

**TITLE 19****ELECTRICITY AND GAS****CHAPTER**

1. ELECTRICAL SERVICE.
2. GAS.

**CHAPTER 1****ELECTRICAL SERVICE<sup>1</sup>****SECTION**

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Electrical code: title 12, chapter 3.

The provisions in this chapter (except when otherwise specifically indicated) are taken from the city's power contract with TVA, dated June, 1958, and amended July 31, 1967.

19-124. Conflict.

19-125. Tampering with electric meters, etc.

**19-101. Application for service.** Each prospective customer desiring electric service may be required to sign the electric department's standard form of application for service or contract before service is supplied by the city. (1980 Code, § 13-201)

**19-102. Deposit.** A deposit or suitable guarantee approximately equal to twice the average monthly bill may be required of any customer before electric service is supplied. The electric department may at its option return a deposit to the customer after one (1) year. Upon termination of service, the deposit may be applied by the electric department against unpaid bills of the customer, and if any balance remains after such application is made, said balance shall be refunded to the customer. (1980 Code, § 13-202)

**19-103. Point of delivery.** The point of delivery is the point, as designated by the electric department, on the customer's premises where current is to be delivered to his building or premises. All wiring and equipment beyond this point of delivery shall be provided and maintained by the customer at no expense to the electric department. (1980 Code, § 13-203)

**19-104. Customer's wiring--standards.** All wiring of the customer must conform to the electric department's requirements and accepted modern standards, as exemplified by the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code and the National Electrical Code. (1980 Code, § 13-204)

**19-105. Inspections.** The electric department shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation before electricity is introduced or at any time, and reserves the right to reject any wiring or appliances not in accordance with the electric department's standards; but such inspection or failure to inspect or reject shall not render the electric department liable or responsible for any loss or damage resulting from defects in the installation, wiring, or appliances, or from accidents which may occur upon the customer's premises. (1980 Code, § 13-205)

**19-106. Underground service lines.** Customers desiring underground service lines from the electric department's overhead system must bear the excess cost incident thereto. Specifications and terms for such construction will be furnished by the electric department on request. (1980 Code, § 13-206)

**19-107. Customer's responsibility for electric department's property.** All meters, service connections, and other equipment furnished by the electric department shall be and remain the property of the electric

department. The customer shall provide a space for and exercise proper care to protect the property of the electric department on its premises, and, in the event of loss or damage to such property arising from neglect of the customer to care for same, the cost of the necessary repairs or replacements shall be paid by the customer. (1980 Code, § 13-207)

**19-108. Right of access.** The electric department's identified employees shall have access to the customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, testing, repairing, removing, or exchanging any or all equipment belonging to the electric department. (1980 Code, § 13-208)

**19-109. Billing.** Bills will be rendered monthly and shall be paid within ten (10) days from date of bill at the office of the electric department. Failure to receive a bill will not release the customer from the payment obligation. Should bills not be paid as above, the electric department may at any time thereafter, upon five (5) days' written notice to the customer, discontinue service. Bills paid on or before the final date of payment shall be payable at the net rates, but thereafter the gross rates shall apply, as provided in the schedule of rates and charges. Should the final date for payment of the bill at the net rates fall on a Sunday or holiday, the business day next following the final date will be held as a day of grace for delivery of payment. Net rate remittances received by mail after the time limit for payment of said net rates will be accepted by the electric department if the incoming envelope bears United States Post Office date stamp of the final date for payment of the net amount or any date prior thereto. (1980 Code, § 13-209)

**19-110. Discontinuance of service by the electric department.** The electric department may refuse to connect or may discontinue service for the violation of any of its rules and regulations, or for violation of any of the provisions of the schedule of rates and charges, or of the application of the customer or contract with the customer. The electric department may discontinue service to the customer for the theft of current or the appearance of current theft devices on the premises of the customer. The discontinuance of service by the electric department for any causes as stated in this rule does not release the customer from his obligation to the electric department for the payment of minimum bills as specified in the application of the customer or the contract with the customer. (1980 Code, § 13-210)

**19-111. Reconnection charge.** Whenever service has been discontinued by the electric department, as provided above, or a trip is made for the purpose of discontinuing service, a charge of not less than one dollar (\$1.00) may be collected by the electric department before service is restored. (1980 Code, § 13-211)

**19-112. Termination of contract by customer.** Customers who have fulfilled their contract terms and wish to discontinue service must give at least three (3) days' written notice to that effect, unless the contract specifies otherwise. Notice to discontinue service prior to the expiration of the contract term will not relieve the customer from any minimum or guaranteed payment under any contract or rate. (1980 Code, § 13-212)

