

TITLE 18

WATER AND SEWERS¹

CHAPTER

1. WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS.
2. CROSS CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.

CHAPTER 1

WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS

SECTION

- 18-101. Water and sewer rates.
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- 18-106. Permit and deposit required for service.
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- 18-108. Inspection fee.
- 18-109. All plumbing, etc. shall conform to the plumbing code.
- 18-110. Rate changes.
- 18-111. City may refuse service.

18-101. Water and sewer rates. (1) The following water usage charges shall be and hereby are, adopted to replace all water usage charges heretofore adopted by the board of mayor and alderman on behalf of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee:

Residential Rates

First 2,000 gallons	\$20.50 (minimum)
Over 2,000 gallons	\$8.00 per 1,000 gallons

¹Municipal code references

Building, utility and residential codes: title 12.

Refuse disposal: title 17.

Water department: title 20, chapter 4.

Commercial Rates

First 2,000 gallons	\$21.50 (minimum)
Over 2,000 gallons	\$9.25 per 1,000 gallons

Optional Fees

Leak protection	\$1.85 per month - residential
Water line protection	\$4.40 per month
Sewer line protection	\$6.50 per month
Leak protection	\$4.40 per month - commercial
Water line protection	\$13.50 per month

(2) The following water service charges and fees shall be and hereby are adopted to replace all water service charges and fees heretofore adopted by the board of mayor and alderman on behalf of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee:

Residential Service Charges and Fees:

Owner	\$60.00
Rental	\$80.00
Water tap	\$750.00 (plus 10% of actual cost)
Apartment transfer	\$45.00 (in same complex)
Transfer (other)	\$45.00
Reconnection fee	\$50.00
Reread meter fee	\$30.00
Return check fee	\$35.00
Meter profile fee	\$30.00 (first one is free)
Meter replacement fee	\$1.00 per month

Commercial Service Charges and Fees:

Owner	\$65.00
Rental	\$85.00
Water tap	\$1,000.00 (plus 10% of actual cost)
Reconnection fee	\$50.00
Reread meter fee	\$30.00
Return check fee	\$35.00
Meter profile fee	\$30.00 (first one is free)
Meter replacement fee	\$1.00 per month

(a) A reread meter fee will be charged (per request) if the customer requests meter to be reread more than one (1) time per calendar year. A meter profile fee will be charged (per request after first one (1)) if the customer requests a day by day or hour by hour breakdown of meter readings.

(b) All balances due including current balance plus reconnection fee must be paid in full before services can be reconnected if services are disconnected for non-payment. Reconnection will only be done during regulat business hours of the water superintendent.

(c) A penalty will be applied to any unpaid balance on the fifteenth of each month. If payment is not made in full by the twenty-fifth of the month service will be disconnected without any notice. Failure to receive a statement does not relieve customer of payment and penalty.

(3) The following sewer usage charges shall be and hereby are, adopted to replace all sewer usage charges heretofore adopted by the board of mayor and alderman on behalf of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee:

Residential Rates

First 2,000 gallons	\$24.50 (minimum)
Over 2,000 gallons	\$9.25 per 1,000 gallons

Commercial Rates

First 2,000 gallons	\$26.00 (minimum)
Over 2,000 gallons	\$9.70 per 1,000 gallons

(4) The following sewer service charges shall be and hereby are adopted to replace all sewer service charges heretofore adopted by the board of mayor and alderman on behalf of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee:

Residential Service Charges

Owner	\$60.00
Rental	\$80.00
Sewer tap	\$750.00 (plus 10% of actual cost)

Commercial Service Charges

Owner	\$65.00
Rental	\$80.00
Sewer tap	\$1,000.00 (plus 10% of actual cost)

(5) The City of Rutledge requires the following documents to be approved for water/sewer service:

- (a) Valid driver's license or picture ID;
- (b) Social Security number; and
- (c) If renting a copy of rental/lease agreement.

The City of Rutledge reserves the right to refuse service if any of these documents are not provided.

(6) This section applies to Clinchview Apartments located on Cherry Street. Anytime that there is a request to turn a meter on for the purpose of cleaning the apartment there will be a thirty dollar (\$30.00) service charge for turning the meter on.

(7) Sewer adjustments will be approved by the city recorder on a case by case basis. Sewer adjustments will not be approved for any water that goes through the sewer system (exp. toilet leaks).

(8) If at any time we find that Rutledge utility equipment (ex. water meters or covers) have been damaged or broken, the person whose name is on the account will be responsible for the cost of the repairs or replacement of the equipment whether they caused the damage or someone else did it. If repairs are not paid by date on statement water service will be disconnected and a reconnection fee will be applied.

(9) In the event of the utility customer's death, the next of kin or executor of the estate has sixty (60) days to transfer the services to their name.

