

PART III: PUBLIC WORKS AND PROPERTY

CHAPTER 20: WATER SERVICE

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Section 20-101 **Municipal Water Works**

1. The municipal water works shall be under the immediate control and supervision of an individual so assigned by the Mayor and Council, who shall perform all acts that may be necessary for the prudent, efficient, and economical management and protection of said water works, subject to the approval and confirmation of the Mayor and City Council.
2. Any person who operates a wastewater treatment plant, wastewater collection system, water distribution system, or public water supply system shall obtain a certificate from the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, provided, however, that each industrial wastewater treatment or pretreatment facility, wastewater collection system, or distribution system shall be required to have only one responsible operator obtain such a certificate; and provided, further, that any person who is operating a wastewater treatment plant on July 1, 1991, and who is required to obtain a certificate on or after July 1, 1991, but who was not required to have a certificate prior to said date, shall have until July 1, 1996, to obtain such certificate without being in violation of this chapter; provided, further, that no such person who is operating without a certificate of wastewater treatment plant on July 1, 1991, shall be authorized to operate any other wastewater treatment plant after July 1, 1991, without a certificate as required by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts. Such person shall make application to the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts for such certificate, which application shall be accompanied by a fee in an amount established by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts.
3. (a) Any laboratory analyst who conducts certain tests, as defined by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, of water or wastewater samples in conjunction with the operation of public water supply systems or wastewater treatment plants shall obtain a certificate from the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts; provided, however, that any industrial wastewater or pretreatment plant shall be required to have only one responsible analyst obtain such a certificate, and any other analyst in that facility shall be supervised by such person. Such persons shall

make application to the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts for such a certificate, which application shall be accompanied by a fee in an amount established by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators; provided, however, that until July 1, 1993, any person who has obtained or shall obtain certification by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts as an operator under this chapter shall not be required to obtain a certificate from the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts to provide services as a laboratory analyst.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any person who possesses certification by the board as Class I and II operators of a water treatment plant or wastewater treatment plant shall not be required to obtain a certificate to perform the duties of a laboratory analyst in conducting certain tests for reporting purposes as defined by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts.

4. Any certificate granted under this chapter shall be renewable biennially.

Section 20-102 Inspections

The individual so assigned by Mayor and Council, or his designated assistant, may enter the premises of any water taker at any reasonable time to examine the condition of the water pipes, meters, and fixtures.

Section 20-103 Application for Water

Application for the use of water shall be made to the City Clerk/Treasurer by the owner or agent of the property to be benefitted, designating the location of the property and stating the purpose for which the water may be required.

Section 20-104 Tapping Charge

1. Upon the application for a new tap and service connection by any consumer within the corporate limits of the municipality, the applicant shall pay to the City Clerk/Treasurer an amount as determined by Mayor and Council to cover the cost of the fittings, installation of the tap by the municipality, and the necessary pipe from the main to the curb box.
2. The municipality shall own and maintain the water line from the main to the curb box and the property owner shall own and maintain the service line from the curb to the premises served.
3. All work upon the service line shall be performed by a licensed plumber.

Section 20-105 Size of Service Tap, Service Line

1. **City's Responsibility and Liability.** The City of Bowman, Georgia shall run a service line from its distribution line to the property line where the distribution line exist or is to be constructed, and runs immediately adjacent and parallel to the property to be served. No service charge, other than the connection fee referred to in Section (3) above, will be made for a 5/0" x 3/4" meter. A proportionately greater-charge than the connection fee above will be made for a meter of larger dimensions.
 - A. The City may make connections to service other properties not adjacent to its lines upon payment of reasonable costs for the extensions of its distribution lines as may be required to render such service.
 - B. The City may install its meter at or near the property line or, at the City's option, on the consumer's property within three (3) feet of the property line.
 - C. The City reserves the right to refuse service unless the consumer's lines or piping are installed in such a manner as to prevent cross-connections or back-flow.
 - D. Under normal conditions the consumer will be notified of any anticipated interruptions of service by the City of Bowman, Georgia.
2. **Consumer's Responsibility and Liability.** Water furnished by the City of Bowman, Georgia shall be used for consumption by the consumer, members of his household and employees only. The consumer shall not sell water to any other person or permit any other person to use said water. Water shall not be used for irrigation, fire protection, nor other purposes, except when water is available

