



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Council Session

Item G-7

#2017-51 - Approving Revision of Fee Schedule Regarding Disconnect Fees

Staff Contact: Tim Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director
Stacy Nonhof, Assistant City Attorney

Meeting: February 28, 2017

Subject: Revision of Fee Schedule regarding Disconnect Fees

Presenter(s): Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Background

The current fee schedule includes fees of \$50 for disconnecting and turning on electric services for non-payment of utility bills. Also included in the fee schedule is a charge of \$375.00 for an afterhours turn on, which covers the cost of overtime for sending a line crew out to reconnect service.

In a move to an automated metering system, the Utilities Department is installing “smart” meters, which have a feature that allows an electric service to be disconnected and connect remotely through the metering system software. By installing these meters on services as they are disconnected, the service can be restored by personnel at the Utility Department’s Dispatch Center without the need for a line crew on site.

Discussion

To eliminate unnecessary cost to delinquent customers, it is recommended that the \$375.00 afterhours turn on fee be removed from the fee schedule and that the \$50.00 turn on fee be applied regardless of the time of day.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council revise the fee schedule to eliminate the afterhours turn on fee.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the fee schedule revision to eliminate the afterhours turn on fee.

RESOLUTION 2017-51

WHEREAS, the current fee schedule is a charge of \$375.00 for after-hours turn-ons; and

WHEREAS, as the Utilities Department is moving toward an automated metering system, installing “smart” meters, which have a feature that allow an electric service to be disconnected and connected remotely through the metering system software; and

WHEREAS, by installing these meters on services as they are disconnected, the service can be restored by personnel at the Utility Department’s Dispatch Center without the need for a line crew onsite after hours; and

WHEREAS, to eliminate unnecessary cost to delinquent customers, it is recommended that the \$375.00 after hours turn-on fee be removed from the fee schedule and that the \$50.00 turn-on fee be applied regardless of the time of day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the fee schedule be revised to eliminate the \$375.00 after hours turn-on fee and that the \$50.00 turn-on fee be applied regardless of the time of day.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 28, 2017.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 10, 2017	☐ City Attorney