



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Board of Public Works	Date: 11/17/2016
Common Council Item Number: ID# 16-1717	Date: 12/6/2016
Submitted By: Fred Abadi, P.E. Public Works Director	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
Finance Department Review: Rich Abbott, Finance Director RA	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BR
Subject: Discussion and recommendation to Council: Amendment of Municipal Code Section 29.10(5), Credit Meters (Clean Water Plant)	

Details:
 The Water Utility recently evaluated our sewer use ordinance (Chapter 29) regarding credit meters, and determined that allowing a sewer credit for customers who irrigate their property is contrary to the City's water conservation plan. On August 18, 2016 the Water Commission approved a recommendation that the residential sewer credit meter program be phased out. The attached memo from Donna Scholl, Water Utility Administrative Services Manager, details the basis for the Water Utility's concern. The attached proposed amendment will continue to allow credit for non-irrigation purposes such as industrial evaporative losses, while maintaining credit for commercial and public irrigation (e.g., garden centers and athletic fields), and commercial pools that are drained to the storm sewer. Residential customers may still receive a one-time credit for filling a pool or watering a new lawn. New credit meter accounts will not be allowed starting January 1. Existing accounts going back to 2010 will be allowed to receive credit for 7 years, which is the average residential payback period after installing a meter.

Attachments:
 1. Water Utility Memorandum
 2. Water Commission Meeting Minutes, 8/18/16
 3. Proposed amendment to Section 29.10(5), Credit Meters

Options & Alternatives:
 Shorten or lengthen the phase-out period, or maintain the existing program.

Financial Remarks:
 Sewer revenue would increase slightly. Water Utility administrative costs charged to the Clean Water Plant would be reduced. Residential credit customers tend to delay sending in their meter readings, resulting in time spent recalculating bills sometimes over several years and rate structures.

Executive Recommendation:
 Approve the proposed amendment to Section 29.01(5).