**19-113. Service charges for temporary service.** Customers requiring electric service on a temporary basis may be required by the electric department to pay all costs for connection and disconnection incidental to the supplying and removing of service. This rule applies to circuses, carnivals, fairs, temporary construction, and the like. (1980 Code, § 13-213)

**19-114. Interruption of service.** The electric department will use reasonable diligence in supplying current, but shall not be liable for a breach of contract in the event of, or for loss, injury, or damage to persons or property resulting from interruptions in service, excessive or inadequate voltage, single-phasing, or otherwise unsatisfactory service, whether or not caused by negligence. (1980 Code, § 13-214)

**19-115. Voltage fluctuations caused by the customer.** Electric service must not be used in such a manner as to cause unusual fluctuations or disturbances to the electric department's system. The electric department may require the customer, at his own expense, to install suitable apparatus which will reasonably limit such fluctuations. (1980 Code, § 13-215)

**19-116. Additional load.** The service connection, transformers, meters, and equipment supplied by the electric department for each customer have a definite capacity, and no addition to the equipment or load connected thereto will be allowed except by consent of the electric department. Failure to give notice of additions or changes in load, and to obtain the electric department's consent for same, shall render the customer liable for any damage to any of the electric department's lines or equipment caused by the additional or changed installation. (1980 Code, § 13-216)

**19-117. Standby and resale service.** All purchased electric service (other than emergency or standby service) used on the premises of the customer shall be supplied exclusively by the electric department, and the customer shall not, directly or indirectly, sell, sublet, assign, or otherwise dispose of the electric service or any part thereof. (1980 Code, § 13-217)

**19-118. Notice of trouble.** The customer shall notify the electric department immediately should the service be unsatisfactory for any reason, or should there be any defects, trouble, or accidents affecting the supply of

electricity. Such notices, if verbal, should be confirmed in writing. (1980 Code, § 13-218)

**19-119. Non-standard service.** The customer shall pay the cost of any special installation necessary to meet his peculiar requirements for service at other than standard voltages, or for the supply of closer voltage regulations than required by standard practice. (1980 Code, § 13-219)

**19-120. Meter tests.** The electric department will, at its own expense, make periodical tests and inspections of its meters in order to maintain a high standard of accuracy. The electric department will make additional tests or inspections of its meters at the request of the customer. If tests made at the customer's request show that the meter is accurate within two percent (2%), slow or fast, no adjustment will be made in the customer's bill, and the testing charge of one dollar (\$1.00) per meter will be paid by the customer. In case the test shows the meter to be in excess of two percent (2%), fast or slow, an adjustment shall be made in the customer's bill over a period of not over thirty (30) days prior to the date of such test, and the cost of making the test shall be borne by the electric department. (1980 Code, § 13-220)

**19-121. Relocation of outdoor lighting facilities.** The electric department shall, at the request of the customer, relocate or change existing electric department-owned equipment. The customer shall reimburse the electric department for such changes at actual cost, including appropriate overheads. (1980 Code, § 13-221)

**19-122. Billing adjusted to standard periods.** The demand charges and the blocks in the energy charges set forth in the rate schedules are based on billing periods of approximately one (1) month. In the case of the first billing of new accounts (temporary service, cotton gins, and other seasonal customers excepted) and final billings of all accounts (temporary service excepted) where the period covered by the billing involves fractions of a month, the demand charges and the blocks of the energy charge will be adjusted to a basis proportionate with the period of time during which service is extended. (1980 Code, § 13-222)

**19-123. Scope.** This chapter is a part of all contracts for receiving electric service from the electric department, and applies to all service received from the electric department, whether the service is based upon contract, agreement, signed application, or otherwise. A copy of the provisions in this chapter, together with a copy of the electric department's schedule of rates and charges, shall be kept open to inspection at the offices of the electric department. (1980 Code, § 13-223)

**19-124. Conflict.** In case of conflict between any provision of any rate schedule and the provisions in this chapter, the rate schedule shall apply. (1980 Code, § 13-224)

**19-125. Tampering with electric meters, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to tamper with, or interfere with, the operation of any electric meter through which electricity is supplied by the City of Humboldt, Tennessee, or to in any way tamper with or interfere with any of the electric facilities of the city or to make improper connections thereto so as to evade, or attempt to evade, the payment of lawful service and connection charges to the city.

Any person tampering with or interfering with the electric facilities of the city shall be presumed to have done so with the intent to evade or attempt to evade the payment of lawful service and connection charges to the city. (1980 Code, § 13-225)

## CHAPTER 2

### GAS<sup>1</sup>

#### SECTION

- 19-201. Application and scope.
- 19-202. Regulations.
- 19-203. Schedule of rates.
- 19-204. Connection charges.
- 19-205. Discontinuance or refusal of service.
- 19-206. Access to customers' premises.
- 19-207. Inspections.
- 19-208. Customer's responsibility for system's property.
- 19-209. Customers' responsibility for violations.

