



Waukesha Water Utility

SERVING WAUKESHA SINCE 1886

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2016
TO: Daniel Duchniak, PE
FROM: Donna Scholl, CPA
RE: Sewer Credit Meters

Currently City Ordinance 29.14 (6) (b), Credit Meters, allows customers to install a sewer credit meter to measure the water used that does not drain into the sewer system.

Given that the city is in the process of rewriting Chapter 29, I would like to take this opportunity to recommend that the City restrict the use of credit meters to commercial and industrial customers. Providing a credit to residential users is contrary to the City's Water Conservation Program. Many of the industrial and commercial customers who have credit meters reuse the water that does not go down the drain, but residential customers do not.

Furthermore, the costs for DPW to administer the credits for residential customers is disproportionately high compared to the other customers classes. Residential customers are the least compliant class when it comes to calling in their credit meter readings, resulting in the recalculations of bills sometimes over several years and rate structures. Furthermore, our calculations indicate that it takes the average residential customer 6 years to break even on the installation of a sewer credit meter.

In summary, phasing out the use of residential sewer credit meters would not only strengthen the City's conservation plan, but it would also promote a more efficient use of staff.

Please contact me with any questions that you might have.

Recommended Motion: Recommend that the City Council phase out the use of residential sewer credit meters.