

Public Hearing: October 27, 2003

FACT SHEET

TITLE: Ordinance to amend LMC Chapter 17.10, Connections to System.

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities

OPPONENTS: None Identified

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

APPLICANT: Public Works & Utilities

REASON FOR LEGISLATION: Amending various sections in Chapter 17.10 to clarify qualifications of persons performing work on water supply pipes, service pipes and backflow prevention assemblies. Reduces the permit review time by the Department for permits to connect to the water system from 30 days to 15 days. Clarifies the need to have a water meter and backflow assembly on new building construction as soon as the connection is made to the Lincoln Water System.

An operative date of January 1, 2004 is requested.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this legislation is to amend Section 17.10.010 to clarify persons qualified to install, alter or repair water supplies and water services. This amendment ensures that only licensed plumbers may install the necessary plumbing for the installation of meters and backflow assemblies.

Amendment of 17.10.030 will reduce the time for the Department of Public Works and Utilities has to issue a permit for a connection to the water system. This amendment was requested by the Lincoln Area Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Association on behalf of their members. PWU is able to meet this requirement based on improvements made in the issuance of these permits.

Amendment of 17.10.070 will clarify that any withdraw of water from the system must be metered and protected against cross contamination. This amendment specifically relates to new construction where in the past, connections have been made without the use of meters or backflow prevention assemblies. A new program was implemented by LWS in 2003 to addresses this situation as required in the existing code. The amendment clarifies the existing code to ensure contractors and builders are informed and comply. Uniform compliance provides additional safeguards to the water system as required by State of Nebraska Title 179 requirements for cross connection control.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: Reduces the permit review time currently stated in the LMC. Clarifies existing policy with respect to qualified persons performing work on the system and the existing requirement for water meters and backflow prevention assemblies to be installed at the time the connection is made on new construction.

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: Purchase of construction meters and backflow preventers which are to be supplied to contractors and builders has been completed with costs recovered through metering of water use.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

CITY: Lincoln Water Revenues

NON CITY: N/A

BENEFIT COST: N/A

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

Director of Public Works/Utilities