



City of North Port

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-30

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, APPENDIX A – CITY FEE SCHEDULE FOR UTILITIES FEES; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida has the duty, right, power, and authority to levy and collect fees for municipal purposes, including user fees as set forth in Florida Statutes Section 166.201; and

WHEREAS, the City's fees provide funding for municipal purposes, including but not limited to, conducting municipal government, performing municipal functions, and rendering municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the City Fee Schedule is codified as Appendix A to the Code of the City of North Port, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Department notified its customers of the proposed changes to the miscellaneous fees as required by Florida State Statute 180.136; and

WHEREAS, GovRates Inc. performed a formal analysis in fiscal year 2025 of the City's water and wastewater utility rates, fees, and charges, which showed a need to update the miscellaneous fees in order to recover the cost of providing services to utility customers; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to update the City Fee Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that these amendments serve the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of North Port, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1 – FINDINGS

1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this ordinance by reference.

- 1.02 In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 166.041(4)(a), the City timely posted a business impact estimate on the City's website on or before the date the newspaper published notice of this ordinance's final reading.
- 1.03 The City Commission finds that the fees established in this ordinance are fair, reasonable, just, and equitable.
- 1.04 The City Commission finds that the user fees established in this ordinance are imposed in the exercise of a proprietary activity and benefit the party paying the fee in a manner not shared by the general public.

SECTION 2 – COMPREHENSIVE UTILITY RATE ANALYSIS

- 2.01 GovRates, Inc. prepared the *Utility Rate Analysis* during fiscal year 2025.
- 2.02 The City Commission approves, adopts, and incorporates herein by reference, the *Utility Rate Analysis*, attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

SECTION 3 – ADOPTION

- 3.01 Appendix A of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida is hereby amended as follows:

"APPENDIX A – CITY FEE SCHEDULE

The following establishes the fees for the city.

...

K. UTILITIES FEES	
Account Fees	
Delinquency processing fee (charged when customer becomes eligible for shutoff 14 calendar days after invoice due date)	\$20.00 <u>\$40.00</u>
Delinquency service fee – normal hours (charge includes both turn off and turn on services when a customer is physically shut off for nonpayment)	\$35.00 <u>\$50.00</u>
Delinquency service fee – after hours (charged in addition to the delinquency service fee – normal hours, if a customer requests a turn on after hours if turned off due to nonpayment)	\$100.00 <u>\$105.00</u>
Initiation of service (activation)	\$50.00 <u>\$70.00</u>
Reinstatement of existing seasonal service – normal hours (charge includes both turn off and turn on services)	\$40.00 <u>\$55.00</u>
Premise visit – no water call	\$30.00 <u>\$40.00</u>
...	
Meter Installation Fees	
3/4" meter installation, no tap	\$315.00 <u>\$615.00</u>
3/4" meter installation with tap	\$1,030.00 <u>\$1,855.00</u>
1" meter installation, no tap	\$555.00 <u>\$765.00</u>
1" meter installation with tap	\$1,145.00 <u>\$1,955.00</u>

1 ½" meter installation, no tap	\$995.00 <u>\$1,200.00</u>
1 ½" meter installation with tap	\$1,860.00 <u>\$2,680.00</u>
2" meter installation, no tap	\$1,160.00 <u>\$1,380.00</u>
2" meter installation with tap	\$2,220.00 <u>\$2,995.00</u>
...	
Meter removal fee	\$77.00 <u>\$85.00</u>
Meter Endpoint Changeout	<u>\$70.00 plus actual cost of meter endpoint</u>
Test Fees	
...	
Fire flow test, per test	\$140.00 <u>\$175.00</u>
Force main pressure test fee, per test	\$125.00 <u>\$170.00</u>
Inspection Fees	
...	
Certificate of occupancy fee - residential	\$30.00 <u>\$35.00</u>
...	
Miscellaneous Fees	
...	
Duplicate Bill Fee	\$3.50 <u>\$4.00</u> per duplicate bill; no charge for electronic duplicate bill
Duplicate notice fee	\$3.50 <u>\$4.00</u> per duplicate notice; no charge for electronic duplicate notice
...	

