



July 19, 2022

CITY OF GEORGETOWN MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY FEE REVIEW



MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY FEE REVIEW

- Opportunity to review fees in conjunction with current Electric Rate Study.
- Fees last reviewed and updated in 2012:
 - Updated a Meter Tamper fee to reflect all the costs associated with as a deterrent and incentive safety
 - Removed outdated sections
 - Added option to waive deposit upon electing to pay bill with a recurring automatic draft for a consecutive 12-month period
- Prior to 2012, last updated in early 2000:
 - Updated deposit requirements
 - Adjusted fees
- Why now?
 - Last review done 10 years ago.
 - Significantly increase in labor and other operating costs
 - Align with the cost-of-service study currently underway

AGENDA

1

Miscellaneous Utility Fees Overview

2

Cost Basis for Fees

3

Recommended Fees

BACKGROUND

- Referred to as “Miscellaneous Utility Service Fees and Charges”
- What are supplemental fees and charges?
 - Fees and charges for nonstandard, one-time services
 - Historically cost based
 - Infrequent
 - Common among Municipally Owned Utilities
- Examples:
 - Connection Fee
 - Meter Tampering Fee
 - Electric Service Trip Fee

BACKGROUND

- Last reviewed and updated in 2012:
 - Updated a Meter Tamper fee as a deterrent and incentive safety
 - Removed outdated sections
 - Added option to waive deposit upon electing to pay bill with a recurring automatic draft for a consecutive 12-month period
- Prior to 2012, last updated in early 2000:
 - Updated deposit requirements
 - Adjusted fees
- Why update now?
 - Significantly increase in labor and other operating costs
 - Align with the cost-of-service study currently underway

COST CONSIDERATIONS FOR FEES

- Labor:
 - Salary, Benefits and Overheads
 - City vs. Rural
 - Type of labor:
 - Journey Man
 - Customer Service Representative
 - Billing personnel
 - Legal and law enforcement personnel
- Materials:
 - Meters
 - Meter Can
- Equipment:
 - Follow FEMA guidance

METER TAMPERING FEE

Meter Tampering Fee

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Meter Technician	\$51.51
	Billing Specialist	\$61.84
	Legal-Assistant City Attorney	\$77.00
	Police-Detective	\$37.80
	Billing Manager	\$73.62
Materials	Meter	\$159.60
	Meter Can	\$102.12
Equipment	Service Truck	\$20.57
Total		\$584.06

In addition to the Meter Tampering Fee, any lost revenue as a result of the tampering will be recovered from the customer

REPAYMENT PLAN ADMINISTRATION FEE

Repayment Plan Administration Fees

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Customer Service Representative	\$15.30
	Total	\$15.30

Payment Plans are assessed and granted on a case-by-case basis and the language in the Ordinance will reflect this.

RECONNECT FEE

Reconnect Fee

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Meter Technician	\$64.38
Equipment	Service Truck	\$25.72
	Total	\$90.10

City will review alignment of reconnection fees based on location (Inside City, ETJ, and Rural Area) and incorporate into business processes to determine an updated reconnection fee based on location as part of the CIS Billing Software Upgrade.

AFTER-HOURS RECONNECT FEE

After Hours Reconnect Fee

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Meter Technician	\$96.58
Equipment	Service Truck	\$25.71
	Total	\$122.29

City will review alignment of reconnection fees based on location (Inside City, ETJ, and Rural Area) and incorporate into business processes to determine an updated reconnection fee based on location as part of the CIS Billing Software Upgrade.

After hours are defined as same day requests received after 1PM for same day installations.

TEMPORARY METER

Temporary Meter

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Journeyman Lineman	\$63.74
	DAS Technician	\$18.33
Materials	#2 OH Triplex	\$75.00
Equipment	Small Bucket Truck	\$54.67
	Total	\$211.74

ELECTRIC SERVICE TRIP FEE NEW FEE

Electrical Service Trip Fee

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Journeyman Lineman	\$63.74
Equipment	Small Bucket Truck	\$54.67
	Total	\$118.41

Electrical Service Trip is a proposed fee that is not in the current ordinance and has not been charged previously. Once the fee is approved, the process and language for this fee will need to be determined.

