

AMENDED ORDINANCE #02-3-1

Amending An Ordinance Adopting Policies Regarding the Day to Day Operation of the Ossian Municipal Water Utility.

WHEREAS, the Ossian Town Council of the Town of Ossian, Indiana, shall be empowered to operate the municipally owned water department of the Town of Ossian, Indiana, and the Council shall from time to time adopt policies consistent with this Ordinance regarding the day to day operation of the Ossian Municipal Water Utility; and

WHEREAS, the Ossian Town Council of the Town of Ossian has authority under the Acts of the Indiana General Assembly to make all necessary regulations for the preservation of the rights, property, health, safety and welfare of its citizens and the Council finds that the interests of the citizens of the Town of Ossian would be best served by establishing the regulations and policies for the service of water to the customers of the Ossian Municipal Water Utility;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF OSSIAN, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Application for water connection and the use of water shall be made at the Ossian Clerk Treasurer's Business Office.
2. The customer shall be required to keep the surroundings around the meter clean, dry and easily accessible to employees of the Ossian Municipal Water Utility; and to protect same from freezing.
3. No connection or alteration whatever shall be made ahead of the water meter, whereby water may be released without passing through the meter. Should it become necessary, through the process of making repairs or alterations in the pipe line to which the meter is attached, to remove the meter, a request shall be made to Ossian Utilities for such removal, and water shall not be turned into same again until after proper inspection is made by Ossian Utilities and the work approved.
4. No person not so authorized shall tamper with or permit any tampering with any service pipe, curb stop or service valve, meter or meter seal, or any other appliance or equipment owned by the Utility. It is expressly understood and agreed that the Ossian Utilities personnel shall have reasonable access to any meter.
5. There shall be no waste of water either to prevent freezing of water lines or for any other purpose. Water will not be furnished to premises where there are leaky pipes or fixtures. When such conditions are found, the supply will be shut off until repairs have been made. Consumers shall keep their own service pipes in repair and protect same from freezing at their own expense, and must prevent all unnecessary waste or use of water.
6. All service pipes shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the municipality from the main to the curb box. All service pipes from the main to the meter shall be inspected by the Town Services Director or his authorized employee before same have been covered over. The Town will provide the curb box at its own expense, but it is expressly understood that the customer shall, at his own expense, extend the service line from the curb, make all connections

necessary for the installation of the meter and set the meter for new construction.

7. No person, without written authority from the Town Services Director, shall turn on the water to any service. This rule does not prevent plumbers from testing their work, but they must not in any case leave the water turned on without written authority from the Town Services Director.

8. No person shall open any fire hydrant or remove or obstruct the stopcock of any hydrant, or place or deposit any dirt or other material in any stopcock boxes, or meter boxes or turn any public or private stopcock or commit any act tending to obstruct the use thereof.

9. It shall be unlawful, except in time of fire, to draw or cause the water to be removed from any public or private hydrant, unless metered, or to open any valve on the aforesaid hydrants, or fire protection openings except in case of fire. This is not intended to prevent any department from using fire hydrants to flush sewers.

10. There shall be no cross-connections of water systems between private wells and the public water system.

11. The digging and construction of water wells for private use, whether commercial or residential, shall be prohibited within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Ossian, Indiana, without approval of the Ossian Town Council. This shall not prohibit the use or repair of water wells that exist within the Town of Ossian at the time of the passage of this Ordinance.

12. In the event that the Town Services Director or his authorized employee determines that the Town's water system is in imminent danger of a shortage of water or is experiencing a shortage of water, the Town Services Director shall declare a water conservation emergency and the Council shall prescribe rules for conservation of water until such time as the emergency is determined by the Director to have passed.

13. For the purpose of billing and collecting the charges for water usage, water meters shall be read monthly and the customers shall be billed monthly; provided however, that Ossian Utilities shall have the option of estimating a customer's monthly water usage in the event that for any reason a meter reading cannot be taken for a particular month. If a customer's monthly usage is estimated, his bill shall be adjusted accordingly based upon the next actual meter reading. In the event that a customer requests termination of his or her water service, his meter shall be read on the date of the termination of the service and billed accordingly, but not less than minimum charge as provided herein.

14. All water bills shall be paid on or before the date indicated on the billing. Any payment not made on or before the due date shall be subject to a late fee assessed in accordance with Ordinances or the policies adopted by the Ossian Municipal Water Department.

15. The Utility may disconnect service without request of the customer:

- a. For failure to repair any leak in the service pipe or appurtenances between the service connection and the meter, or in any private protection system or other unmetered facilities;

- b. For failure to timely pay any utility bill or other charges in connection with utility service;
- c. For failure to provide reasonable, unobstructed and non-hazardous access to the premises and meter, appliance and/or other utility-owned equipment so that representatives of the Utility may take meter readings, make all necessary inspections, and maintain, replace, or remove the meter, appliances and/or equipment of the Utility;
- d. Upon discovery of improper installation of a new service pipe and appurtenances or alteration or removal of existing service pipe and appurtenances, including the meter, without written authority of the Utility;
- e. If a customer issues or causes to be issued a check for services which is not honored because of insufficient funds or no account;
- f. For failure to comply with the terms of an Extension Payment Agreement.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its adoption and publication required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF OSSIAN, INDIANA, ON THE 13th DAY OF May, 2002.