in sufficient quantity without interfering with the regular domestic consumption in the area served. Disregard for this rule shall be sufficient cause for refusal and/or discontinuance of service.

- A. Where meter or meter box is placed on the premises of a consumer, a suitable place shall be provided by the consumer therefor, unobstructed and accessible at all times to the meter reader.
- B. The consumer shall furnish and maintain a private cut-off valve on the consumer's side of the meter.
- C. The consumer's piping and apparatus shall be installed and maintained by the consumer at the consumer's expense, in a safe and efficient manner, and in accordance with the sanitary regulations of the State Health Department.
- D. In order to be received as a consumer and entitled to receive from the City's water system, all applicants must offer proof that any private wells located on their property are not physically connected to the lines of the City's water system and all applicants by becoming consumers of the City covenant and agree that so long as they continue to be consumers of the City they will not permit the connection of any private well on their property to the City's water system.

Section 20-106 Water Meters

Each building or structure using city water shall have a water meter installed by the city, which may be installed either in a curb box or inside of the building at the option of the property owner. All such meters are the property of the city.

Section 20-107 Service Line Regulations

No more than one (1) building shall be permitted to use a water service line. Only galvanized pipe shall be used for the installation of a service line and all service lines shall be installed at a depth at least forty (40) inches below the surface of the ground. Each service line shall contain a stop and waste cock where the water may be turned off.

Section 20-108 Water Waste Prohibition

Consumers shall prevent unnecessary waste of water and keep all water outlets closed when not in actual use. Hydrants, urinals, water closets, bath tubs, and other fixtures must not be left running for any purpose other than the use for which they were intended. When any such waste occurs, the water service may be terminated.

Section 20-109 Sprinkling Restrictions

In case of water shortage or scarcity, the Mayor and City Council may, by resolution, place any restrictions upon the use of water for irrigation or sprinkling purposes which such body deems necessary.

Section 20-110 Use During Fire Alarms

During all fire alarms, the use by persons other than municipal firefighters of hoses and other apparatuses maintaining a constant flow of water is absolutely forbidden.

Section 20-111 Water Rates

Water rates for residential and commercial customers shall be determined by the Mayor and Council.

Section 20-112 Water Bills

Bills to customers for water and sewer service shall be mailed out on such day or days of each month as may be determined as desirable by the City. Bills shall be paid at the City Hall of Bowman, Georgia and a failure to receive bills or notices shall not prevent such bills from becoming delinquent nor relieve the consumer from payment of same. The failure of water and/or sewer users to pay charges duly imposed shall result in the automatic imposition of the following penalties:

- 1. Nonpayment within twenty (20) days from the due date will be subject to a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the delinquent account.

Section 20-113 Discontinuance of Service

1. Nonpayment within forty (40) days from the date due will result in the water being shut off from the water user's property.
2. Nonpayment for sixty (60) days after original due date will allow the City, in addition to all other rights and remedies, to terminate agreement, and in such event, the water user shall not be entitled to receive, nor the City obligated to supply, any water under this agreement.
3. Service disconnected for non-payment of bills will be restored only after bills are paid in full, such security deposit as may be required by the Mayor and Council is made, and a service charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) paid for each meter reconnected.

Section 20-114 Charges for Turning Water On

If the water supply to any premise is turned off for any reason, a charge as determined by Mayor and Council shall be made for turning the water back on.

