

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMAN OF THE CITY OF GONZALES,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024, 5:30 P.M.,
AT CITY HALL, 120 S. IRMA BLVD, GONZALES, LA 70737.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

R. Ryland Percy, III, Mayor
Councilman John A. Berthelot
Councilman Tim Riley

Councilman Kirk Boudreaux
Councilman Harold Stewart
Councilman Tyler Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT:

Brandon Boylan, City Clerk & Finance Director
Terri Delatorre, Administrative Secretary

Final Vote on Ordinance No. 4252:

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

October 28, 2024

ORDINANCE # 4252

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 20 - UTILITIES. ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL, 20-2 PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS; ARTICLE II. GAS, 20-18 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE; CONNECTION FEE, 20-21 UNLAWFUL TO CONNECT, ALTER, TAMPER OR INJURE SYSTEM, 20-25 METERS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE; ARTICLE III. WATER; 20-43 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE; CONNECTION FEE, 20-45 SERVICE RATES, 20-46 UNLAWFUL TO CONNECT, ALTER, TAMPER OR INJURE SYSTEM, 20-50 METERS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE; ARTICLE IV. SEWAGE, 20-74 BUILDING SEWER CONNECTIONS, 20-84 SERVICE RATES

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Councilman of the City of Gonzales, Louisiana:

That the Code of Ordinance of the City of Gonzales be amended as follows:

Chapter 20. UTILITIES

20 Utilities, Article I. In General

1. (ADD)

20-2. Payment arrangements.

- (1) At any time before any utility service is discontinued, a customer may contact and apply to the City of Gonzales to discuss payment arrangements when it appears to the customer that circumstances are such that the payment of all or a portion of an invoice greater than \$500 for utility service on or before service is to be discontinued is unlikely or an impossibility or will impose an undue hardship on the customer which may result in a default of the customer's obligations to the city and which may result in the discontinuance of utility service or all municipal services.
- (2) In the event that a customer seeks to enter into a payment arrangement with the city, the Mayor or Chief Administrative Officer may permit such customer to enter into a payment arrangement allowing installments for a period of up to six (6) monthly billing cycles after paying 20% of the balance due, taking into consideration the individual circumstances of the customer, the account history of the customer. The burden is on the applicant to show undue hardship.

20 Utilities, Article II. Gas

2. (AMEND)

20-18 *Application for service; connection fee.*

Applications to have gas turned on shall be made to the utility department, and it shall be understood by the applicant that he shall abide by and accept all of the provisions of this article as conditions governing the use of the city gas supply system. Any person residing within the city limits desiring to connect to the city's gas

system, after having applied, and upon approval of his application, shall pay a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) as an installation fee prior to connection thereto. All persons residing outside of the city limits being served by the city gas system shall pay a fee of sixty dollars (\$60.00) as an installation fee prior to the connection thereto. Such installation fees shall be nonreturnable.

(TO READ)

20-18 Application for service; connection fee.

Applications to have gas turned on shall be made to the utility department by way of the property owner signing the Utility contract, and it shall be understood by the applicant that he or she shall abide by and accept all of the provisions of this article as conditions governing the use of the city gas supply system. Any person residing within the city limits or outside city limits desiring to connect to the city's gas system, after having applied, and upon approval of his or her contract, shall pay a connection fee as detailed in Sec 20-18 (a) through (e) prior to connection thereto.

Any person living outside the city limits desiring to connect to the city's gas system shall submit a service request to the city and contract directly with a licensed contractor to install gas service taps, gas service lines to connect to the city's gas system as quoted by the contractor prior to any connection. The City will then install the meter at the agreed upon location and the person desiring connection shall pay the current cost of the meter plus a 25% labor charge.

Such connection fees shall be nonreturnable.