Services are subject to disconnection if not transferred and all outstanding balances paid in full. Transfer fee is fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(10) Any section or portion of regulations, by-laws, resolutions, and ordinances previously enacted by the City of Rutledge, in conflict with this section shall be, and hereby are, repealed.

(11) The water and sewer usage charges and the service charges and fees are hereby adopted and shall be effective July 1, 2022. (Ord. #153, June 2022)

18-102. Meters. All water meters shall be read monthly to the nearest one hundred (100) gallons and bills rendered monthly based on such reading. All bills shall be due and payable from and after the date such bills are rendered, at the office of the recorder or other designated person, during the regular hours of business.

In the event any meter shall be found to be inoperative at the end of any given billing period or to be faulty or inaccurate for any reason, the meter will be replaced or repaired as soon as possible, and the bill for water used during the current period shall be the average of the last three (3) monthly bills. (1996 Code, § 18-102)

18-103. Billing. If any bill for water and or sewer service shall be and remain due and unpaid for as long as fifteen (15) days after rendition, there shall be an additional charge of ten percent (10%) added thereto.

If any bill for water or sewer service shall be and remain past due and unpaid as long as thirty (30) days, water service to such delinquent customer shall be disconnected and shall not be re-connected until all past due bills are paid in full, together with a re-connection charge of seven dollars fifty cents (\$7.50). It shall be the duty of the city recorder and or other designated persons to notify the operator of the water system of such delinquency, who shall proceed immediately to the premises of the customer so in arrears and disconnect service. (1996 Code, § 18-103)

18-104. Service call charges. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee, shall establish rules and regulations for regulating charges for service calls when said water and/or sewer customer's request the service call, as follows:

Domestic and commercial customers shall pay a service call charge of seven dollars fifty cents (\$7.50) if a problem is found to be on the customer's side of the meter. At the customer's request, the water superintendent will repair said problem for the cost of labor and materials. (1996 Code, § 18-104)

18-105. Tapping or connection fee. (1) Tapping or connection fees for water be increased as follows effective January 1, 1998:

(a) Domestic customers - 3/4' x 5/8" meter: five hundred dollar (\$500.00) tap; or

(b) Commercial customers - seven hundred fifty dollar (\$750.00)/tap or 1.1 x actual cost, whichever is larger.

(2) Tapping or connection fees for sewer be increased as follows effective January 1, 1998:

(a) Domestic customers: five hundred dollars (\$500.00)/tap; or

(b) Commercial customers: seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) or 1.1 x actual cost, whichever is larger. (1996 Code, § 18-105)

18-106. Permit and deposit required for service. Each customer shall, before connecting with the water and sewer systems, obtain a permit from the city recorder and/or other designated persons, and shall deposit thirty dollars (\$30.00) domestic (water), forty dollars (\$40.00) commercial (water), thirty dollars (\$30.00) domestic (sewer), forty dollars (\$40.00) commercial (sewer), as security for the prompt payment of all accounts of the subscriber with the system, which deposit shall be returned to the subscriber upon termination of the services, if all charges due the system have been paid. In the event that the subscriber becomes in arrears in such charges, then such deposit shall be used in whole, or in part, in liquidation of same, and the deposit by the subscriber shall be his consent to such use in such an event. All such deposits shall be retained in a separate account to be accounted for at the termination of service, except in the case of a subscriber becoming in arrears in charges, at which time the deposit may be withdrawn from the special account and applied to the payment of the delinquent charge, provided however, that this deposit may be waived in the case of over occupied property at the discretion of the city officials.

All commercial and industrial customers requesting a water and/or sewer tap be required to submit building plans, and to include commercial and industrial applications, estimated water usage, estimated volume and type of wastewater generated, proposed grade changes and site elevations, proposed paved road and parking areas.

They shall be required to deposit an estimated cost amount with the city recorder and/or other designated person, to cover approximately 1.1 x actual cost from the main water and/or sewer lines leading to the privately owned property line.

Upon completion of the installation any overpayment will be refunded to said customer or any due the city shall be paid in full at that time. (1996 Code, § 18-106)

18-107. Tampering with meters prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person and/or persons to tamper or change any water meter, or to make any connection to the system without permission from the city recorder, and/or other designated person or to re-connect service, when it has been disconnected for

non-payment of a bill for service, until such bill has been paid in full, including the re-connection fee. Upon conviction, there shall be a penalty imposed of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). (1996 Code, § 18-107)

18-108. Inspection fee. The inspection fee shall be seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50). This revenue will be paid to the water superintendent. (1996 Code, § 18-108)

18-109. All plumbing, etc. shall conform to the plumbing code. All plumbing, including pipes, valves, fittings and interior fixtures shall conform to the plumbing code and meet the applicable minimum health and sanitation standards of the state and city. (1996 Code, § 18-109)

