



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Council Session

Item F-1

#9840 - Consideration of Changes to Chapter 15 of the Grand Island City Code relative to Electricity

Staff Contact: Tim Luchsinger, Stacy Nonhof

Council Agenda Memo

From: Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director
Craig Lewis, Building Department Director
Stacy Nonhof, Interim City Attorney

Meeting: August 24, 2021

Subject: Ordinance #9840 – Consideration of Changes to
Chapter 15 of the City Code - Electricity

Presenter(s): Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Background

With the recent supply and demand issues with many different products and materials, local electricians have had difficulty being able to obtain certain equipment specified in City Code, Chapter 15. A review of this chapter also indicated conflicting procedures regarding interconnected generation facilities such as customer owned solar panels.

Discussion

Revisions to Section 15-6, Service Entrances, remove specific equipment types and simply refer to the Utilities Department standards and specifications which are regularly updated to reflect current electric system requirements. Section 15-49, Interconnected Devices, has been revised using wording found in the enabling state statutes for better clarity.

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 #9840 relative to changes to Chapter 15 of the City Code - Electricity.

Sample Motion

Move to approve Ordinance #9840 relative to changes to Chapter 15 of the City Code - Electricity.

ORDINANCE NO. 9840

An ordinance to amend Chapter 15 of Grand Island City Code; to amend Sections 15-6 and 15-49; 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. Sections 15-6 and 15-49 of the Grand Island City Code Chapter are amended to read as follows:

§15-6. Service Entrances

Each service entrance with 2,000 amperes capacity or less shall be provided with a readily accessible main disconnecting device with appropriate overcurrent protection; provided, each service entrance larger than 2,000 amperes capacity shall comply with the provisions of the National Electric Code. The device shall disconnect all ungrounded conductors from the source of supply in one motion or operation of the hand. For overhead services, said overcurrent protection shall be installed within twenty-five (25) feet from the weatherhead, and within ten (10) feet from where the conductors enter the building. For underground services, said overcurrent protection shall be installed within ten (10) feet from where the conductors enter the building, and within 25' of where the conduit emerges from grade.

(A) *Provisions for Metering.* ~~The meter socket shall be the "ring type" meter socket for 200 amp services and below.~~ Meter sockets shall be mounted on the outside of a principal building ~~with the centerline located between five (5) and six (6) feet above finished grade.~~ With prior approval given by the Utilities Department and Building Department, meter sockets may be located on UL listed pedestals, accessory buildings greater than 625 square feet constructed on perimeter foundations extended below frost depth, or alternate locations approved by the Departments. Additional provisions for metering can be found in the Metering Standards standards and specifications set out by the Grand Island Utilities Department.

(B) Single family switches shall be grouped to disconnect them with one motion of the hand.

(C) *Multiple Family Units.* New multiple family units constructed in compliance with Chapter 8 of the Grand Island Code may be allowed up to 6 switches, one switch per unit. All switches shall be grouped together in one listed and approved assembly.

(D) *Number of Services.* One electrical service shall be provided for each tract or parcel of land, except upon written request and approval by the Utilities Director and Building Department Director, and/or their respective designee, and in conformance with this Code.

Approved as to Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
August 18, 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	City Attorney

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(E) *Electric Meter Location.* The electric meter shall be located on the property that it is supplying power to, unless prior approval by the Utilities Department and Building Department.

(F) *Meter Tampering.* Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 25-21,275, tampering or bypassing a meter is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disconnection.

(G) *Grade Changes.* The property owner shall be responsible for any repairs or modifications to City owned equipment damaged or deemed unsafe due to grade changes, settlement or erosion.

§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 ~~and 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 excess 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, or within sixty days after the customer terminates retail service, any excess credits ~~may will~~ 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;~~

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~~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 a private use meter that will be used for measuring gross generation of the facility. Net energy 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 will 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 and exported to the local distribution system 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, or within sixty days after the customer terminates retail service, any excess credits will 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.

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.

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Enacted: August 24, 2021.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk