

CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 03-25

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, AMENDING
BUCKLEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 14.04 MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, Chapter 14.04 of the Buckley Municipal Code establishes policies and rules regarding the Municipal Water Supply; and

WHEREAS, the Code does not specify how the City may adjust a utility bill due to a water leak; and

WHEREAS, the City does not provide customers with a process to request an adjustment to their utility bill if they experience an undetected water leak and promptly repair the leak upon discovery.

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Buckley Municipal Code Section 14.04.152 titled "Adjustment of utility bills" is added as follows:

14.04. Adjustment of Utility Bills

- (1) A City water utility customer may apply in writing to the City Finance Department, a water leak rate adjustment. Making such a request does not extend the period for payment of the water bill. Requests for adjustments on delinquent accounts will not be acted upon until paid in full.
- (2) A water leak rate adjustment is permitted once in a twelve (12) month period and may only be applied to one billing period.
- (3) The request for adjustment must be made within 30 days of the invoice date for the bill the customer is seeking adjustment.
- (4) The water leak must be between the customer's water meter and the residence or within their residence. Irrigation system leaks are not eligible for adjustment.
- (5) The customer must provide proof that the leak was repaired such as an invoice for repairs or parts or pictures.
- (6) Average processing time for an adjustment is 1 (one) to 2 (two) weeks. The customer is responsible for payment until any adjustment is processed. Late fees will be applicable until the balance is paid in full.
- (7) Following the receipt of a written request for a water leak adjustment, the Public Services and Finance Department Directors shall review the request and determine whether or not to approve the water leak rate adjustment. In order to make proper determination, City staff shall be entitled to access, inspect, and approve the customer's water line repair prior to granting a water leak rate adjustment.
- (8) If approved, the City shall make a water leak rate adjustment by issuing a credit to the customer's account. The adjustment shall not exceed the total water usage for the billing period sought for

the adjustment minus the customer's average consumption for the past three years for the same period the leak occurred. For customers who have been receiving service less than three years, the average water consumption shall be based on the average usage for that classification of customer for that time period in the previous year. In no instance shall the water leak adjustment exceed \$1,000.00.


Section 2. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance or a summary thereof consisting of the title shall be published in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after publication.

Introduced, passed, and approved this 22nd day of April 2025.


Beau Burkett, Mayor

Attest:


Treva Zumek, City Clerk


APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Phil Olbrechts, City Attorney

PUBLISHED: April 30, 2025

EFFECTIVE: May 6, 2025