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ORDINANCE NO. 28846

AN ORDINANCE relating to Utility Charges and Electric Energy; amending various sections of Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Municipal Code, "Utility Charges" and "Electrical Code," to update language regarding fees and permitting requirements, effective April 1, 2023.

WHEREAS Chapter 12.06A of the Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") covers Tacoma Power's rates, terms, and conditions on electric installation, inspection, and permits, and

WHEREAS, more specifically, TMC 12.06A.250 specifies fees for inspections and permits under various circumstances for different types of customers, and TMC 12.06A.260 outlines penalty fees and fee adjustments under various circumstances, and

WHEREAS these fees have not been updated since 2005, and Tacoma Power proposes to update the fees to accurately reflect the current cost of providing these services, as well as to make minor adjustments to the ordinance language, and

WHEREAS in TMC 12.01.010, Tacoma Power proposes a change to the pole reconnection fees resulting from delinquency cut-offs to reflect the actual cost, as these reconnection fees have not been updated since 1985, and



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WHEREAS Tacoma Power proposes to delete TMC Section 12.06A.135, "Metering Installations and Labeling," because all the requirements are already covered by the Tacoma Public Utilities' standard C-MR-0005, and

WHEREAS Tacoma Power proposes to make minor modifications to the language in TMC 12.06A.230, "Permit to owner – conditions and affidavit;" the revised language will no longer require an owner to submit an affidavit, and therefore will not need a notary witness, and

WHEREAS Tacoma Power proposes to strike out a sentence in TMC 12.06A.380, "Classification of occupancies and wiring methods," to remove the minimum requirement of 200 ampere service capacity, which will allow customers to utilize smaller services when allowed by the National Electric Code, prevent customers from having to oversize their service capacity, and reduce their costs, and

WHEREAS the proposed updated fees are based on the actual cost of providing service, will reduce general upward pressure on retail rates, and increase equity by removing the uncovered cost of inspections from general retail rates; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Municipal Code, "Utility Charges" and "Electrical Code," are hereby amended, effective April 1, 2023, to update language regarding fees and permitting requirements, to read as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."



Section 2. 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.

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8		Moyor
9		Mayor
10	Attest:	
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12	City Clerk	
13	Approved as to form:	
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15		_
16	Chief Deputy City Attorney	-

EXHIBIT "A"

CHAPTER 12.01 UTILITY CHARGES

Sections:	
12.01.010	Utility services establishment. Effective April 1, 2023
12.01.020	Utility field collection call.
12.01.030	Invoicing and late payment fee.
12.01.040	Residential conservation loan program charges – Light Division.
12.01.050	Waiver of utility connection and inspection charges during declared emergency

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.

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

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.
- 2. \$40.00307.00 for a pole or underground reconnection during normal City business hours and \$65.00433.00 for a pole or underground 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.

The disconnection, reconnection, or collection fees set forth in subsections 12.01.010.B.1 and 12.01.010.B.2, subsection 12.01.010.C.1, and subsection 12.01.020 will not be charged if the fees are due to non-payment between March 17, 2020, and May 31, 2024, and the non-payment is connected to an extended payment arrangement for balances incurred by the utility customer prior to March 31, 2022.¹

The outside of normal business hours disconnection or reconnection fees set forth in subsections 12.01.010.B.3 and 12.01.010.C.1 will be waived one time per customer if the fees are due to non-payment between March 17, 2020, and May 31, 2024, and the non-payment is connected to an extended payment arrangement for balances incurred by the utility customer prior to March 31, 2022.²

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¹ Code Reviser's note: The temporary, two-year waiver of certain disconnection and reconnection service fees is in effect through May 31, 2024 (Ord. 28812).

² Code Reviser's note: The temporary, two-year waiver of certain disconnection and reconnection service fees is in effect through May 31, 2024 (Ord. 28812).

CHAPTER 12.06A ELETRICAL CODE

12.06A.010	
12.06A.020	Purpose.
	Scope of chapter.
12.06A.035	
12.06A.040	Standards for installations.
12.06A.050	Severability.
	Enforcement of chapter.
12.06A.070	Definitions.
12.06A.080	Duties of Chief Electrical Inspector.
	Effective date of chapter.
	Inspection of new electrical installations.
	Inspection of existing electrical installations.
12.06A.120	Final inspection and service approval.
	Temporary wiring.
	Metering installations and labeling. <u>Repealed, effective April 1, 2023</u>
	New electrical installations.
	Overhead service drops.
	Unlawful to alter existing wiring.
	Variance from Code requirements.
	Move-on housing.
	Fusing and equipment protection.
	Explanation of chapter requirements.
	Right of entry.
	Non-liability of City for damages.
	Permits required.
	Permits and inspections.
	Permit to owner – conditions and affidavit. <i>Effective April 1, 2023</i>
	Filing of drawings and specifications.
	Permit fees. <u>Effective April 1, 2023</u>
	Penalty fees and fee adjustments. <u>Effective April 1, 2023</u>
	Penalty and adjustment fee appeals.
	Protection of electrical workers.
	License requirements.
	Appeal process.
	Additional rules may be made by Director.
	Classification of occupancies and wiring methods. <i>Effective April 1, 2023</i>
12.06A.400	Violations – Notification – Penalties.
* * *	

