 3, Article 401, of the Gothenburg Municipal Code. The procedure for discontinuance of service shall be as set forth in Chapter 3, Article 402, of the Gothenburg Municipal Code. It shall be the duty of the City Administrator to cause the service to be turned off and discontinued until such charges are paid.

2. Kilowatt (KW) Demand(or Measured KW Demand): The term “kilowatt demand”; or kW shall be the amount shown by or computed from the readings of the City’s demand meter for the highest 15-minute integrated demand period, determined to the nearest kW.

3. Energy: The term "energy" shall refer to the number of kilo-Watthours (abbreviated "KWH") shown by or computed from the Municipality's kilo-Watthour meter.

4. Seasons Defined.

Summer Months: The term “summer” months shall refer to bills rendered for usage during the billing period ending in June, July, August and September.

Winter Months: The term “winter” months shall refer to bills rendered for usage during the billing periods ending in January, February, March, April, May, October, November and December.

5. Production Cost Adjustment.

All rates and the billings for service rendered hereunder will be adjusted from month to month to reflect variance from the base cost of purchased power. Adjustments may be made on a seasonal or annual basis to minimize inconvenience to the customers.

6. Tax Clause.

This rate may be increased by the amount of any new or increased governmental tax imposed and levied on the transmission, distribution, production, or sale of electricity.

7. Special Terms and Conditions.

a. Special Service Availability Charge: The rate schedules established pursuant to this Ordinance are based upon the cost of supplying electrical service to customers whose pattern of use of electricity is typical of the pattern of use of the group of customers to which the rate schedule applies. Where a customer’s pattern of use differs significantly from the typical pattern, or

where the investment required to provide service is in excess of the investment required for a typical customer, the Service Availability Charge shall be adjusted to an amount not less than one-thirteenth (1/13<sup>th</sup>) of the incremental investment required to serve the customer.

- b. Service Outside Corporate Limits; Surcharge: A surcharge equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the charge for electric service shall be added to bills rendered for service outside the corporate limits of the Municipality. The surcharge shall not apply to the irrigation rate.
  - c. Point of Delivery: The City shall supply one electric service to a property at one point of delivery designated by the City. For installation of additional electric service to a property, the customer or owner shall pay the City an installation fee equal to the total cost of installing the service equipment except for the meter as supplied by the City. Distribution from the point of delivery to points of use on the customer's premises shall be the responsibility of the property owner.
  - d. Measurement of Consumption Through Separate Meters: When electric service is measured through more than one meter, the consumption registered on each meter will be billed separately unless installation is at the convenience of the City and as approved by the City Administrator.
8. Power Factor Adjustment.  
The customer shall maintain at their expense a power factor of 90% lagging or better. If the power factor, as measured at the meter is lower than 90% for three consecutive months the customer will be given 365 days to bring the power factor up to a minimum of 90% upon written notice from the City. If the power factor is not corrected within the time allowed, the monthly bill shall be increased by a ratio of 0.90 divided by the actual power factor expressed as a decimal for every month's billing in which the power factor falls below the 90% ratio.
9. Primary Metering.  
Primary metering shall be used where transformation equipment and appurtenances are customer owned and maintained, and may be used at any time at the convenience of the City. Billings derived from primary metering data shall be reduced 1.5% for transformer losses and an additional 2.0% if all transformation is owned and maintained by the customer.
10. Installation Charge.  
The customer shall pay the City an installation fee for installing transformation equipment in excess of required capacity. Said fee to be equal to the cost of the transformation equipment less the estimated cost of the needed transformation equipment. The City shall own and maintain the transformation equipment thereafter.

11. Franchise Fee(s).

A franchise fee shall be set by the Governing Body and shall be transferred to the City of Gothenburg's General Fund.

12. Restoration of Service.

This pertains to all classifications. Any customer making a request for restoration of electric or water service within a 12-month period, in the same name or same customer, at the same address, the minimum charge which would have been incurred during the period the service was disconnected will be used as a basis for the reconnection charge, and shall be paid prior to reconnection. This becomes effective the same time as the new electric rates.

13. Fluctuating Loads.

Customers operating equipment having a highly fluctuating or large instantaneous demand, such as welders and x-ray machines, shall be required to pay all non-betterment costs of isolating the load from the balance of the City's system so that the load will not unduly interfere with service on the City's lines. In addition, customers who fail to provide adequate corrective equipment shall be required to own and maintain their own transformers.

14. Load Management with Master Metering.

Billings to customers with master metering, and residential load management controlled by the City, shall reflect a monthly credit equal to the number of controlled units multiplied times the applicable load management credit for residential customers. This credit shall be applicable only to billings rendered during the summer season.

Section V  
WATER RATES

A. The water use fees for the City of Gothenburg are as follows:

**Residential – Monthly Use Rate**

¾"	\$15.70/mo
1"	16.50/mo
1 ¼"	17.45/mo
1 ½"	19.15/mo
2"	22.65/mo
Minimum Bill	15.70/mo

**Commercial, Industrial and Metered Residential Customers – Monthly Use Rate**

All Accounts Metered	\$15.70/mo
Minimum for first 5,000 gallons	
Each additional 1,000 gallons	at \$0.56

**Bulk Sales: Includes water drawn from fire hydrants and water transported out of City limits from a residential or commercial account:**

New account and fire hydrant hookup fee:	\$100.00
Each additional 1,000 gallons	at \$2.56

Service Outside Corporate Limits; Surcharge: A surcharge equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the charge for water service shall be added to bills rendered for service outside the corporate limits of the Municipality.

