



Legislation Text

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TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Mark Hilty, Assistant City Administrator - Public Works
Michelle Hatcher, Water Management Director

SUBJECT:
Discussion Regarding Irrigation Water Billing

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) concerning irrigation water billing within the City of Franklin water utility system

Background

At this time, the City provides for irrigation water in several ways including:

- Potable water meter: all water that passes through a potable water meter is billed for both water consumption and sanitary sewer loading based on a customer charge and volume, irrespective of the use of the water. To acknowledge increased water consumption (particularly during summer months) can be associated with irrigation and other uses that may not enter the wastewater stream, the City employs a declining wastewater rate structure.
- Irrigation water meter: customers are able to have an irrigation meter installed that eliminates the charge of sanitary sewer. The irrigation water user rates are the same as potable water rates. The installation of an irrigation meter does require payment of additional impact fees.
- Reclaimed water meter: reclaimed water is a separate system and is not included as part of this discussion.

In recent years various customers have expressed concerns related to the existing structure, calling into question the equitability of using a potable water meter that includes sanitary sewer fees and the affordability of installing a separate irrigation meter.

Two common irrigation metering options in Middle Tennessee are the use of a seasonal pricing concept and

our current methodology of installing irrigation meters. There are various considerations that require discussion with the BOMA to determine if our current methodology is appropriate or if an alternative option should be explored.

Financial Impact

At this time a financial impact has not been quantified.

Recommendation

Staff requests discussion and direction from the BOMA regarding options related to irrigation water customers.