Sections:

12.06A.135 Metering installations and labeling. <u>Repealed</u>

A. Meter height. No meter shall be installed at a height greater than six feet from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter glass and no lower than five feet from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of meter glass, except as stated in subsections 1-4 below and as provided in the Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook and in the Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards shall apply to all electric meter installations.

1. Commercial multi-metering installed in a vertical configuration shall not be installed below 36 inches from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter.

- 2. Residential multi-metering installed in a vertical configuration shall not be installed below 28 inches from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter.
- 3. Listed service pedestals and packages containing integral meter sockets, installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, are allowed to be at the height for which they are designed.
- 4. Special permission is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector.
- B. All meters in a multiple occupancy Building shall be accurately marked to identify the units they serve. Labels must be of sufficient durability to withstand removal from rubbing, fading, or environmental exposure. Label characters must be a minimum 1/2 inch tall and of a contrasting color or shade from the surface to which they are affixed so that they are easily readable.
- C. No customer meter sockets will be placed on a pole owned and maintained by Tacoma Power. Meters shall be located on the first customer owned structure which will be the Service Point from Tacoma Power as further specified in the customer requirements found in the Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook and Tacoma Power Transmission & Distribution Construction Standards.
- D. The meter location shall not be concealed by materials, structures or vegetation of any kind and must be readily accessible. A level workspace, measuring no less than 3 feet by 3feet, must be maintained in front of the meter location at all times. Failure to meet these requirements may result in termination of service.

* * *

12.06A.230 Permit to owner – conditions and affidavit.

- A. Electrical permits to perform electrical work on a new or existing Building owned by the Permit applicant and not intended for rent, sale, or lease may be issued to the applicant, provided that:
- 1. The applicant provides documentation that he or she is the Owner of the Building where electrical work is to be performed, such as a copy of a deed, along with evidence of identity;
- 2. The applicant signs an affidavit under penalty of perjury the permit application affirming the Building where the electrical work is to be performed is not for rent, sale or lease at the time of Permit application and that he or she does not intend to rent, sell or lease all or any part of the Building for at least twenty-four months after the final electrical inspection;
- 3. If the Building where the electrical work is to be performed is used as a residence by any person other than the applicant at the time of Permit application, or will be so used at any time during the twenty-four months following final electrical inspection, the applicant's affidavit must further affirms the his or her applicant's residence at such Building and his or her intent to reside therein for at least two years after final inspection; and
- 4. The electrical work shall be done by the applicant and he or she, as well as any person(s) who gave assistance with the electrical installation, must be present during all inspections.
- B. If it is apparent from the character of electrical work performed by or with the knowledge of the Owner, whether performed prior to or after Permit issuance, that the Owner and/or person assisting the Owner are not qualified to do the work under the Permit applied for or issued, an electrical inspector may require the work that is in violation of this chapter be changed, altered, or repaired by a licensed electrical contractor.

* * *

12.06A.250 Permit fees.

Current standard fees for connecting electrical services to the Tacoma Power system, as well as the Permit fees and any penalties previously assessed, must be paid before an Electrical Permit application will be processed. The Permit applicant is responsible to arrange for payment. Permit applications for which insufficient or no payment has been received will not be processed. Unpaid Permit applications will be discarded by Tacoma Power if payment has not been received within 10 business days of receipt of application. Unless otherwise noted, when multiple inspections are required, the Permit fee shall not be less than \$4055 per 1/2 hour of inspection time. No inspection will be performed until the Permit application process is completed.

Current standard fees for Electrical Permits and inspections by Tacoma Power are as follows:

A. Residential.

Fee includes one inspection.

B. Commercial and industrial.

1. Table A. Single-family dwelling and mobile home services, service changes, service upgrades, and solar photovoltaic (PV) system fees are set forth in Table A below, and include branch circuit wiring from the service(s) or feeder(s). All wiring by the same Permit Holder on single family dwellings of 400 amps/4000 sq. ft. or less is included under the fees from Table A unless otherwise noted below.

