



ORDINANCE NO. 28726

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the Department of Public Utilities; amending Title 12
2 of the Tacoma Municipal Code by amending Chapter 12.01, "Utility
3 Charges," and Chapter 12.06, "Electric Energy - Regulations and Rates," to
4 support implementation of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, to
5 become effective January 1, 2020.

6 WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities ("TPU") has
7 reviewed existing policies, procedures, and practices for essential changes
8 required to implement advanced metering, and to make other updates, as needed,
9 and

10 WHEREAS TPU is requesting a proposed fee and other changes to
11 Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") Chapter 12.01, "Utility Charges," and
12 Chapter 12.06 "Electric Energy – Regulations and Rates," which are necessary to
13 support the Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") Project and to clarify billing
14 practices related to the PrePay program, and

15 WHEREAS the proposed amendments to TMC 12.01.010 will add an AMI
16 Opt-Out fee; language allowing the low-income senior and/or disabled Discount
17 Rate Program percentage fee discount to apply to the Opt-Out fee; and language
18 specifying there will not be a disconnection, connection, or reconnection fee
19 charged to customers if the action may normally be performed remotely, and

20 WHEREAS the proposed amendments to TMC 12.06.110 will add language
21 clarifying that PrePay customers will receive a billing statement that itemizes
22 service activity during the previous period, and
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WHEREAS, by adoption of Public Utility Board Resolution No. U-11221

on November 18, 2020, the proposed TMC amendments were approved,
pending confirmation from the City Council; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That Chapter 12.01 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (“TMC”) relating to Utility charges, is hereby amended as set forth in the attached Exhibit “A,” to become effective January 1, 2021.

Section 2. That Chapter 12.06 of the TMC, relating to Electric Energy - Regulations and Rates, is hereby amended as set forth in the attached Exhibit “B,” to become effective on January 1, 2021.

Section 3. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener’s/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

**CHAPTER 12.01
UTILITY CHARGES**

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12.01.010 Utility services establishment.

A utility service establishment charge shall be imposed for each customer's service order for all utilities provided by the City of Tacoma as set forth below:

A. A utility service establishment charge shall be paid by each utility customer at the time of the service request. The charge includes turn-on and turn-off services if required. The establishment charge shall be as indicated in the table below for each service:

Power (metered)	\$10.50
Water (metered)	\$6.10
Solid Waste	\$3.00
Wastewater	\$1.00
Surface Water	\$1.00

Such utility service establishment charge will be allocated to, and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

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B. Adjustments/Fees. A service charge shall be paid by each utility customer if a field call is required to adjust service to a new or different type of service or rate, or for turn-off or turn-on of service. For purposes of this chapter, normal City business hours means 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except City recognized holidays. The service charge shall be the sum of the following applicable fees:

1. \$10.00 for collection or disconnection for nonpayment.
2. \$12.00 for service connection during normal City business hours.
3. \$60.00 for turn-on or turn-off during all other hours.
4. Plus an additional \$35.00 if a pole or vault cut-in or termination is necessary.
5. \$6.00 for failure to appear for utility turn-on.
6. \$20.00 for self cut-in.
7. \$5.00 for verification of meter reading at the customer's request after second reading within 12 consecutive months.
8. \$5.00 for lock-out during a reasonable attempt to read a meter.
9. \$5.00 for service provided to prepare information for collection on accounts closed over 30 days.
10. \$10.00 for service provided to prepare information for bankruptcy administration.

Effective January 1, 2021, a \$15.00 recurring billing cycle fee shall be charged for service provided for Opt-Out of Advanced Metering Infrastructure. The low-income senior and/or disabled discount rate percentage, as specified in subsection 12.06.165.C, shall be applied to the Opt-Out fee for qualified eligible customers as determined by subsection 12.06.165.

There will not be a disconnection or connection fee charged if the action may ordinarily be performed remotely. Such adjustment charges will be allocated to and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

C. Reconnection fees resulting from delinquency cut-offs shall be as follows:

1. \$12.00 during normal City business hours and \$60.00 during all other hours.



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2. \$40.00 for a pole reconnection during normal City business hours and \$65.00 for a pole reconnection during all other hours.

3. \$75.00 for a URD reconnection during normal City business hours.

4. No URD reconnection after normal City business hours.

There will not be a reconnection fee charged if the action may ordinarily be performed remotely. Such reconnection fees will be allocated to and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

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EXHIBIT "B"

CHAPTER 12.06
ELECTRIC ENERGY – REGULATIONS AND RATES

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12.06.110 Billing - Payment of bills and delinquency.

A. The Director shall cause a bill, or statement, to be rendered to each customer for electric energy consumed and/or services rendered during the preceding period. The utility bill shall become due and payable at the office of the City Treasurer or such other places designated by the Director within 15 days from the date an invoice is issued per TMC 12.01.030 and shall become delinquent thereafter. PrePay customers will not receive invoices, but will receive statements that itemize PrePay service activity during the previous period. PrePay customers will receive an invoice for any services not enrolled in PrePay. The Power Division shall compute any bill due under TMC 12.06 by carrying the computation to the third decimal place and rounding to a whole cent using a method that rounds up to the next cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four.

B. If said bills are not paid when due, they shall become delinquent and the Director shall, if the same is necessary to enforce payment of said bills, cause a discontinuance of the service from the premises affected by such delinquency and service shall remain off until arrangement satisfactory to the Director has been made covering payment of the delinquent bill. In addition, any invoice that becomes delinquent shall be subject to a late payment fee as set forth in TMC 12.01.030.

C. All charges for electric energy or service shall be the personal obligation of the customer applying for or signing for and/or receiving such service, and in addition thereto, the City shall have all the lien rights granted by state laws against the premises where such service is furnished. The Director shall have the absolute authority, except as limited by said state laws, to refuse to furnish service to, to discontinue service to, or to refuse to resume service to any applicant or customer on account of the failure to pay delinquent bills owing Tacoma Power by such person, whether such bills cover service at the premises sought to be served or elsewhere.

D. The owner of the premises or the owner of a delinquent mortgage thereon to which electric energy has been furnished, when giving notice to cut off service to said premises shall give notice upon a form approved, furnished and provided by Tacoma Power and shall specifically state therein the right, title and/or interest of such person in said premises and the name or names of any other person having an interest therein.

E. Any tax now or hereafter imposed upon the sale and/or delivery of electric energy shall be added by the Department to the bills rendered for service, which bills shall be paid by the customers.

F. Meter readings may be made by the Department on a bi-monthly or other periodic basis. The Department may for any reason implement and impose charges based on estimated electrical consumption or an estimated meter reading.

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