18-110. Rate changes. (1) Since the issuance and sale of one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$155,000.00) in waterworks revenue and tax bonds dated February 1, 1958, waterworks revenue and tax bonds approved for issuance and sale by the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee, March 1, 1975, in the amount of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00), sewer system revenue and tax bonds approved for issuance and sale by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Rutledge, Tennessee, February 16, 1970, in the amount of two hundred seventeen thousand dollars (\$217,000.00), is predicated upon a covenant by the City of Rutledge to maintain rates for the services provided by the water and/or sewer systems as shall produce income and revenue sufficient when combined with other legally available funds to pay the reasonable cost of operation and maintenance of said systems and to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds punctually and promptly as the same shall become due, and to maintain a reasonable reserve therefor.

(2) Annual notification be made to users stating a portion of the user charge is attributable to operation and maintenance of the treatment plant.

(3) The user charge is to cover depreciation, and minor replacement cost of the wastewater treatment facilities, and will be distributed proportionately to customers. Additional costs for operation and maintenance due to extraneous flows (infiltration and inflow) will be shared by all customers.

(4) The sewer system charges must be reviewed no less often than every two (2) years, and the rates in this chapter shall not be changed to the extent the covenant above referred to will be impaired or adversely affected. (1996 Code, § 18-110)

18-111. City may refuse service. We, the City of Rutledge, Tennessee reserve the right to refuse any person or persons water and/or sewer service which is not economically feasible. (1996 Code, § 18-111)

CHAPTER 2

CROSS CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.¹

SECTION

- 18-201. Definitions.
- 18-202. Standards.
- 18-203. Construction, operation, and supervision.
- 18-204. Statement required.
- 18-205. Inspections required.
- 18-206. Right of entry for inspections.
- 18-207. Correction of existing violations.
- 18-208. Use of protective devices.
- 18-209. Unpotable water to be labeled.
- 18-210. Violations and penalty.

18-201. Definitions. The following definitions and terms shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

(1) "Auxiliary intake." Any piping connection or other device whereby water may be secured from a source other than that normally used.

(2) "Bypass." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the water may be diverted around any part or portion of a water purification plant.

(3) "Cross connection." Any physical arrangement whereby the public water system is connected, directly or indirectly, with any other water supply system, whether sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or other device which contains, or may contain, contaminated water, sewage, or other waste or liquid of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply as a result of backflow. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or change-over devices through which, or because of which, backflow could occur are considered to be cross connections.

(4) "Interconnection." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the public water system is connected directly with a sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, or other device which does or may contain sewage or other waste or liquid which would be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply.

(5) "Person." Any corporation, company, association, partnership, state, municipality, utility district, water cooperative, or federal agency.

¹Municipal code references

Plumbing code: title 12.

Water and sewer system administration: title 18.

Wastewater treatment: title 18.

(6) "Public water system." The waterworks system which furnishes water to the City of Rutledge for general use and which is recognized as the public water system by the Tennessee Department of Health. (1996 Code, § 18-201)

18-202. Standards. The City of Rutledge Public Water System is to comply with *Tennessee Code Annotated*, §§ 68-221-701 through 68-221-720 as well as the *Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems*, legally adopted in accordance with this code, which pertain to cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, and interconnections, and establish an effective ongoing program to control these undesirable water uses. (1996 Code, § 18-202)

18-203. Construction, operation, and supervision. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause a cross connection to be made, or allow one to exist for any purpose whatsoever, unless the construction and operation of same have been approved by the Tennessee Department of Health and the operation of such cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass or interconnection is at all times under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of Waterworks of the City of Rutledge Public Water System. (1996 Code, § 18-203)

18-204. Statement required. Any person whose premises are supplied with water from the public water supply and who also has on the same premises a separate source of water supply, or stores water in an uncovered or unsanitary storage reservoir from which the water stored therein is circulated through a piping system, shall file with the superintendent of waterworks a statement of the non-existence of unapproved or unauthorized cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections. Such statement shall also contain an agreement that no cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection will be permitted upon the premises. (1996 Code, § 18-204)

18-205. Inspections required. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Waterworks of the City of Rutledge Public Water System to cause inspections to be made of all properties served by the public water supply where cross connections with the public water supply are deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and reinspection, based on potential health hazards involved, shall be established by the Superintendent of Waterworks of the City of Rutledge Public Water System and as approved by the Tennessee Department of Health. (1996 Code, § 18-205)

18-206. Right of entry for inspections. The superintendent of waterworks or his authorized representative shall have the right to enter, at any reasonable time, any property served by a connection to the City of Rutledge Public Water System for the purpose of inspecting the piping system or systems therein for cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections.