...“

SECTION 4 – CONFLICTS

- 4.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this ordinance and any other ordinance, in whole or in part, the provisions of this ordinance will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY

- 5.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance.

SECTION 6 – CODIFICATION

- 6.01 In this ordinance, additions are shown as underlined and deletions as ~~striketrough~~. Any additional codification information and notations appear in *italics*. These editorial notations are not intended to appear in the codified text.

SECTION 7 – EFFECTIVE DATE

- 7.01 This ordinance takes effect November 1, 2025.

READ BY TITLE ONLY at first reading by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public session on September 23, 2025.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, on the second and final reading in public session on _____.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

PHIL STOKES
MAYOR

ATTEST

HEATHER FAUST, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

MICHAEL GOLEN, CPM
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

GovRatesUtility, Financial, Rate, and Management
Consultants for Governmentswww.govrates.com

August 25, 2025

Honorable Chairman and
Members of the City Commission
City of North Port
4970 City Hall Boulevard
North Port, Florida 34286-4100

Subject: Utility Rate Analysis – Miscellaneous Service Charges

The City of North Port (the "City") has several miscellaneous utility charges or fees that are billed to customers to recover costs for specific services provided by the utility at the request of a customer (e.g., service turn on) or by a direct action of the customer as it relates to City policy and procedures (e.g., customer disconnect for nonpayment). Revenues derived from these charges reduce the level of expenditures (revenue requirements) that must be recovered from monthly user rates. (The costs for the services are directly passed through to the customers requesting the services.) GovRates, Inc. ("GovRates") reviewed these charges as a component of our comprehensive utility rate analysis.

The GovRates recommendations with respect to the other / miscellaneous rates, fees, and charges of the utility are shown in the following Table ES-1. The proposed charges are based on the estimated costs of providing service, City policy, and charges for similar service that are currently imposed by other Florida utilities. Table ES-1 also contains an explanation or reason for each new or adjusted fee. A copy of our miscellaneous service charge evaluation model has been provided to the City staff for internal use.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City and would like to thank the management and staff for their tremendous assistance and cooperation during the course of the utility rate analysis.

Yours in government service,

GovRates, Inc.

Bryan A. Mantz, CMC, CGFM
President



Table ES-1
City of North Port, Florida
Utility Rate Analysis

Summary of Existing and Proposed Other Charges

Line No.	Description	Current Fees	Proposed Fees	Increase/ (Decrease)	Reason/Explanation for Change
<i>Account Fees</i>					
1	Delinquency Processing Fee (charged when customer becomes eligible for shutoff 14 days after invoice due date)	\$20	\$40	\$20	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
2	Delinquency Service Fee - Normal Hours - (Charge includes both turn off and turn on services when a customer is physically shut off for non-payment)	\$35	\$50	\$15	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
3	Delinquency Service Fee - After Hours - (Charged in addition to the Delinquency Service Fee - Normal Hours, if a customer requests a turn on after hours if turned off due to non-payment)	\$100	\$105	\$5	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
4	Initiation of Service (Activation)	\$50	\$70	\$20	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
5	Reinstatement of Existing Seasonal Service – Normal Hours (charge includes both turn off and turn on services)	\$40	\$55	\$15	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
6	Reinstatement of Existing Service – After Hours (charged in lieu of the Reinstatement of Existing Seasonal Service - Normal Hours, if a customer requests a turn on after hours for a customer-requested turn off; charge includes both turn off and turn on services)	\$100	\$100	\$0	
7	Customer Request Meter Reread Fee	\$45.00 if meter is accurate within accepted standards	\$60.00 if meter is accurate within accepted standards	\$15	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
8	Service Availability Fee, per property request (Charged per property for written confirmation of water/wastewater availability prior to building permit being issued)	\$5	\$5	\$0	
9	Premise visit - no water call	\$30	\$40	\$10	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
10	Paper Bill Fee	\$3	\$3	\$0	