- (a) Charges for gas service taps, gas service lines, and metering equipment inside the city limits shall be as follows:

Service Connection Size	In-City Limits Fees
250 Sensus Gas Meter	\$ 1,100.00
425 Sensus Gas Meter	\$ 1,560.00

- (1) Tap fee includes cost of the meter, regulator and necessary fittings, service line up to fifty (50) feet max and a 25% labor charge. Additional service line costs according to subsection (d)(2).
- (b) For gas service requiring larger than a one-inch line, charges for gas service taps and gas service lines, shall be the actual cost of installation and materials. A price will be quoted upon request.
- (c) Additional charges:
 - 1. For service lines in excess of fifty (50) feet, an additional cost per foot of service trenching plus the current purchase price of the pipe shall added for each foot beyond fifty (50) feet. A price will be quoted upon request.
- (d) Application for and payment of all charges for gas service taps must be made at the city utility office located at city hall, a minimum of ten (10) working days prior to need.
- (e) Effective June 1, 2025 with the billing of cycle 1 and each succeeding fiscal year thereafter effective June 1 with the billing of cycle 1 the above charges in section 20-18 shall be adjusted to reflect changes in the fiscal year cost of operations, as reflected by fluctuations based on United States Department of Labor—Bureau of Labor Statistics published consumer price index (CPI) unadjusted indexes for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group (all items). The rate modification month shall be March. CPI increase is computed by comparing the current month of March with the prior month of March index for all items. The CPI index change is converted to a percentage by dividing the CPI index change by the prior March CPI index. This is the percentage increase (rounded to two (2) decimal places).

3. (AMEND)

20-21 Unlawful to connect, alter, tamper or injure system.

No connection with a gas main shall be made by any person other than an employee of the utility department or any one (1) person authorized by the utility manager, nor shall any person alter, tamper with or injure any part of the city's gas system without authorization of the utility manager.

(TO READ)

20-21 Unlawful to connect, alter, tamper or injure system.

No connection with a gas main shall be made by any person other than an employee of the utility department or any one (1) person authorized by the utility manager, nor shall any person alter, tamper with or injure any part of the city's gas system without authorization of the utility manager. Anyone found guilty of tampering with the city's gas system will be charged a penalty fee in the amount of \$250 plus the cost to repair or replace the damaged infrastructure.

4. (AMEND)

20-25 Meters must be accessible.

All gas meters shall be placed in an accessible position and shall not be concealed by any plant or other means.

(TO READ)

20-25 Meters must be accessible.

All gas meters shall be placed in an accessible position and shall not be concealed by any plant or other means. Violators shall be charged a penalty fee in the amount of \$275 for prohibiting meter access to Utility staff.

5. (AMEND)

20 Utilities, Article III. Water

20-43 Application for service; connection fee.

Applications to have water turned on shall be made to the utility department, and it shall be understood by the applicant that he shall abide by and accept all of the provisions of this article as conditions governing the use of the city water supply system by the applicant. Any person residing within the city limits desiring to connect to the city's water system, after having applied shall be so connected, provided that an installation fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is paid prior to any connection; provided, however, that any person living outside the city limits being served by the city's water system shall pay an installation fee as quoted by an outside contractor prior to any connection, the installation fees shall be nonreturnable.

(TO READ)

20-43 Application for service; connection fee.

Applications to have water turned on shall be made to the utility department by way of the property owner signing the Utility contract, and it shall be understood by the applicant that he or she shall abide by and accept all of the provisions of this article as conditions governing the use of the city water supply system. Any person residing within the city limits desiring to connect to the city's water system, after having applied, and upon approval of his or her contract, shall pay a connection fee as detailed in Sec 20-43 (a) through (c) prior to connection thereto.

Any person living outside the city limits desiring to connect to the city's water system shall submit a service request to the city and contract directly with a licensed contractor to install water service taps, water service lines to connect to the city's water system as quoted by the contractor prior to any connection. The City will then install the meter at the agreed upon location and the person desiring connection shall pay the current cost of the meter plus a 25% labor charge to the City.

Such connection fees shall be nonreturnable.

- (a) Charges for water service taps and supplying of water service lines, and metering equipment, shall be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Service Connection, In-City Limits Fees. Rows include 3/4 in. Water Line Tap and Meter (\$1,040.00), 1 in. Water Line Tap and Meter (\$1,150.00), 1 1/2 in. Water Line Tap and Meter (\$2,150.00), 2 in. Water Line Tap and Meter (\$2,150.00), 3 in. Water Line Tap and Meter (\$3,300.00), > 3 in. Water Line Tap and Meter (Varies).