UTILITY ACCOUNT SET-UP FEE

New or Transfer Account

Cost Element	Description	Rate
Labor	Billing Specialist	\$30.92
	DAS Technician	\$18.33
Other	CIS Technology Fees	\$22.14
	Total	\$71.39

CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED FEES

Deposit Requirement or Service Charge	Current	Recommended ⁽¹⁾
Meter Tampering Fee	\$300	\$585
Repayment Plan Admin Fee	\$20	\$15
Reconnection Fee	\$30	\$95
Reconnection Fee After Hours	\$50	\$125
Temporary Meter	\$60	\$215
Service Trip Fee	N/A	\$120
Utility Account Set-up Fee	\$30	\$75

(1) Rounded up to the nearest \$5 increment

RECOMMENDED FEES COMPARED TO REGIONAL TEXAS UTILITIES

Deposit Requirement or Service Charge	Recommended Georgetown Utility	Pedernales Electric Corp.	Bryan Texas Utility	New Braunfels Utility	CPS	Austin Energy
Meter Tampering Fee	\$585	\$500	\$100	\$150	\$40	\$850
Repayment Plan Admin Fee	\$15	No Additional Fee	No Additional Fee	No Additional Fee	No Additional Fee	No Additional Fee
Reconnection Fee	\$95	\$75	City – \$20 Rural – \$35	\$75	\$24	\$500
Reconnection Fee After Hours	\$125	Not listed in Ordinance	City – \$35 Rural – \$50	\$125	\$30	\$800
Temporary Meter	\$215	\$300	\$20	\$200 deposit	\$150	\$265
Service Trip Fee	\$120	\$100	\$25	Not listed in Ordinance	\$20	\$30
Utility Account Set-up Fee	\$75	\$50	\$145 Deposit	\$45	Deposit may be required	\$20 \$200 Deposit

REVENUES UNDER CURRENT AND PROPOSED FEES – FY 2021

Deposit Requirement or Service Charge	FY 2021 Revenue Under Current Rates	FY 2021 Estimated ⁽¹⁾ Revenue Under Proposed Rates	Difference
Meter Tampering Fee	\$1,800	\$3,510	\$1,710
Repayment Plan Admin Fee	\$2,660	\$1,995	-\$665
Reconnection Fee	\$234,480	\$278,445	\$43,965
Reconnection Fee After Hours	\$0	\$0	\$0
Temporary Meter	\$0	\$322,500	\$322,500
Utility Account Set-up Fee	\$632,970	\$1,582,425	\$949,455
Total Revenue	\$871,910	\$2,188,875	\$1,316,965

(1) Estimated revenues using actual billing determinants

REVENUES UNDER CURRENT AND PROPOSED FEES – FY2022 YTD

Deposit Requirement or Service Charge	FY 2022 Revenue Under Current Rates	FY 2022 Estimated ⁽¹⁾ Revenue Under Proposed Rates	Difference
Meter Tampering Fee	\$2,100	\$4,095	\$1,995
Repayment Plan Admin Fee	\$560	\$420	-\$140
Reconnection Fee	\$163,440	\$194,085	\$30,645
Reconnection Fee After Hours	\$0	\$0	\$0
Temporary Meter	\$0	\$322,500	\$322,500
Utility Account Set-up Fee	\$447,210	\$1,118,025	\$670,815
Total Revenue	\$613,310	\$1,639,125	\$1,025,815

(1) Estimated revenues using projected billing determinants

CONCLUSIONS

Supplemental fees and charges are

- Fees and charges for nonstandard, one-time services
- Historically cost based
- Infrequent
- Common among electric utilities

Miscellaneous Fees need to be to be updated

- Last review done 10 years ago.
- Significantly increase in labor and other operating costs
- Align with the cost-of-service study currently underway

QUESTIONS