Section VI  
SEWER RATES

A. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 the sewer use fees for the City of Gothenburg are as follows:

**Residential or Dwelling**

\$30.20

**Commercial**

\$39.35/month minimum or 100% of the metered water rate, whichever is greater.

**Hotels, Motels and Trailer Courts,**

\$105.00/month minimum or 100% of the metered water rate, whichever is greater.

**School, Hospital, Assisted Living Facilities, Rest Homes and Subsidized Elderly Housing**

\$305.00/month per sewer tap, or a minimum of 100% of the total metered water rate, whichever is greater.

**Septic Tank**

\$25.00/dump into sewer.

**Deduct Meter**

\$20.00/month

1. Commercial Sewer Charge Adjustments.

- a. In the event a customer with metered water alleges that an undue increase in sewer charges are experienced resulting only and directly from the exterior watering which does not drain to the sanitary sewer system, then that customer, upon application accompanied by clear and substantiated evidence, shall be charged a flat sewer rate in each of the months April through October, inclusive, an amount equal to the highest sewer charge incurred in any one month from November through March.
- b. In the event that a customer with metered water utilizes a water source heat pump which dumps into the City storm sewer;
  - i. Upon application by the customer for the rate, the City Administrator may require; or the customer may request, a second water meter, which must be able to be read remotely to be used as a "deduct" reading for the actual water use by the heat pump. The meter shall be billed at the deduct meter rate and shall be installed by the City at a metering point provided by the customer directly in front of the heat pump; or,

- ii. If upon application by the customer for the rate and if metering is not required under the previous section by the City Administrator; the customer shall be charged the applicable minimum customer rate or 50% of the water charge, whichever is greater.

2. Apartments.

Residential Sewer charges shall be billed to each consumer or separate premise within the apartment structure.

Commercial use of sewer shall be exempt from charges provided that the use of the sewer system is for laundry facilities within the apartment complex and further provided that said facilities are only available for use of the occupants of the apartment complex and for no other commercial use.

3. Service Outside Corporate Limits; Surcharge: A surcharge equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the charge for sewer service shall be added to bills rendered for service outside the corporate limits of the Municipality.

**Sewer Permit and Inspection fee for Private Sewage System**

Single Family Residence	\$10.00
Other than single family resident	\$25.00

**Permit to connect to City Sewer System**

Residential & Commercial	\$10.00
Industrial	\$25.00

Said fees shall be billed and paid in accordance with the current billing practices of the City of Gothenburg.

Section VII  
SOLID WASTE RATES AND FEES

A. Residential Rates Per Month:

1- 96 gallon Roll Out or Joint Dumpster Use:	\$14.50
2 -96 gallon Roll Outs	\$20.50

Anything outside the container shall be charged and collected for by the pickup services, such as:

3 extra bags	\$ 0.50	1 lg. appliance	\$15.00
6 extra bags	\$ 1.00	1 sm. furniture	\$ 4.00
1 sm. Appliance	\$10.00	1 lg. furniture	\$10.00
Small tires	\$5.00	Large tires	\$10.00

Other items at pickup service rate.

City will retain:	Billing Services	\$ 0.50
	Fee for Grass Dump	\$ 0.25

City Payment to Schaben's for:	Recycling	\$ 0.40
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B. Commercial Rates Per Month

Size	Pickups Per Week					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
96 gallon (2 bar)	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$55	\$60
1 1/2 yard (5-6 bar)	\$38	\$68	\$97	\$125	\$152	\$178
2 yard	\$49	\$87	\$125	\$165	\$203	\$238
3 yard	\$65	\$118	\$172	\$226	\$269	\$317
4 yard	\$79	\$143	\$207	\$273	\$336	\$397

City will retain:	Billing Services	\$ 1.00
City Payment to Schaben's for:	Recycling	\$ 0.80

C. Industrial Rates

Because of the special nature of the product from the industry, the Franchisees will negotiate the terms individually with each industrial customer. For the purposes of this section an industry is defined as a manufacturing plant that employs at least 30 people. The Franchisee will bill each industry individually for the service. Industries within the City limits will be required to negotiate with only haulers who have franchised with the City.

D. Other Terms and Conditions

1. All containers must have lids or covers.

2. There shall be no pickup or delivery to landfill on the items: Grass clippings, trees, shrubbery, leaves, garden waste, asbestos, and building material, except small pieces of wood or branches up to 3' long.
3. Any pickups outside of container to be billed at extra charge and collected by the Franchisee.
4. If trash is not taken for any reason, Franchisee shall tag the containers.
5. Pickup maximum of six (6) times per week.
6. Any service in a month shall be billed at the monthly rate.
7. City will bill as directed by Franchisee(s).
6. The City must be advised of billing changes by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, effective the first of the following month.
7. The City will reimburse Franchisee(s) after the second Council Meeting of the month.

E. Park Rates

The Franchisee(s) will rent out to the City \$10.00 per month per Dumpster and \$5.00 per month per Roll-Out for use in the City Parks. Franchisee shall not be paid for hauling of the trash, and each area of responsibility for the park system shall be negotiated with the Franchisee(s) in the Franchise Agreements.

Section VIII  
Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section IX  
Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage approval and publication, according to law.

Passed and approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

CITY OF GOTHENBURG  
DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

BY Joyce E. Hudson  
Joyce Hudson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Connie L. Dalrymple  
Connie Dalrymple, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Michael Bacon, City Attorney