

CHAPTER 23: UTILITY SERVICE AND DISCONNECTION PROCEDURE

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23-101 Time Limit for Disconnection

At the expiration of ten days from the penalty date specified on the utility bills submitted by the City of Lawrenceville to its customers, the City of Lawrenceville shall terminate the utility service to the premises which utilized the service. Disconnection by the City may occur if any portion of a bill remains unpaid ten days from the penalty date specified on the utility bills submitted by the City of Lawrenceville to its customers.

23-102 Notice of Disconnection

No utility service may be disconnected unless:

- (a) The customer has been given written notice of the proposed disconnection at least five (5) days prior to the date of disconnection.
- (b) Such notice shall be:
 - (1) Served upon the customer by the U. S. Mail in the case of residential accounts;
 - (2) Served upon a commercial account by the U. S. Mail. Should a commercial customer have closed the place of business, then such notice shall be sent through the U. S. Mail to the last known address of the principal officer, agent, or partner or the applicant commercial account.
 - (3) Served through the U. S. Mail in case of a Landlord who pays for utility service and resides outside the corporate limits; if such Landlord resides within the corporate limits, the Landlord shall be served personally by the City Meter Department.
- (c) Such notice shall state:
 - (1) Date of proposed disconnection;

- (2) Balance remaining unpaid;
- (3) That the customer may have a conference with a designated employee concerning the disconnection;
- (4) Telephone number of the designated City employee.

23-103 Restrictions on Disconnection

No disconnection may occur if:

- (a) The temperature is forecast to drop below 32° Fahrenheit at anytime during the 24-hour period of the date of the proposed disconnection;
- (b) If the City receives notice that an occupant of the premises to be disconnected has a serious medical problem which would be aggravated by the disconnection of service, notice may be delivered in writing or telephoned to be followed in writing. The notice shall include the statement of a physician explaining the medical problem. The customer, however, must pay at least 25% of the balance due in order to receive the above consideration.

23-104 Unauthorized Use of Utility

The procedure under this subsection will not be required when there is an unauthorized use of the utility service.

23-105 Maintenance of Metering Devices

- (a) Owners of property and lessees shall both be responsible to keep meters for City utilities clear of obstructions so that the meter may easily be read by City employees. Should any meter be obstructed or blocked from the access of any employee, the City shall notify the property owner or lessee and demand that the obstruction be removed. The owner or lessee shall have five (5) days from the date of the receipt of the notice in which to remove the obstruction so that the meter may be read. Should the owner or lessee fail to remove the obstruction within the five (5) day notice period, the City shall install a remote meter reading device at the site. The costs of installing the remote reading device shall be billed to the owner or lessee on the next regular utility bill.

Solely at the discretion of the City, if relocating the meter is the least expensive alternative or the City deems it an appropriate alternative, the City may move the meter to a different location outside of the obstruction. The costs of relocating the meter pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance shall be billed to the owner or lessee as part of their regular utility bill.

23-106 Load Management

- (a) All residential and commercial electric customers having central air conditioning are required to accept load management or be billed \$10.00 per month extra during the summer billing period from June to September.
- (b) Load Management devices will be installed by the City of Lawrenceville at no cost to the customer.
- (c) The customer whose unit is bypassed or disconnected will revert to the higher summer rate retroactive to June of that year and continuing through September.
- (d) Anyone who disconnects or bypasses a load management unit, not authorized by the City may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than \$100.00.

23-107 Planting and Utility Maintenance Near Transformers, Water Mains, Water Boxes and Fire Hydrants

1. No shrub, bush, flower, tree or other plant shall be planted within ten (10) feet of the front or five (5) feet of the side of a City transformer, water mains, water box, or fire hydrant.
2. Employees of the Electric or Water Departments may trim or remove any plant within ten (10) feet of the front or five (5) feet of the side of a transformer, water main, water box or fire hydrant which poses any safety hazard or threatens to interrupt service to City customers.