

**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. – ~~Sprinkler Systems generally.~~ Fire suppression systems.**

~~a) Where the city water is to be used for a sprinkler system or a stand pipe for fire protection only, a detector check valve, bypass meter and a back flow preventing device shall be installed, on location, and according to the city's design and construction standards manual, at the expense of the applicant in addition to the regular tapping charge.~~

~~(b) Any additional equipment installed by the water department in connection with the fire service attached to the city's water system shall be paid for by the owner or applicant thereof at cost, plus twenty (20) percent. Should such service be for underground piping and fire hydrants, the same shall be supplied with a "detector meter" of the size of the main to which it is attached, such installation being in accordance with rules and regulations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.~~

~~(c) No charge shall be made for water and used for fire purposes except the minimum water charge or actual gallons used for testing purposes shall apply to the bypass meter as per section 7-4-1 of this Code.~~

~~(d) In no instance shall any connection or outlet be made with any sprinkler or fire service 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 sprinkler or fire service 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 sprinkler pipe size, whichever is more. For continued violations, a standard meter of the equivalent size of the service pipe may be installed and paid for by the owner or tenant at the actual cost of making the installation plus twenty (20) percent or the service permanently discontinued and disconnected from the city mains.~~

~~(e) The pipes located beyond the city's right-of-way, detector check valve, back flow preventing device, bypass meter and vault shall be maintained by the customer, except the city shall provide the meter for installation by the customer. Access by the city for meter reading and/or inspections may be accomplished according to section 7-3-13 or per section 7-3-11 of this Code.~~

(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 12 of Sept, 2023. Adopted and approved this 12 day of Sept, 2023.

Deanna L. Reed

MAYOR

ATTESTE:

Pamela Ulmer

CITY CLERK