

City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 11/11/25 M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-1059

LOG NAME: 60IRRIGATION ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Ordinance Amending Chapter 35, "Water and Sewers," Article VI, "Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Conservation," of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), as Amended, to Revise Regulations Pertaining to Enforcement of Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Violations and Re-Establishment of Irrigation Service

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance amending Chapter 35 - Water and Sewers, Article VI – Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Conservation of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), as amended, to revise regulations pertaining to enforcement of lawn and landscape irrigation regulations and re-establishment of irrigation service.

DISCUSSION:

The Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Conservation ordinance (“Irrigation Ordinance”) was established in 2007 (Ordinance 14901) and subsequently amended in 2014 (Ordinance 211194-04-2014) to establish lawn and landscape irrigation restrictions, allow for administrative fees, allow for an administrative appeals process, and re-establish water service to irrigation systems or meters that were locked or shut-off due to non-compliance with the Irrigation Ordinance.

Under the current version of the Irrigation Ordinance, fees and shut-offs are available enforcement tools that had not been utilized until 2025. Instead, the emphasis had been on outreach and education to achieve voluntary compliance with the Irrigation Ordinance. Beginning in March 2025, fees were introduced to commercial and residential customers for repeated Irrigation Ordinance violations. While somewhat successful, these enforcement measures did not result in the behavioral changes needed to achieve the level of compliance required for sustainable conservation goals, or reducing overall gallons per capita per day consumption. Summer peak demands from irrigation remain extremely high, while average daily use remains well above winter baseline levels, underscoring the need for further action to meet conservation goals.

Therefore, the Fort Worth Water Utility (“Utility”) now desires to amend the Irrigation Ordinance to:

- Clarify how the Water Director or the Director’s designee may enforce the Irrigation Ordinance;
- Allow the Water Director to lock or shut off water service to irrigation systems or meters in situations which jeopardize public safety, health, or welfare;
- Require customers provide verification to the Water Director or the Director’s designee that the Irrigation Ordinance violations have been remedied (e.g., providing a photograph of the controller panel on the irrigation system showing that the system will only water on the correct days, as applicable to the customer).

These amendments to the Irrigation Ordinance will enable the Utility to further smooth out water demand and reduce per-capita water use that is essential to system reliability and achieving the goals set forth in the City Council-adopted 2024 Conservation Plan.

This project is located in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City funds.

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Expedited

