



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Council Session

Item F-4

**#9767 - Consideration of Amending Chapter 15 of the City Code
Relative to Electricity**

Staff Contact: Tim Luchsinger, Stacy Nonhof

Council Agenda Memo

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

Meeting: March 24, 2020

Subject: Ordinance #9767 – Consideration of Amendments to Chapter 15 of the City Code relative to Electricity

Presenter(s): Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Background

On March 9, 2016, Chapter 15, Electricity, of the City Code was modified to add conditions in accordance with Nebraska State Statutes for customers owning small generators utilizing wind, solar, biomass, hydro, or geothermal sources. The Department has a request from a customer planning a solar installation larger than provided for in the current code. State statutes also do not address installations of this size; therefore, code revisions were drafted based on requirements used by other electric systems in the state. A correction is also proposed with regards to determination of the electric demand charge.

Discussion

The following revisions are proposed to Chapter 15, Electricity, of the City Code.

- Section 49 – Adding requirements and power purchase provisions for customer owned facilities greater than 25 kW but less than 100 kW.
- Section 64 – Revising the electric demand period from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

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 approve Ordinance #9767 relative to revisions of the City Code, Chapter 15 - Electricity.

Sample Motion

Move to approve Ordinance #9767 relative to revisions of the City Code Chapter 15 - Electricity.

ORDINANCE NO. 9767

An ordinance to amend Chapter 15 of Grand Island City Code; to amend Section 15-49 and Section 15-64; to clarify and/or make general corrections to various code sections, to repeal any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Section 15-49 and Section 15-64 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§15-49. Interconnection Devices

Any energy conservation device generating electricity to be used for domestic purposes shall be interconnected with the electrical supply of the household, business, or industry finished by the Grand Island Utilities Department in accordance with plans, specifications, rules and regulations approved by the Utilities Director or his designated representative and subject to the inspection of the Grand Island Utilities Department prior to the conservation device being energized and put into operation.

A customer that has a generation facility (or facilities) that uses as its energy source methane, wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, or geothermal resources and is interconnected behind their service meter with an aggregate nameplate of 25 kW or less may be considered as a Qualified Facility (QF) and eligible for participation in a net metering program. The program will be available for QF customers until the aggregate nameplate capacity of the participating QF customers meets one percent (1%) of the peak annual demand of the Utilities Department. The installation of equipment by the QF customer must meet all applicable safety, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the National Electrical Code filed with the Secretary of State and adopted by the State Electrical Board under subdivision (5) of section 81-2104, the National Electrical safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Underwriters Laboratories; and must be equipped to automatically isolate the QF from the electrical system in the event of an electrical power outage or other conditions where the line is de-energized. An outside-mounted visible device shall be installed on the customer's side of the point of delivery/receipt that must be capable of preventing energizing the Utilities Department's service line and provide for a means for the Department to operate and lock in place. The Utilities Department will provide a bi-directional meter for measurement of the flow of electricity in both directions. A separate meter socket shall be provided and installed by the customer between the QF and the point of interconnection with the customer's electrical panel. The utilities department will provide a private use meter that will be used for measuring gross generation of the QF. Net energy produced by the QF during the billing period will be credited at the applicable retail rate for the customer, not including the customer charge, and applied as a credit to the customer's account at the current month cost of energy per kilowatt-hour as defined in Division 6. At the end of the calendar year, any excess credits may be paid to the customer. Customer owned generation facilities with an aggregate nameplate greater than 25 kW but less than 100 kW shall meet all applicable safety, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the National Electrical Code filed with the Secretary of State and adopted by the State Electrical Board under subdivision (5) of section 81-2104, the National Electrical Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Underwriters Laboratories; and must be equipped to automatically isolate the facility from the electrical system in the event of an electrical power outage or other conditions where the line is de-energized. An outside-mounted visible device shall be installed on the customer's side of the point of delivery/receipt that must be capable of preventing energizing the Utilities Department's service line and provide for a means for the Department to operate and lock in place. The Utilities Department will provide a bi-directional meter for measurement of the flow of electricity in both directions. A separate meter socket shall be provided and installed by the customer between the facility and the point of interconnection with the customer's electrical panel. The Utilities Department will provide

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 20, 2020	☐ City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 9767 (Cont.)

~~a private use meter that will be used for measuring gross generation of the facility. Net energy produced by the facility during the billing period will~~ and be applied as a credit to the customer's account at the current month cost of energy per kilowatt-hour as defined in Division 6. At the end of the calendar year, any excess credits may be paid to the customer.

~~Customer owned generation facilities with an aggregate nameplate greater than 25 kW but less than 100 kW shall meet all applicable safety, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the National Electrical Code filed with the Secretary of State and adopted by the State Electrical Board under subdivision (5) of section 81-2104, the National Electrical Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Underwriters Laboratories; and must be equipped to automatically isolate the facility from the electrical system in the event of an electrical power outage or other conditions where the line is de-energized. An outside-mounted visible device shall be installed on the customer's side of the point of delivery/receipt that must be capable of preventing energizing the Utilities Department's service line and provide for a means for the Department to operate and lock in place. The Utilities Department will provide a bi-directional meter for measurement of the flow of electricity in both directions. A separate meter socket shall be provided and installed by the customer between the facility and the point of interconnection with the customer's electrical panel. The Utilities Department shall provide a private use meter that will be used for measuring gross generation of the facility. Net energy produced by the facility during the billing period will be applied as a credit to the customer's account at the current month cost of energy per kilowatt-hour as defined in Division 6. At the end of the calendar year, any excess credits may be paid to the customer.~~

It shall be unlawful for any person to connect an electric generating source to a system supplied electricity by the Grand Island Utilities Department without obtaining the aforesaid approval and inspection.

§15-64. Billing Demand

The Monthly Demand shall be the highest integrated demand (in kW) during a ~~30~~ 45-minute time interval in the billing period. For purposes of this section, Summer Months shall be June through October. Winter Months shall be November through May. The Billing Demand shall be the greater of:

1. The Monthly Demand
2. 65% of the Monthly Demand in the five (5) most recent Summer Months

SECTION 2. Any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Enacted: March 24, 2020.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk