

Ordinance amending Corpus Christi Code, Section 55-37 to establish requirements for water wells to avoid cross connection with City water supply and to include backflow prevention device testing filing fee which was previously established in City Code Section 14-1313 and providing for penalty and publication, effective October 1, 2025.

Whereas, it is necessary to establish requirements to avoid cross connection between the City water supply and a water well;

Whereas, the backflow prevention device testing filing fee of \$20.00 was previously established and codified at City Code Section 14-1313 Development Services Fee Schedule;

Whereas, it is recommended to move the fee from the Development Services Fee Schedule into Section 55-37 which provides procedures for installation, testing, repair, and replacement of backflow prevention devices and associated billing;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 55-37 of the Corpus Christi Code of Ordinances is amended to delete the struck-through text and insert the underlined text shown as follows:

Sec. 55-37. - Procedures for installation, testing, repair, and replacement of backflow prevention devices and associated billing.

(a) The city plumbing code, city building code, city residential code, and state laws and regulations establish requirements for installation and testing of backflow prevention devices for protection of the municipal water supply. The utility customer is responsible to install and maintain the required backflow prevention device in accordance with said code and regulations and as further provided in this section. For purposes of this section, the city plumbing code, the city building code, and the city residential code refer to said codes as adopted by city Ordinance 030847, as amended from time to time. Upon installation, maintenance or repair of a water well on property with City water utility service lines, the property owner shall obtain a Customer Service Inspection (CSI) for cross-connection prevention purposes from a State of Texas licensed Customer Service Inspector. If it is determined after the CSI that the water well and the City water system are physically separated and not cross-connected, then this separation shall serve as an air gap. The property owner must obtain periodic CSIs every three years to demonstrate that the two separate systems are protected by an air gap. The property owner or third-party CSI inspector shall provide a copy of the CSI report to the City's third-party database within 10 days of inspection. It is prohibited for any person or entity to cause or allow a cross-connection between a water well and the City water system where there is no air gap or reduced pressure assembly installed at the meter on the premises.

(b) Backflow prevention devices must be tested as required by Corpus Christi Code by a state-licensed backflow prevention assembly tester to be certified to be operating in accordance with applicable standards, with a copy of the test results to be provided to the city manager or designee filed with the city's third-party database within ten (10) days of the testing. The backflow prevention device testing filing fee is \$20.00.

(c) In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code § 290.44(h)(1)(B)(iii), it is the responsibility of the city, as the water purveyor, to ensure that backflow requirements are met. In dealing with a non-compliant customer, the city will, at its discretion, require the customer, at the customer's expense, to use a third party contractor to inspect, install, repair and/or replace the backflow prevention device required by this section, adopted codes, state or federal laws or regulations to protect the city's water supply from potential contamination.

(d) If the utility customer fails to comply with this section, the city, at its discretion, can refuse to connect the utility customer or disconnect the property, facility, or unit from the city's water supply system. Failure to comply with the requirements of this section, including subsection (c), will result in the termination of the water service.

(e) If an imminent threat to the city's water system exists, the city will terminate the customer's water service immediately.

(f) A violation of this section is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day any violation of this section continues constitutes a separate offense.

(g) The provisions of this section shall apply to the provision of water provided to customers, other than wholesale customers, inside and outside the city limits unless otherwise contradicted in a written contract to supply water to said outside city limits customer.

(Ord. No. 031067, § 4, 2-14-2017; Ord. No. 032617, § 2, 12-7-2021; Ord. No. 033156, § 4, 9-5-2023)

SECTION 2. Section 14-1313 of the City Code is amended by deleting the struck-through text shown as follows to remove the following fees from the Technical construction codes fee schedule:

~~BACKFLOW PREVENTION~~

~~Backflow prevention device test filing fee \$20.00~~

~~Minimum Fee _____ \$100.00~~

Section 14-1313 of the Corpus Christi Code is amended to delete the backflow prevention

SECTION 3. Publication shall be made in the official publication of the City of Corpus Christi as required by the City Charter of the City of Corpus Christi. Penalties are as provided in Section 55-37. This ordinance takes effect October 1, 2025 upon publication.

SECTION 4. If for any reason any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word, or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any other section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word, or provision of this ordinance, for it is the definite intent of this City Council that every section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word, or provision hereof be given full force and effect for its purpose.

Introduced and voted on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED and APPROVED on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Paulette Guajardo, Mayor

Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary