



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Public Hearing & First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting 11/09/21
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting 11/16/21

DATE: November 9, 2021
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
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Update to City Code Chapter 55 Industrial Backflow

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Chapter 55 of the Corpus Christi Code to require industrial facilities to have either a reduced pressure backflow device or air gap at each City meter servicing potable water; a double check assembly for fire service lines; an industrial district affidavit upon installing, repairing, or replacing a reduced pressure backflow preventer or an air gap; annual backflow preventer testing; and providing for penalty.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance establishes a new Section 55-96 and updates Section 55-37 in the Corpus Christi Code for Industrial backflow requirements. The ordinance provides backflow prevention assembly requirements, annual testing and report submittal requirements, and potential penalties for Industrial facilities located inside City Limits and in Industrial Districts.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

General

The City has a long-standing backflow prevention assembly requirement in the Municipal Code that has specific requirements for Industrial customers. Numerous Industrial customers requested clarification regarding the existing ordinance and requirements. This change to the language clarifies requirements on installation, testing, and notification requirements for Industrial facilities located inside City Limits and in Industrial Districts.

Industrial District customers abide by their own section of the Municipal Code related to repairs, installations, and permitting backflow protection. They do not need to pull permits when it comes to plumbing or building codes. Therefore, the City will not be made aware if a cross-connection is constructed into a City water line. This change will affect all Industrial District customers that are not required to pull City permits.

Many Industrial customers have internal cross-connection programs, and many are compliant by

installing a reduced pressure backflow preventer assembly directly after the meter. However, some customers still have pressure vacuum breakers that do not provide adequate protection against high-health hazards. Industrial customers will be required to have a reduced pressure backflow preventer assembly or an air gap at the City meter to protect the City's public water system.

Code Amendments

The updated language of the City of Corpus Christi Municipal Code Chapter 55 includes:

- Defining the water connection as potable, which is important because all potable water connections will need to have a reduced pressure backflow preventer assembly, double-check assembly, or an air gap at the City meter to protect the City's public drinking water system
- Requiring a reduced pressure backflow assembly, which provides the most protection against high-health hazards
- Adding double-check assembly requirements for dedicated fire service lines
- Adding installation location and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requirements, with the location of the assembly at the City meter being critical to protect the City's public water system from a backflow contamination event that could occur past the City meter by a cross-connection
- Clarifying language added for the assembly testing and report filing timeframe
- Adding Industrial district affidavit requirements for backflow testing that will certify the backflow preventer assemblies or air gap are still in place after the City's meter to protect the City's public water system

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could deny the language change.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no financial impact to the City of Corpus Christi.

Funding Detail:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the revised language in Municipal Code Chapter 55, sections 37 and 96, Industrial Backflow.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance