



ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 53.03 TO CHAPTER 53 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA, REGARDING WATER METERS AND DAMAGES TO THE SAME; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; ~~AND ENACTING AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE~~

WHEREAS, the City of Claremore, pursuant to the powers delegated to it by the Oklahoma Constitution, Oklahoma Statutes and as a charter city, has the authority to amend Section 53.03 to Chapter 53 of the City Ordinances regarding water meters; and

WHEREAS, water meters installed for water service in the City are the sole and exclusive property of the City;

WHEREAS, the cost to repair or replace water meters damaged by homeowners, developers or their contractors is currently borne exclusively by the City;

WHEREAS, the costs to repair or replace water meters damaged due to a water customer's willful action, carelessness or negligence places a heavy burden on taxpayers and the City's budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to ease that burden by placing responsibility for the cost of repairing and replacing damaged water meters on the water customer.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Claremore, Oklahoma, that:

Section No. 1: **Amendment.** **Section 53.03, Chapter 53 of the City of Claremore Code is hereby amended as follows** *(all deletions are struck through and all insertions underlined)*:

§ 53.03 WATER METERS.

(A) All meters installed for water service shall remain the sole and exclusive property of the city, and shall not be tampered with, altered or damaged in any way by any person. Such meters may be removed from the consumer's premises at any time without notice for the purpose of testing or repairing or upon discontinuance of service.

(B) Meters which are damaged, lost, or otherwise rendered unusable due to the willful action, carelessness or negligence of the water customer or anyone acting as the contractor, agent, or employee of the water customer will be repaired or replaced by the City at the expense of the water customer. Any costs of repair or replacement of water meters will be

assessed by the City to the water customer's regular utility bill. Provided, the water customer will not be responsible for costs:

- (1) for any meter replaced or repaired as part of its normal usage lifecycle; or
- (2) for any damage caused to a meter by a City employee in performance of their regular duties.

(C) As used in this Section, the term water meter shall include the water meter and any component parts, including, but not limited to, meter boxes and lids.

Section No. 2: Publication. The City Clerk is hereby ordered and directed to cause this Ordinance to be published as required by law.

Section No. 3: Severability Clause. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance, or any part thereof.

Section No. 4: Repealer. All prior ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith or apparently in conflict shall be and the same are hereby specifically repealed.

~~**Section No. 5: Emergency Clause.** An emergency is hereby declared to exist whereby it is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Claremore, Oklahoma, that this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage, approval and adoption.~~

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Claremore, Oklahoma, this 7th day of April, 2025, by vote on Section Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 ~~and then by separate vote on Section No. 5 (the Emergency Clause).~~


MAYOR SIGNATURE

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK SIGNATURE