- (1) Tap fee includes cost of a meter, necessary fittings, service line up to fifty (50) feet max and a 25% labor charge. Additional service line costs according to subsection (d)(2).
(b) For water service requiring larger than a three-inch line, charges for water service taps and water service lines, shall be the actual cost of installation and materials. A price will be quoted upon request.
(c) Additional service improvements.
(1) Any additional service line needed outside of the existing right-of-way, in order to connect to a meter, shall be the actual cost of installing the service line. A price will be quoted upon request. Additionally, a minimum five-foot utility servitude along the installed service line will be donated to the city in order to properly maintain the line and monitor service.
(2) Any major improvements that extend the service of the existing water supply system will require negotiation and approval from the city prior to any construction. Any proposed improvements shall conform to all required design measures.

- (c) Effective June 1, 2025 with the billing of cycle 1 and each succeeding fiscal year thereafter effective June 1 with the billing of cycle 1 the above charges in section 20-18 shall be adjusted to reflect changes in the fiscal year cost of operations, as reflected by fluctuations based on United States Department of Labor—Bureau of Labor Statistics published consumer price index (CPI) unadjusted indexes for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group (all items). The rate modification month shall be March. CPI increase is computed by comparing the current month of March with the prior month of March index for all items. The CPI index change is converted to a percentage by dividing the CPI index change by the prior March CPI index. This is the percentage increase (rounded to two (2) decimal places).

6. (AMEND)

20-45 *Service rates.*

(3) Water service rates will be adjusted annually to reflect inflation as established by the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index.

(TO READ)

20-45 *Service rates.*

(3) Water service rates will be adjusted annually to reflect inflation as established by the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index. Annual water rates will be approved each fiscal year by City Council through the budget.

7. (AMEND)

20-46 *Unlawful to connect, alter, tamper or injure system.*

No connection with a water main shall be made by any person other than an employee of the utility department or any one (1) person authorized by the utility manager, nor shall any person alter, tamper with or injure any part of the city's water system without authorization of the utility manager.

(TO READ)

20-46 *Unlawful to connect, alter, tamper or injure system.*

No connection with a water main shall be made by any person other than an employee of the utility department or any one (1) person authorized by the utility manager, nor shall any person alter, tamper with or injure any part of the city's water system without authorization of the utility manager. Anyone found guilty of tampering with the city's water system will be charged a penalty fee in the amount of \$250 plus the cost to repair or replace the damaged infrastructure.

8. (AMEND)

20-50 *Meters must be accessible.*

All water meters shall be placed in an accessible position and shall not be concealed by any plant or other means.

(TO READ)

20-50 *Meters must be accessible.*

All water meters shall be placed in an accessible position and shall not be concealed by any plant or other means. Violators shall be charged a penalty fee in the amount of \$275 for prohibiting meter access to Utility staff.

20 Utilities, Article IV. Sewage

9. (ADD)

20-74 *Building sewer connections.*

(f) Applicants shall pay \$100 deposit if not connected to City of Gonzales water system.

10. (AMEND)

20-84 *Service rates.*

(4) Sewer service rates will be adjusted annually to reflect inflation as established by the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index.

(TO READ)

20-84 *Service rates.*

(4) Sewer service rates will be adjusted annually to reflect inflation as established by the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index. Annual sewer rates will be approved each fiscal year by City Council through the budget.

YEAS: Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ORDINANCE ADOPTED: November 11, 2024

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, to approve the minutes of a Public Hearing of the Mayor and City Council taken on October 28, 2024.

YEAS: Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council taken on October 28, 2024.

YEAS: Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, seconded by Councilman Tim Riley, to approve the 2025 City Council Meeting schedule.

YEAS: Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to approve the 2025 City Holiday and Administrative Day Off schedule.

YEAS: Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Tyler Turner, to approve as surplus a Gonzales Fire Dept. 2001 Ferrara Fire Engine, VIN #4S7CT23901C037381.

YEAS: Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to introduce Ordinance No. 4253: an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 – Administration. Article V. Personnel Rules and Procedures. Division 5.

Public Hearing and final vote on this foregoing amendment to be taken at the next City Council meeting scheduled for November 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to introduce Ordinance No. 4254: an Ordinance to amend the budget (format change only).

Public Hearing and final vote on this foregoing amendment to be taken at the next City Council meeting scheduled for November 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned.



R. Ryland Percy, III, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brandon Boylan, City Clerk