On request, the owner, lessee, or occupant of any property so served shall furnish to the inspection agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property. The refusal of such information or refusal of access, when requested, shall be deemed evidence of the presence of cross connections. (1996 Code, § 18-206)

18-207. Correction of existing violations. Any person who now has cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be allowed a reasonable time within which to comply with the provisions of this chapter. After a thorough investigation of existing conditions and an appraisal of the time required to complete the work, the amount of time shall be designated by the Superintendent of Waterworks of the City of Rutledge Public Water System.

The failure to correct conditions threatening the safety of the public water system as prohibited by this chapter and the *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 68-221-711, within a reasonable time and within the time limits set by the City of Rutledge Public Water System, shall be grounds for denial of water service. If proper protection has not been provided after a reasonable time, the utility shall give the customer legal notification that water service is to be discontinued and shall physically separate the public water system from the customer's on-site piping system in such a manner that the two systems cannot again be connected by an unauthorized person.

Where cross connections, interconnections, auxiliary intakes, or bypasses are found that constitute an extreme hazard of immediate concern of contaminating the public water system, the management of the water system shall require that immediate corrective action be taken to eliminate the threat to the public water system. Immediate steps shall be taken to disconnect the public water system from the on-site piping system unless the imminent hazard(s) is (are) corrected immediately. (1996 Code, § 18-207)

18-208. Use of protective devices. Where the nature of use of the water supplied a premises by the water system is such that it is deemed:

- (1) Impractical to provide an effective air-gap separation.
- (2) That the owner and/or occupant of the premises cannot, or is not willing, to demonstrate to the official in charge of the water system, or his designated representative, that the water use and protective features of the plumbing are such as to propose no threat to the safety or potability of the water system.
- (3) That the nature and mode of operation within a premises are such that frequent alterations are made to the plumbing.
- (4) There is a likelihood that protective measures may be subverted, altered, or disconnected.

The Superintendent of Waterworks of the City of Rutledge Public Water System, or his designated representative, shall require the use of an approved

protective device on the service line serving the premises to assure that any contamination that may originate in the customer's premises is contained therein. The protective device shall be a reduced pressure zone type backflow preventer approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as to manufacture, model, and size. The method of installation of backflow protective devices shall be approved by the superintendent of waterworks prior to installation and shall comply with the criteria set forth by the Tennessee Department of Health. The installation shall be at the expense of the owner or occupant of the premises.

Personnel of the City of Rutledge Public Water System shall have the right to inspect and test the device or devices on an annual basis or whenever deemed necessary by the superintendent of waterworks, or his designated representative. Water service shall not be disrupted to test the device without the knowledge of the occupant of the premises.

Where the use of water is critical to the continuance of normal operations or protection of life, property, or equipment, duplicate units shall be provided to avoid the necessity of discontinuing water service to test or repair the protective device or devices. Where it is found that only one (1) unit has been installed and the continuance of service is critical, the superintendent of waterworks shall notify, in writing, the occupant of the premises of plans to discontinue water service and arrange for a mutually acceptable time to test and/or repair the device. The water system shall require the occupant of the premises to make all repairs indicated promptly, to keep the unit(s) working properly, and the expense of such repairs shall be borne by the owner or occupant of the premises. Repairs shall be made by qualified personnel acceptable to the Superintendent of Waterworks of the City of Rutledge Public Water System.

The failure to maintain backflow prevention devices in proper working order shall be grounds for discontinuing water service to a premises. Likewise, the removal, bypassing, or altering of the protective device(s) or the installation thereof so as to render the device(s) ineffective shall constitute grounds for discontinuance of water service. Water service to such premises shall not be restored until the customer has corrected or eliminated such conditions or defects to the satisfaction of the City of Rutledge Public Water System. (1996 Code, § 18-208)

18-209. Unpotable water to be labeled. The potable water system made available to premises served by the public water system shall be protected from possible contamination as specified herein. Any water outlet which could be used for potable or domestic purposes and which is not supplied by the potable system must be labeled in a conspicuous manner as:

WATER UNSAFE

FOR DRINKING

Minimum acceptable sign shall have black letters at least one-inch (1") high located on a red background. (1996 Code, § 18-209)

18-210. Violations and penalty. The requirements contained herein shall apply to all premises served by the City of Rutledge Public Water System, whether located inside or outside the corporate limits and are hereby made a part of the conditions required to be met for the city to provide water services to any premises. Such action, being essential for the protection of the water distribution system against the entrance of contamination which may render the water unsafe healthwise, or otherwise undesirable, shall be enforced rigidly without regard to location of the premises, whether inside or outside the City of Rutledge corporate limits.

Any person who neglects or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction therefor, shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), and each day of continued violation after conviction shall constitute a separate offense. (1996 Code, § 18-210, modified)