

CITY OF MOLENA

(12) 1/4

ORDINANCE NO. 12

TO ESTABLISH WATER RATE SCHEDULE AND SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF MOLENA, GEORGIA: PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND CUT-OFFS, UPON FAILURE TO PAY BILLS: PROVIDING FOR CUT-ON AND CUT-OFF FEES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES:

SECTION 1: From and after the passage of this ordinance, the following water rate schedule for the City of Molena, Georgia, is hereby adopted.

WATER RATE SCHEDULE

0 - 2500 gallons	\$6.00 minimum
over 2500 gallons	\$1.20 per 1000 gallons

SECTION 2: APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICE. The consumer shall make application for water service, in person, at the City Hall of the City of Molena, Georgia, and at the same time shall make a cash security deposit of \$35.00 for water service.

SECTION 3: CHARGES FOR INITIAL WATER SERVICE. Each consumer subscribing to use the water service of the City of Molena shall pay a connection fee of \$250.00 times the number of connections desired for water service.

SECTION 4: MINIMUM CHARGES. The minimum charge, as provided in the rate schedule, shall be made for such connection subscribed for. Water furnished for a given lot shall be used on that lot only, and except for fire protection, the City of Molena shall not under any condition furnish water free of charge to anyone.

SECTION 5: CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY. The City of Molena shall run a service line from its distribution line to the property line where the distribution line exists 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 5/8" 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 pipings 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 Molena.

**SECTION 6: CONSUMER'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY.** Water furnished by the City of Molena 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, therefore, 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 water 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 they will not permit the connection of any private wells on their property to the City's water system.

**SECTION 7: ACCESS TO PREMISES AND EXTENSIONS OF SYSTEMS.**

(a) Duly authorized agents of the City of Molena shall have access at all hours to the premises of the consumer for the purpose of installing or removing City property, inspecting piping, reading and testing meters, or for any other purpose in connection with the water service and its facilities.

(b) 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 Molena a permanent easement of right-of-way across any property traversed by the water lines.

**SECTION 8: 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 Molena to discontinue water 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 48 hours after occupying the premises and failure to do so will make him liable for paying for the water consumed since the last meter reading.



SECTION 9: METER READING-BILLING-COLLECTING. Bills to customers for water 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 City Hall 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 users to pay charges duly imposed result in the automatic imposition of the following penalties:

A. Nonpayment after the due date will be subject to a penalty of twenty (20) percent of the delinquent account.

B. Nonpayment within ten (10) days from the date due will result in the water being shut off from the water user's property and a \$25.00 reconnect fee may be charged. Penalties for a consumer turning water on without city approval will be determined by Mayor and Council.

C. Nonpayment for thirty (30) 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.

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 \$25.00 paid for each meter reconnected.

SECTION 10: SUSPENSION OF SERVICE. When water service is discontinued and all bills paid, the security deposit shall be refunded to the consumer by the City.

(a) Upon discontinuance of service for non-payment of bills, the security deposit will be applied by the City of Molena 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.

(b) The City reserves the right to discontinue its services without notice for the following additional reasons:

1. To prevent fraud or abuse.
2. Consumer's willful disregard of the City's rules.
3. Emergency repairs.
4. Insufficiency of water supply due to circumstances beyond the City's control.
5. Legal processes.
6. Direction of public authorities.
7. Strike, riot, fire, flood, unavoidable accident.

SECTION 11: COMPLAINTS-ADJUSTMENTS. If the consumer believes his bill to be in error, he shall present his claim, in person, at the City Hall 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.

The city will make a special water meter reading at the request of a consumer for a fee of \$5.00 provided, however, that if such special reading discloses that the meter was over-read, no charge will be made.

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.

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.

SECTION 12: CONFLICTING ORDINANCES. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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The foregoing ordinance was introduced by Councilman Charles Oglesby and read at meetings on September 7, 1993, and October 5, 1993, and this day adopted by the City Council of the City of Molena, Georgia, and transmitted by me to the Mayor for his approval this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1993.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Beckham, Clerk

Approved by me and returned as "Approved" to said City Council, in open meeting, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1993,

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Molena, Georgia