Section 20-115 Operator Class I and II Certificates from State Board

Any person who performs operational duties and water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant laboratory testing for reporting purposes for operator classifications I and II, as defined by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, at wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, water distribution systems, or public water supply systems shall obtain a certificate from the State Board in accordance with *O.C.G.A. § 43-51-6*.

Section 20-116 Suspension of Service

When water and sewer service is discontinued and all bills paid, the security deposit shall be refunded to the consumer by the City.

1. Upon discontinuance of service for non-payment of bills, the security deposit will be applied by the City of Bowman, Georgia toward settlement of the account. Any balance will be refunded to the consumer; however, if the security deposit is insufficient to cover the bill, the City may proceed to collect the balance in the usual way provided by law for collection of debts.
2. The City reserves a right to discontinue its service without notice for the following additional reasons:
 - A. To prevent fraud or abuse.
 - B. Consumer's willful disregard of the City's rules.
 - C. Emergency repairs.
 - D. Insufficiency of water supply due to circumstances beyond the City's control.
 - E. Legal processes.
 - F. Direction of public authorities.
 - G. Strike, riot, fire, flood, unavoidable accident.

Section 20-117 Complaints-Adjustments

If the consumer believes his bill to be in error, he shall present his claim, in person, at the City Hall of the City of Bowman, Georgia before the bill becomes delinquent. Such claim, if made after the bill has become delinquent, shall not be effective in preventing discontinuance of service as heretofore provided. The consumer may pay such bill under protest and said payment shall not prejudice his claim.

1. The City will make a special water meter reading at the request of a consumer for a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) provided, however, that if such special reading discloses that the meter was over-read, no charge will be made.
2. Water meters will be tested at the request of the consumer upon payment to the City of the actual costs of making the test, provided, however, that if the meter is found to over-register beyond 3% of the correct volume, no charge will be made.
3. If the seal of a meter is broken by other than the City's representative or if the meter fails to register correctly or is stopped for any cause, the consumer shall pay an amount estimated from the record of his previous bills and/or other proper data.

Section 20-118 System Extensions

Extensions to the system shall be made only when the consumer shall grant or convey, or shall cause to be granted or conveyed, to the City of Bowman, Georgia permanent easement of right-of-way across any property traversed by the water and sewer lines.

Section 20-119 Change of Occupancy

Not less than three (3) days notice must be given, in person or in writing, at the City Hall of the City of Bowman, Georgia to discontinue water and sewer service or to change occupancy. The outgoing party shall be responsible for all water consumed up to the time of departure or the time specified for departure, whichever period is longer. The new occupant shall apply for water service within forty-eight (48) hours after vacating the premises and failure to do so will make him liable for paying for the water consumed since the last meter reading.

unable to locate actual ordinance

Regular Council Meeting
City of Bowman
February 28, 2005

attending: Council Members

Larry Dickerson
Stalin Porter
Doug Booth
Ben Rice
Norris Hambrick
Mayor L.B. Berryman
Attorney John Clark
Press-Elberton Star
4 visitors

1. Mayor Berryman thanked everyone for attending and asked that Pro-Tem Mayor Larry Dickerson to preside over the council meeting, because he had to leave for personal reasons. Mayor Berryman offered the prayer to begin the meeting.
2. Councilman Dickerson asked for the adoption of the minutes from the January 10th, 2005 meeting. Councilman Booth made the motion to adopt the minutes and Councilman Porter made the 2nd. All voted yeah.
3. Councilman Dickerson asked everyone to go over the financial report given to the councilmembers, asked if there were any questions about the report. There were no questions. Councilman Booth made the motion to adopt the financial report as given, and Councilman Hambrick made the 2nd. All voted yeah.
4. Councilman Dickerson brought up the Old Business.
 - A. The library reopening/librarian position was read in the Mayor's report. Need approval to run another add for the position to be filled through the council on aging. Councilman Rice made the motion to approve running the add, and Councilman Booth 2nd the motion. All voted yeah.
 - B. Attorney John Clark read the "Second Reading" of the new "City Water Ordinance". Attorney Clark asked for the adoption of the ordinance. Councilman Porter made the motion and Councilman Rice 2nd the motion. All voted yeah.
 - C. There was a proposal to approve the amount of \$3000.00 for the new computer system and programs for the City of Bowman. Councilman Rice made the motion to approve and Councilman Hambrick 2nd the motion. All voted yeah.

