

ORDINANCE 5-2016

Introduced by: Potter

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF TRAPPE TO AMEND SECTION 14.10 OF THE TRAPPE TOWN CODE TO REQUIRE THAT WATER AND SEWER CHARGES BE PAID WITHIN 30 DAYS TO ENSURE THAT THE TOWN IS ABLE MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM; AND GRANT TO THE COUNCIL THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM DISCONNECTION POLICY FOR DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, Md. Code Ann. Environmental Article § 9-705 and the Trappe Town Charter § 707 authorize the Town to construct, operate, modify and maintain a water and sewerage system; and

WHEREAS, Md. Code Ann. Environmental Article § 9-723 through 9-726 and the Trappe Town Charter § 718 authorize the Town to establish rates, fees and charges for municipal water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted Section 14 of the Town Code which addresses the Town's policies and regulations concerning its water and sewer system, including the payment of water and sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Trappe desires to amend Section 14.10 of the Trappe Town Code to require that water and sewer charges be paid within 30 days to ensure that the Town is able to meet its financial obligations associated with the water and sewer system; and grant to the Council the authority to adopt a resolution establishing a uniform disconnection policy for properties with delinquent accounts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Trappe as follows:

Section 1. Section 14.10 of the Trappe Town Code is hereby amended as follows:

Section 14.10. Payment of water and sewer charges.

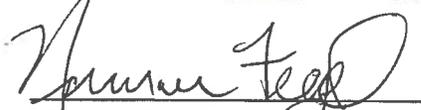
- A. The Town may establish a billing period for water and sewer bills from time to time as deemed appropriate, but no less often than quarterly.
- B. ~~Unless otherwise stated, payment of a water and/or sewer bill is due in full within thirty (30) days of the date of billing. The Town reserves the right to stagger the payments of quarterly water bills to allow customers to pay~~

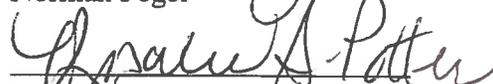
~~the charges for the first month's service within thirty (30) days of the date of the billing, charges for the second month within sixty (60) days of the date of the billing, and charges for the third month within ninety (90) days of the date of the billing.~~

- B. When a combined bill for multiple services connected to a master meter becomes past due, the bill for each included individual service shall be considered past due.
- C. Water user charges shall be billed at the same time sewer charges are billed. All payments credited to combined water and sewer bills shall be equally divided between the unpaid water and unpaid sewer account balances.
- D. ***Unless otherwise stated, payment of a water and/or sewer bill is due in full within thirty (30) days of the date of billing.*** When a water and sewer bill is not paid within ~~ten (10)~~ ***ten (10)*** ~~thirty (30)~~ days after the due date, the Town shall post a conspicuous notice on the property, or send notice via first class U.S. mail to the last known address of the property owner and current occupant of the property, stating that the water bill is delinquent and that the water service may be turned off. ~~on the fourteenth day after the date of the notice.~~ The sewer service shall be considered turned off when the water service is turned off. Water service will not be turned off when the outside air temperature is over 90 degrees F or forecast to be over 90 degrees F on the day after the scheduled turnoff. Monthly water and sewer bills will be sent by first class U.S. mail to the owner of the property. The property owner shall be responsible for paying all water and sewer charges. ***The Council shall have the authority to adopt a resolution establishing a water and sewer disconnection policy for delinquent accounts.***
- E. Bills paid after the due date shall be subject to a finance charge as set forth in Table 1 applied to the entire balance including accumulated interest and turn on/turn off fees. The Town reserves the right to use an average thirty (30) day period for the purpose of computing monthly interest. The interest on any unpaid balance begins to accrue as of the first day after due date.
- F. Any unpaid water and sewer bill including finance charges and any service charge for turning the water on or off shall become a lien upon the real property which is serviced, and may be collected in the same manner as taxes are collected.

- G. All residences subject to the Minimum Livability Code (COMAR 05.02.03) shall have running water and operable kitchen and bathroom fixtures consistent with those regulations.

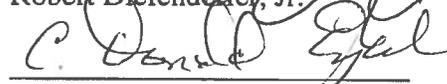
This Ordinance shall become effective on the 26th day of July, 2016.


Norman Fegel


Rosalee Potter


Tonya Pritchett


Robert Diefenderfer, Jr.


C. Donald English

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance Number 05-2016 of the Town of Trappe was duly read and enacted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Charter of the Town of Trappe.

Attest: 
Erin Braband, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Trappe

Language in ***bold and italicized*** reflects language added
Language ~~stricken~~ reflects language deleted