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Line No.	Description	Current Fees	Proposed Fees	Increase/ (Decrease)	Reason/Explanation for Change
<i>Meter Installation Fees</i>					
11	3/4" Meter Installation, no tap	\$315	\$615	\$300	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
12	3/4" Meter Installation with tap	\$1,030	\$1,855	\$825	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
13	1" Meter Installation, no tap	\$555	\$765	\$210	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
14	1" Meter Installation with tap	\$1,145	\$1,955	\$810	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
15	1 1/2" Meter Installation, no tap	\$995	\$1,200	\$205	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
16	1 1/2" Meter Installation with tap	\$1,860	\$2,680	\$820	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
17	2" Meter Installation, no tap	\$1,160	\$1,380	\$220	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
18	2" Meter Installation with tap	\$2,220	\$2,995	\$775	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
19	3" or larger Meter Installation	Actual cost	Actual cost	\$0	
20	Meter Removal Fee	\$77	\$85	\$8	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
21	Meter Endpoint Changeout	N/A	\$70 plus actual cost of meter endpoint	\$70	New fee based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis.
<i>Test Fees</i>					
22	Fire Flow Test, per test	\$140	\$175	\$35	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
23	Force Main Pressure Test Fee, per test	\$125	\$170	\$45	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis

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City of North Port, Florida
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Summary of Existing and Proposed Other Charges

Line No.	Description	Current Fees	Proposed Fees	Increase/ (Decrease)	Reason/Explanation for Change
Inspection Fees					
24	Utility Inspection Fee	6.5% of utility construction cost for project costs of \$0 to \$2 million, + 2.5% of utility construction costs >\$2 million; \$250 minimum	6.5% of utility construction cost for project costs of \$0 to \$2 million, + 2.5% of utility construction costs >\$2 million; \$250 minimum	\$0	
25	Construction/Re-inspection Fee (Due to a failed first inspection)	Actual cost / 1 hour minimum Overtime	Actual cost / 1 hour minimum Overtime	\$0	
26	Overtime Inspection Fee (For inspections that must be completed after regular business hours)	\$110/hour	\$110/hour	\$0	
27	Certificate of Occupancy Inspection Fee - residential	\$30	\$35	\$5	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
28	Certificate of Occupancy Inspection Fee - commercial	\$50	\$50	\$0	
Backflow Fees					
29	Certification	Actual Charges + \$12.00 Administrative Fee	Actual Charges + \$12.00 Administrative Fee	\$0	
30	Repairs	Actual Charges up to \$150.00 + \$25.00 Administrative Fee	Actual Charges + \$30.00 Administrative Fee	\$5	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
31	Replacement	Actual Charges + \$25.00 Administrative Fee	Actual Charges + \$35.00 Administrative Fee	\$10	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
32	Shut-off Non-Compliance Fee-Normal Hours	\$45.00 minimum	\$45.00 minimum	\$0	
33	Non-Compliance Fee - Residential	\$30	\$30	\$0	
34	New Construction Turn On After Backflow Installed	\$40	\$40	\$0	
35	Installation for homes based on degree of hazard - One Time Payment	Actual Charges + \$30.00 Administrative Fee	Actual Charges + \$40.00 Administrative Fee	\$10	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
36	Installation for homes based on degree of hazard - Installment Payment Plan	Actual Charges + \$30.00 Administrative Fee + \$50.00 Installment Payment Plan Fee	Actual Charges + \$40.00 Administrative Fee + \$50.00 Installment Payment Plan Fee	\$10	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
37		**Administrative fee intended to recover actual costs of city staff	**Administrative fee intended to recover actual costs of city staff		