TABLE A			
Service/PV System/Feeder	Permit Fees		
Ampacity and Square Footage	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
	Overhead Service or PV installation - up to 2 trips	Underground to Pole and Underground Service or PV installations with underground wiring - up to 4 trips	Feeder Only up to 2 trips
1-200A and up to 2500 sq. ft.	\$ 80 110	\$ 160 <u>220</u>	\$ 60 90
Up to 400A or up to 4000 sq. ft.	\$ 120 <u>165</u>	\$ 200 2 <u>75</u>	\$ 70 100
Over 400A or over 4000 sq. ft.		Use TABLE B	

2. Branch circuit alterations and repairs. The fee for 1 to 4 new circuits, circuit extensions, or alterations where the service or feeder is not modified, increased, relocated, or replaced\$5065
Use Table A if service or feeder work is included.
Each additional circuit\$57
Fee includes two inspections.
3. Service and PV system alterations and repairs. Minor alterations and repairs to an electrical service or PV system, including, but not limited to, the repair or replacement of one of the following: service mast, service entrance conductors, weather head, service attachment bracket, meter socket, main breaker, PV array, production meter socket, or other service/PV system components
Use Table A Column 1 if more than one item listed above is altered or replaced, or if service panel, PV AC disconnect, or utility disconnect is repaired or replaced in combination with any of the above listed items.
Use Table A Column 2 if underground work is part of the repair or replacement work described above.
Fee includes one inspection.
4. Hardwired low voltage.
Single-family Dwellings—Fees for low voltage control panels and devices, such as fire alarm systems, data systems, intrusion alarms, HVAC systems, thermostats, and similar systems
Fee includes one inspection.
5. Temporary services 1-200 amps single phase
Fee includes one inspection.
Temporary services over 200 amps or three phase and systems with feeders
Temporary services are permitted for use up to 90 days or the duration of a permitted construction project.
6. Residential swimming pool (In addition to any other fees listed)
Fee includes three inspections.
7. Generator transfer panel and equipment \$\frac{6075}{2}\$

1. Table B. The Permit fee for all commercial and industrial work, multifamily dwelling installations, and single family dwellings exceeding 400 amps or 4000 square feet shall be derived from Table B. Proof of electrical work value must be submitted at the time of application. Proof may be established by presenting a signed contract or a priced itemization of the work to be performed. The electrical work value shall be the reasonably documented value of all labor, material, fittings, apparatus, and the like, whether actually paid for or not, supplied by the Permit Holder and/or installed by the Permit Holder as a part of, or in connection with, a complete electrical system, but which does not include the cost of utilizing equipment connected to the electrical system. If a signed contract or other substantial proof of value is not submitted at the time of Permit application, the value may be established by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office using modern construction cost-estimating techniques. If the reported work value is determined by Tacoma Power's electrical inspection office to be significantly less than what was reported at the time the Permit was purchased, the Permit fee amount will be increased to reflect the corrected actual value and a charge for the time to determine such value will be assessed to the Permit fee. A fee adjustment shall be made for all change orders and field changes that increase the value. All fees must be paid before final electrical inspection approval of the project.

TABLE B		
Value of Electrical Construction	Permit Fees	
\$0-\$1,000	\$\frac{100}{105}\] for the first \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$1,001-\$5,000	$$100\underline{105}$ for the first \$1,000 plus \$44.20 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.	
\$5,001-\$50,000	\$260273 for the first \$5,000 plus \$22.10 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.	
\$50,001-\$100,000	\$1,1601,218 for the first \$50,000 plus \$1.501.55 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.	
\$100,001-\$250,000	\$1,9101,993 for the first \$100,000 plus $$99.45$ for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$250,001-\$500,000	\$3,2603,410,50 for the first \$250,000 plus \$88.40 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$500,001 -\$750,000	\$ 5,260 5,510.50 for the first \$500,000 plus \$ 7 7.35 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$750,001-\$1,000,000	\$7,010,348 for the first \$750,000 plus $$66.30$ for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$1,000,001-\$2,000,000	\$8,5108,923 for the first \$1,000,000 plus \$5.505.75 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$2,000,001-\$3,000,000	\$14,01014.673 for the first \$2,000,000 plus \$55.25 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$3,000,001-\$4,000,000	\$\frac{19,010}{19,923}\$ for the first \$3,000,000 plus \$\frac{4.504.70}{1.504.70}\$ for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$4,000,001-\$5,000,000	\$ 23,510 24,623 for the first \$4,000,000 plus \$4 <u>4.20</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$5,000,001-\$50,000,000	\$27,51028,823 for the first \$5,000,000 plus \$3.503.65 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$50,000,001-\$100,000,000	\$\frac{185,010}{193,073}\$ for the first \$50,000,000 plus \$\frac{3}{3.15}\$ for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	
\$100,000,001 and up	\$335,010350,573 for the first \$100,000,000 plus \$2.502.60 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.	