- D. Formation of the revolving loan fund committee was tabled until the existing committee can be contacted.

5. Under New Business:

- A. Formation of the utility committee was tabled until further notice. Need to find out who brought up the idea of the committee and the purpose behind the committee.
- B. Approval of the Qualifying Fees for election: The notice by City Clerk giving the qualifying fees for the Mayor of \$30.00 and for Council Members of \$17.59 Councilman Booth made the motion to pass the Qualifying fees and Councilman Porter 2nd the motion. All voted yeah.
- C. Robert Henson was to address the Council , but he was not in attendance.
- D. Scott Harpold addressed the Council about the "Business Licenses" and forming a "Downtown Merchants Association". He said he wanted to get ideas about renovating the downtown area and bringing in new businesses in order to bring growth to the City.
He also asked if any of the Councilmembers would volunteer to help with the "association" and everyone was in favor of helping out in any way possible. Mr. Harpold would like to have a new bulletin board that would post any information about the vacant buildings, such as contact numbers, names, etc.He said he would go ahead and start talking with the merchants around town.
Mr. Harpold also brought up the recycling center. Wanted to know if there was any way the roof could be repaired and maybe using it as a "farmers market" or some other business to be put in there. He said that it looks as though the roof is about to fall in.

6. Under miscellaneous business:


- A. Councilman Dickerson met with a Mr. Kelly and at the old "Pizza" building that contains the restaurant equipment. He took inventory on the equipment and Councilman Dickerson said the Mr. Kelly wants to sell the building and wanted to get an idea of what the inventory is worth so that when the building is sold, there could be enough included in the price of the building to clear his debt with "The City." Councilman Dickerson is to get together the price on the equipment.
- B. Attorney John Clark advised the Council about the 2 letters that he wrote to 2 individuals in Bowman, regarding the meters and the cutting off of the locks and turning their services back on themselves. He said that he notified them that it was destruction of City property.
Attorney Clark also advised that he received response from Carter and Sloope engineering firm, and that the firm will be at the next Council Meeting in March. Mayor also advised Council that grantwriter Angela

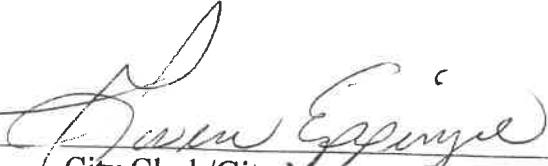
Steebler will be at the March Council Meeting.


In reference, to the Georgia Power Franchise Amendment-He recommended that the new agreement not be signed at the present time, that when the current agreement expires, then He can negotiate with Georgia Power for the "City of Bowman."

- C. Victoria Young, a guest at the meeting, addressed the council about the interruption of water service last week. She asked that some type of notice be given to the citizens of Bowman before any type of maintenance or repair service is done, as to prevent any problems in the future. She made reference to the new "water ordinance" that this should help in the future.
7. Executive Session for Personnel Matters--- A motion by Councilman Hambrick was made to go into Executive Session for personnel matters and Councilman Booth 2nd the motion. All voted yeah
 8. Executive Session was adjourned after Councilman Rice made the motion to come out of Executive Session and Councilman Booth 2nd the motion. All voted yeah.
 9. Councilman Rice asked that the "minutes" be given to the Council at least one week prior to the meetings. He was advised that this would not be a problem.

Councilman Booth made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Hambrick 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.


Mayor L.B. Berryman


City Clerk/City Manager-Gwen Eppinger


Assistant to City Clerk/Selma Jones