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Line No.	Description	Current Fees	Proposed Fees	Increase/ (Decrease)	Reason/Explanation for Change
Miscellaneous Fees					
38	Reimbursement for Extra Expenses	Per FEMA schedule of equipment rates & actual recovery of actual cost of city staff & outside professional services	Per FEMA schedule of equipment rates & actual recovery of actual cost of city staff & outside professional services	\$0	
39	Late Payment Fee	1% of unpaid balance, but not amounting to less than \$5.00	1% of unpaid balance, but not amounting to less than \$5.00	\$0	
40	Duplicate Bill Fee	\$3.50 per duplicate bill	\$4.00 per duplicate bill	\$0.50	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
41	Duplicate Notice Fee	\$3.50 per duplicate notice	\$4.00 per duplicate notice	\$0.50	Based on City's average costs to provide service; reviewed per utility rate analysis
42	Connection Payment Agreement Service Fee	\$10	\$10	\$0	
43	Grease Trap Operating Fee, per year	\$50	\$50	\$0	
44	Vac Con Truck	\$250.00 / hour	\$250.00 / hour	\$0	
Customer Deposits					
<u>Customer Deposit - Water</u>					
Residential					
<u>Meter Size</u>					
45	5/8" or 3/4"	\$75.00	\$125.00	\$50	Increased user rates
45	1"	\$190.00	\$320.00	\$130	Increased user rates
46	1 1/2"	\$380.00	\$630.00	\$250	Increased user rates
47	2"	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$400	Increased user rates
Commercial and Multi-Family					
<u>Meter Size</u>					
48	5/8" or 3/4"	\$75.00	\$125.00	\$50	Increased user rates
49	1"	\$190.00	\$320.00	\$130	Increased user rates
50	1 1/2"	\$380.00	\$630.00	\$250	Increased user rates
51	2"	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$400	Increased user rates
52	Over 2"	Estimated 2 months billing	Estimated 2 months billing	Varies	Increased user rates
Construction Meters:					
53	Temporary Service in Ground	Actual Cost of Meter	Actual Cost of Meter	\$0	
54	Temporary Service to Hydrant	Actual Cost of Meter	Actual Cost of Meter	\$0	

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Summary of Existing and Proposed Other Charges

Line No.	Description	Current Fees	Proposed Fees	Increase/ (Decrease)	Reason/Explanation for Change
<u>Customer Deposit - Wastewater</u>					
Residential					
<u>Meter Size</u>					
55	5/8" or 3/4"	\$110.00	\$170.00	\$60	Increased user rates
56	1"	\$110.00	\$170.00	\$60	Increased user rates
57	1 1/2"	\$110.00	\$170.00	\$60	Increased user rates
58	2"	\$110.00	\$170.00	\$60	Increased user rates
Commercial and Multi-Family					
<u>Meter Size</u>					
59	5/8" or 3/4"	\$100.00	\$170.00	\$70	Increased user rates
60	1"	\$280.00	\$430.00	\$150	Increased user rates
61	1 1/2"	\$550.00	\$850.00	\$300	Increased user rates
62	2"	\$880.00	\$1,360.00	\$480	Increased user rates
63	Over 2"	Estimated 2 months billing	Estimated 2 months billing	Varies	Increased user rates
<i>Annual Fire Protection Charges</i>					
64	All Meter Sizes or Size of Service Line	Annual charge equal to one month water base facility charge of applicable meter size or size of service line, rounded to nearest dollar	Annual charge equal to one month water base facility charge of applicable meter size or size of service line, rounded to nearest dollar	\$0	
<i>Guaranteed Revenue Charges</i>					
65	Annual Water Guaranteed Revenue Charge Per Equivalent Residential Connection (ERC)	Monthly Water Base Facility Charge * 12 Months, Rounded to Nearest Dollar	Monthly Water Base Facility Charge * 12 Months, Rounded to Nearest Dollar	\$0	
66	Annual Wastewater Guaranteed Revenue Charge Per Equivalent Residential Connection (ERC)	Monthly Wastewater Base Facility Charge * 12 Months, Rounded to Nearest Dollar	Monthly Wastewater Base Facility Charge * 12 Months, Rounded to Nearest Dollar	\$0	