

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATED SECTIONS 7-2-5 –
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS GENERALLY, OF THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia:

That Section 7-2-5 be amended as shown:

Sec. 7-2-5. – Fire suppression systems.

- (a) Where City water service is to be used for a fire suppression system (including a sprinkler system or a standpipe for fire protection only) on any parcel a detector check valve, a bypass meter, and a backflow preventing device shall be installed on such parcel in accordance with the City's Design and Construction Standards Manual. All costs and expenses related to the installation of the fire suppression system shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- (b) Private hydrants are prohibited except where specifically approved by the Fire Chief and meet the following requirements:
 - 1) Installed meeting all conditions (a) above,
or
 - 2) Installed behind a domestic water meter of sufficient size to deliver the needed fire flow, and with an acceptable backflow prevention device and/or program meeting BOCA requirements.
- (c) The installation of fire suppression systems on a parcel occupied by multiple buildings shall be subject to the requirements and exceptions for water meters as set forth in Section 7-2-10.
- (d) There shall be no charge for water used for fire suppression purposes except the greater of (i) the minimum water charge for the bypass meter or (ii) the actual gallons expended for testing purposes or due to leakage.
- (e) No connection or outlet shall be made to any fire suppression system without the written consent of the Director, and should it be found that any unauthorized connection has been made, or that water has been used from a fire suppression system for any other purpose than extinguishing a fire or testing of a system, the user shall be charged either the recorded gallonage or the minimum bill based on the meter size equal to the sprinkler pipe size, whichever is greater. If there are more than three violations of this subsection by an owner or tenant, they may be required to install, at their own cost, a standard meter of appropriate size, as determined by the Director, to deliver the needed fire flow to the fire suppression system. The owner or tenant shall also pay to the City all fees and costs required by Sections 7-4-22 and 7-4-23. If the owner or tenant refuses to install the required standard meter, water service to the fire suppression system may be discontinued and disconnected from the City mains until the required meter is installed and all fees required by this subsection are paid. The Director shall notify the Harrisonburg Building Official and the Harrisonburg Fire

Chief at least 48 hours before discontinuing water service to a fire suppression system for any reason.

- (f) The service pipes, detector check valve, backflow preventing device, and vault used in a fire suppression system shall be maintained by the customer as required in Section 7-2-9. The City shall provide the meter for installation by the customer upon payment of all fees and costs required by Sections 7-4-22 and 7-4-23. Access by the City for meter reading and/or inspections may be accomplished according to Section 7-2-21 of this Code.

This ordinance shall be effective from the 22nd day of August, 2023. Adopted and approved this _____ day of _____, 2023.

MAYOR

ATTESTE:

CITY CLERK

