

Public Hearing: October 27, 2003

F A C T S H E E T

TITLE: Ordinance to amend LMC Chapter 17.18; Mains, Pipes and Valves.

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:

OPPONENTS: None Identified

APPLICANT: Public Works & Utilities

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

REASON FOR LEGISLATION: Provides for the use of a Water Service Manual to instruct contractors on requirements for materials and water connection procedures. Amending various sections in Chapter 17.18 to clarify size of taps and water supplies, service pipe and service line materials, installation of meters and backflow assemblies, conducting surveys of customer's water service for compliance with cross connection control, maintenance of backflow assemblies, and location and responsibility of leak repairs. Amends Section 17.18.060 to require the Lincoln Water System to retain ownership of all sizes of water meters to customers.

An operative date of January 1, 2004 is requested.

D I S C U S S I O N

The proposed Section 17.18.006 provides for the use of a Water Service Manual which instructs contractors on the following policies: approved materials and devices; procedures for making connections to water mains; procedures for installing meters, procedures for installing and testing backflow assemblies and procedures for relocation of fire hydrants. An easy to reference Service Manual has been developed to assist area plumbing and mechanical designers with compliance to LMC Title 17 and State of Nebraska Title 179 (cross connection control).

Amending Section 17.18.030 to allow the Director to approve various materials for supply and service pipes such as the use of PVC for larger service lines as has been requested by area plumbing contractors. Also requires the reconstruction of service lines. This is consistent with changes in recent years on water mains and private water systems on the customer side of the meter (Title 24).

Amending Section 17.18.060 to require the Lincoln Water System (LWS) to furnish (and own) all sizes of meters. Currently LWS only furnishes meters one inch in size, and smaller. This proposal will greatly assist LWS in replacing and replacing defective meters currently owned by the customer. This proposal will also allow LWS to more easily update these larger meters to automatic meter reading (AMR) since the City retains ownership.

Amending Section 17.18.060 to eliminate the use of meter vaults and requires meters to be placed in structures which prevent freezing and are safe for personnel to enter. LWS intends to work with owners of existing meter pit installations over time to bring them into compliance.

Amending Section 17.18.075 to create separate requirements for backflow prevention assemblies. This provides clarification of requirements which are specifically related to backflow assemblies. This section also allows for backflow testing and repair to be made by private contractors whose personnel possess the necessary Grade 6 operators certification. Currently LWS performs testing with no additional direct charge to the customer. Customers who are required to perform testing of these devices by private service providers will pay a fee for these services.

Amending 17.18.080 to clarify the necessary requirements for a cross connection control program in accordance to the State of Nebraska, Title 179. Includes provisions for the responsibilities of property owners, allowing the Director to conduct surveys of premises and requirements for maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies.

Amending 17.18.100 to clarify procedures to be undertaken for discontinuance of water service if customers fail to provide access to allow for the repair or replacement of water meters.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: Allows the use of PVC for four inch and larger service lines. Requires the Lincoln Water System to own large meters over one inch in size. Allows private sector service providers to perform backflow assembly testing when qualified to do so.

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: The cost of large meter replacements is approximately \$150,000 per year.

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