POLICY BULLETIN NO. 69

SUBJECT:

Fire Hydrant Meters

POLICY:

This policy regulates the use of fire hydrant meters so that users will have the ability to obtain temporary water service in those instances where it is not practical to establish a permanent tap for metered water service.

Fire hydrants are strategically placed throughout the municipal water system for the primary purpose of providing fire protection and flushing water mains. Fire hydrants are not designed to provide metered water service; however, the placement of water meters on fire hydrants can be, with certain restrictions and guidelines, a viable method for users to secure temporary water service. This policy is intended to set forth those restrictions and guidelines, hereinafter referred to as conditions for water service, which are deemed necessary and essential to allow users the privilege, convenience, and cost savings of using a metered connection to fire hydrants. Metered connections to fire hydrants shall only be allowed for temporary water service of a short duration. Users requesting a fire hydrant meter shall agree to the conditions for water service set forth in this policy, and any user who violates provisions of this policy shall be subject to the revocation of any right to receive temporary water service from a fire hydrant. The City of Springdale is not under any obligation or required by law to provide water service to any user that does not comply with city ordinances and policies governing water service as established by the Springdale Water and Sewer Commission.

Section I. Conditions for Water Service:

A. Except for public fire protection and other authorized municipal uses, all water obtained from fire hydrants shall be measured through water meters supplied and maintained by Springdale Water Utilities. The size of each meter shall be determined by the utility's engineering staff commensurate with the estimated volume of water and the peak rate of flow requested by the user. Temporary water service obtained through a fire hydrant meter shall be established at such time a meter deposit has been collected from the user and water service has been initiated in accordance with Policy Bulletin No. 26. Unlawful taking of water from a fire hydrant shall be considered as theft of public property, and offenders will be subject to prosecution as permitted by state statutes and city ordinances and subject to a $500.00 tampering fee plus the consumption of water based on the water rates established for the location of the fire hydrant.

B. Fire hydrant meters shall be allowed as a temporary source to secure metered water needed for outdoor uses. When the ambient air temperature is expected to

drop below thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit, Springdale Water Utilities reserves the right to remove fire hydrant meters from service or to deny requests for a fire hydrant meter installation.

C. Users requesting fire hydrant meters for temporary service are responsible for the volume of water registered through the meter. Users shall also assume responsibility for any damages to the fire hydrant or for damages or theft to the meter, strainer, valves, connections, and other appurtenances used during such time water service is being provided to the user.

D. A gate valve or hose bibb will be provided with the meter and shall be the only method used to control the flow of water obtained from the fire hydrant. Valves should be opened and closed slowly to prevent abrupt and excessive changes in water pressure (Water Hammer) that can damage piping, valves, fittings, and plumbing fixtures. The operating nut on each fire hydrant shall remain fully open while water is flowing from the hydrant. Partially opening the operating nut will damage weep holes at the base of the fire hydrant as well as eroding the subsurface supporting the hydrant and providing thrust restraint.

E. Users shall identify, at the time service is being requested, the location of the fire hydrant to be used for attachment of a water meter. After service has been initiated by Springdale Water Utilities, the meter shall not be removed from the fire hydrant by the user except in emergencies.

Relocation of fire hydrant meters shall be performed only by representatives of Springdale Water Utilities. A $20.00 service charge shall be collected each time a fire hydrant meter is set or relocated to another fire hydrant. The service charge to set a hydrant meter may be waived for government entities or nonprofit organizations. Meter service will not be initiated for any user with past due charges that remain unpaid. The transfer of service from one hydrant location to another is subject to the collection of any outstanding balance which is due and payable for services previously rendered.

F. A rental fee of $7.00 per day shall be collected regardless of the size of meter. In addition to the rental fee for each fire hydrant meter, users shall be billed for water consumption based upon the most current water rate schedule established by city ordinance. Users shall be billed for water based upon the location of the fire hydrant meter (i.e. inside city rates, outside city rates, or White River System rates).

G. Springdale Water Utilities reserves the right to restrict the use of fire hydrant meters and to determine if the selected fire hydrant location is suitable for metered service. The use of fire hydrant meters may be discontinued in the event of a water

shortage or during periods of time when the water supply is diminished. The location of fire hydrant meters shall be limited to areas where adequate water pressure can be maintained in the distribution system. Large meters shall not be attached to fire hydrants in areas where excessive flows through the metered connection could diminish or cause a loss of water pressure in the distribution system. Meters shall not be provided at locations where the use of a meter could damage the hydrant, create a potential traffic hazard, or result in property damage.

H. Adequate protection should be maintained at all times to prevent back siphonage or backflow of nonpotable water from any connection to the municipal distribution system.

Section II. Moveable Fire Hydrant Meters:

In instances where a need should arrive that a customer would like to have a fire hydrant meter that can be moved from location to location, the following conditions must be met:

A. The customer must be a licensed plumber with a business license issued by the City of Springdale exclusively.

B. The customer shall pay an additional $500.00 deposit in addition to the fire hydrant meter deposit in Policy Bulletin No 26.

C. The customer's application for a moveable fire hydrant meter will be reviewed and approved by the Finance Director or the Executive Director or their designee. The applicant must meet the qualifications to be issued a moveable fire hydrant meter and demonstrate sufficient knowledge on the operation of fire hydrants, meters, and backflow prevention techniques.

D. All conditions in Section I. of the policy will apply except for item E.

E. Moveable fire hydrant meters may only be placed within the city limits of Springdale and may not be taken outside of the City of Springdale. All fire hydrants outside the city limits of Springdale require a stationary fire hydrant meter in compliance with Section I. above. Moveable fire hydrant meters may NOT be placed on a "Red Top" fire hydrant, two-hole fire hydrant, or a blow off. Additional fire hydrants that the utility declares unsuitable for a moveable fire hydrant meter will be provided to the customer and is subject to change at any time.

F. Before a moveable fire hydrant meter is released, the customer will undergo training on the handling and installation of a fire hydrant meter, including the safe operation of a fire hydrant. Only individuals that receive the training and deemed

competent by the utility are allowed to install and operate the hydrant and meter. Training must be retaken annually to continue the use of a moveable fire hydrant meter.

G. Adequate protection should be maintained at all times to prevent back siphonage or backflow of nonpotable water from any connection to the municipal distribution system.

H. The customer will be issued a meter reading reporting date. Failure to report meter reads on time will result in the termination of the moveable fire hydrant meter service and the customer will be required to obtain all future fire hydrant meters through Section I. Fire hydrant meters with asset tracking and radio reading technologies will be exempt from this condition.

I. Springdale Water Utilities may install an asset tracking device on the meter to allow for remote meter reading and asset management of the fire hydrant meter.

J. The customer must maintain current contact information with Springdale Water Utilities. Any changes to contact information or person responsible for handling the fire hydrant meter must be reported to Springdale Water Utilities in a timely manner.

K. At any point, the customer may be asked to return the meter to the utility for inspection, installation, or repair of remote meter reading technology or asset training.

L. Any noncompliance of the conditions set forth in this policy or additional instructions and procedures given at the time of meter acquisition or while in possession of the fire hydrant meter, will result in the termination of service and the customer will be required to obtain all future fire hydrant meters through Section I. of this policy.

M. The Executive Director reserves the right to revoke the moveable fire hydrant meter program for any customer for any reason. This includes one or all users without explanation or cause.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Office Manager (under the supervision of the Executive Director)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

January 1, 2023