**19-201. Application and scope.** These rules and regulations are a part of all contracts for receiving gas service through the facilities of the Humboldt Gas Utility and shall apply whether the service is based upon contract, agreement, signed application, or otherwise. (1980 Code, § 13-301)

**19-202. Regulations.** The following regulations shall apply to all consumers under each and all of the rate schedules as adopted by the city from time to time.

(1) Gas supplied by the Humboldt Gas Utility is for the exclusive use of the customer and shall not be resold or shared with others.

(2) Prompt payment discount. The prompt payment discount is the difference between the gross and net rates, and is allowed on all bills paid within ten (10) days from the date on which due and payable.

(3) Contract period. Service shall be for a period of not less than one (1) year. If service is discontinued before the expiration of twelve (12) months, a charge of one dollar (\$1.00) shall be made to cover the cost of disconnecting meter.

(4) Bills will customarily be rendered once a month and will be subject to the prompt payment discount for a period of ten (10) days following the due date, which shall be specified on the bill, and which due date shall be not less than ten (10) days from the date the bill is postmarked. If not paid at the end of the discount period, the customer will be served with a seven (7) days notice of discontinuance of service, at the expiration of which notice the service may be discontinued by the utility and the deposit applied toward the final bill.

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal reference  
Gas code: title 12, chapter 4.

(5) Notice by customer to discontinue gas service must be given in writing or in person at the office of the utility at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. The customer shall be responsible for all gas consumed until such notice has been given and a reasonable time allowed to read the meter. (1980 Code, § 13-302)

**19-203. Schedule of rates.**<sup>1</sup> All gas furnished by the gas utility shall be furnished under such rate schedules as the city may from time to time adopt by ordinance. (1980 Code, § 13-303)

**19-204. Connection charges.** (1) The utility will install, without charge to a residential consumer who will require gas during each month of the year, a gas pipe line from the meter to the consumer's property line not to exceed one hundred (100) feet in length, and such consumer will pay to the utility for the installation of any such line in excess of one hundred (100) feet the sum of seventy-five cents (75¢) per foot.

(2) Service lines from the property line to the meter for any other class of consumer shall be installed by the utility at the expense of the consumer and at a charge of seventy-five cents (75¢) per foot. (1980 Code, § 13-304)

**19-205. Discontinuance or refusal of service.** The gas utility shall have the right to discontinue service or to refuse to connect service for a violation of, or a failure to comply with, any of the following:

- (1) These rules and regulations.
- (2) The customer's application for service.
- (3) The customer's contract for service.

Such right to discontinue service shall apply to all service received through a single connection or service, even though more than one (1) customer or tenant is furnished service therefrom, and even though the delinquency or violation is limited to only one such customer or tenant.

Discontinuance of service by the utility for any cause stated in these rules and regulations shall not release the customer from liability for service already received or from liability for payments that thereafter become due under other provisions of the customer's contract. (1980 Code, § 13-305)

**19-206. Access to customers' premises.** The gas utility's identified representatives and employees shall be granted access to all customers' premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, for testing, inspecting, repairing, removing, and replacing all equipment belonging to the

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<sup>1</sup>Ordinances prescribing rates and charges for gas service are of record in the office of the secretary of the board of mayor and aldermen.



utility, and for inspecting customers' premises generally in order to secure compliance with these rules and regulations. (1980 Code, § 13-306)

**19-207. Inspections.** The gas utility shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation or system before gas service is furnished or at any later time. The utility reserves the right to refuse service or to discontinue service to any premises not meeting standards fixed by municipal ordinances regulating gas, or not in accordance with any special contract, these rules and regulations, or other requirements of the city.

Any failure to inspect or reject a customer's installation or system shall not render the utility liable or responsible for any loss or damage which might have been avoided had such inspection or rejection been made. (1980 Code, § 13-307)

**19-208. Customer's responsibility for system's property.** Except as herein elsewhere expressly provided, all meters, service connections, and other equipment furnished by or for the utility shall be and remain the property of the city. Each customer shall provide space for and exercise proper care to protect the property of the city on his premises. In the event of loss or damage to such property arising from the neglect of a customer properly to care for same, the cost of necessary repairs or replacements shall be paid by the customer. (1980 Code, § 13-308)

**19-209. Customers' responsibility for violations.** Where the city furnishes gas service to a customer, such customer shall be responsible for all violations of these rules and regulations which occur on the premises so served. Personal participation by the customer in any such violations shall not be necessary to impose such personal responsibility on him. (1980 Code, § 13-309)