2. Lighting retrofit projects limited to the exchange of fixtures and/or ballasts.

Minimum fee per 5,000 sq. ft. of Building	\$ 80 110
Each additional 1.000 sq. ft. or fraction of	\$ 8 11

3. Traffic signals.

D. Overtime:

Overtime inspections including, but not limited to, call outs, weekend inspections, and after hours work must be scheduled with Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office a minimum of three business days in advance. In addition to the regular Permit fee, a fee for an overtime inspection is required as follows:

- 1. Unscheduled: Outside of an electrical inspector's regular working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be $$480\underline{660}$ for the first two hours, portal to portal, plus $$160\underline{220}$ for each hour thereafter. The fee must be paid the next business day.
- 2. Scheduled: Outside of an electrical inspector's regular working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$\frac{320440}{48}\$ for the first two hours, portal to portal, plus \$\frac{160220}{160}\$ for each hour thereafter. The fee of \$\frac{320440}{32040}\$ must be paid 48 hours in advance of the scheduled inspection, and any remaining fee must be paid the next business day.
- 3. Requested inspections that extend beyond the electrical inspector's regular working hours shall be at the minimum rate of \$160 per hour, portal to portal.

E. Annual Permit.

Pursuant to section 12.06A.350, annual Permits are available to commercial and industrial customers employing their own electrical maintenance staff. An annual Permit may be purchased in lieu of individual Permits for maintenance on each job performed. Annual Permits may be purchased by an electrical contractor to perform maintenance work at a commercial and industrial location if, at the time of application, a valid copy of the electrical contractor's yearly maintenance contract with the customer is submitted to Tacoma Power and the term and nature of work under such contract is consistent, as determined in the sole discretion of Tacoma Power, with the term and purpose of the annual Permit. Applications for annual Permits submitted without proof of required employment status or a valid maintenance contract will not be accepted. Work performed under an annual Permit is limited to the installation of not more than two new feeders or circuits rated 100 amps or less, and the maintenance, repair, retrofit, or replacement of conductors and equipment. Annual Permits do not include the installation of new, exchanged, or upgraded service equipment, electrical work installed as part of new or added square footage, facility expansion, remodel, or where, except as noted above, load is increased. The annual Permit fee is calculated per Table C.

TABLE C		
Number of one-hour Inspection units	Fee	
12	\$ 960 1,320	
13-24	\$ 1,920 2,460	
25-36	\$ 2,880 <u>3,960</u>	
37-52	\$ 4,160 <u>5,720</u>	

F. Miscellaneous fees.

1. Wrong meter address or location.

Fee includes one inspection.

An additional Permit, fees, and inspections may be required if electrical deficiencies exist on the Premises.

12.06A.260 Penalty fees and fee adjustments.

The following-described penalties may be assessed, or the described fee adjustments may be determined appropriate, by order of the Chief Electrical Inspector:

12.06A.380 Classification of occupancies and wiring methods.

- A. 200 ampere service capacity shall be required for all new single-family and duplex residential units of 500 square feet or more. An entire service upgrade shall not be required when only replacing a meter base, or mast, or panel, unless the load requirement is greater than the rating of the existing service and/or specific electrical safety concerns associated with said equipment are detected.
- B. Service entrance conductors for commercial occupancies shall have an ampacity not less than the rating of the service equipment they supply. For multiple-dwelling occupancies, the minimum service conductor ampacity shall not be less than the calculated service load.
- C. Commissioning of all new Emergency Legally Required Standby, and/or Health Care systems fed by a 150 kw or larger generator shall be in compliance with NEC Sections 700, 701 and 517, respectively. A copy of the commissioning report shall be presented to the electrical inspector prior to the final electrical inspection.
- D. Customer-owned systems that are metered at 12.5 kV or higher, known as primary metered systems, shall be installed as outlined in NEC 215.2(B)(3) and Tacoma Power's Transmission & Distribution Construction Standards. Such systems must be designed and certified by a Washington State Registered Electrical Engineer and reviewed by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office. These systems must be tested per manufacturers' published instructions and certified as free of short circuits and ground faults prior to approval for energizing.
- E. Each newly constructed or remodeled dwelling unit, as defined in NEC 100, shall be independently metered by Tacoma Power.

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