

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY OF MONROE CODE OF ORDINANCES**  
**TITLE V: PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CHAPTER 56: WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE**  
**O-2026-23**

Pursuant to authority granted in Part 1, Article 16 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes of North Carolina and for the purpose of promoting the health, safety and welfare to the citizens of Monroe;

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Monroe City Council that Title V titled Public Works of the City of Monroe Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

**Section 1.** Delete Chapter 56 titled Water Shortage Response in its entirety and replace with the following:

**CHAPTER 56: WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE**

Section

- 56.01 Declaration
- 56.02 Definitions
- 56.03 Description of water supply shortages
- 56.04 Stages of water supply shortages
- 56.05 Public notification of water supply shortages
- 56.06 Compliance required in the event of water supply shortage
- 56.07 Restrictions and prohibitions during water supply shortage
- 56.08 Water supply shortage rates and surcharges
- 56.09 Compliance
- 56.10 Enforcement and civil penalty
- 56.11 Criminal fines
- 56.12 Discontinuance of service
- 56.13 Continuing and separate violations
- 56.14 Severance provision
- 56.15 Application of chapter
- 56.16 Termination of declared emergency
- 56.17 Repeal of prior ordinances
- 56.18 Tables
- 56.19 Review and revisions to ordinance
- 56.20 Irrigation meter requirement

**§ 56.01 DECLARATION.**

Whenever the water supply of the city is declining due to conditions which may adversely affect the continued availability of water for human consumption, sanitation, health and fire protection, it may become necessary to declare a water shortage and implement conservation requirements under the standards set in this chapter.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

**§ 56.02 DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, words, and phrases and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

***AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM.*** Any system that performs landscape irrigation or watering via a timer, controller or other device, which operates independent of onsite supervision or control.

***CITY.*** The City of Monroe.

***CUSTOMER.*** A person in whose name a water connection is made and to whom a bill is issued, whether such connection is inside or outside the corporate limits of the City.

***HAND WATERING.*** Watering from hand held can or container, not connected to or filled from a hose or outside spigot.

***HOSE WATERING.*** Watering from a garden or other type of watering hose connected to an outside spigot or faucet.

***NON-POTABLE WATER.*** Water from any source other than the potable drinking water supply system. Does not include “grey water” as defined by the Health Department.

***PERSON.*** Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, limited liability company, professional association, or organization of any kind. The term PERSON shall also include customers.

***SPRINKLER WATERING.*** Watering from a hose connected sprinkler or from sprinklers connected to an irrigation system, with fixed heads that may or may not include an automatic timer control.

***WATER.*** Raw or treated water from the City public water supply system. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-29, passed 10-24-07; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07 )

**§ 56.03 DESCRIPTION OF WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE.**

(A) A water supply shortage shall be declared to exist when the reserve water supply available to the City reaches the point where continued declines in supply may jeopardize the ability to provide citizens and businesses with water needed to protect health and safety without curtailing water demand.

(B) In determining the extent of the water shortage, the following criteria shall be considered: storage levels in City lakes, inflow from stream sources, daily water use patterns and quantities, outlook for precipitation, and availability of water from other sources.

(C) A water shortage shall also be declared to exist when production, transmission, and storage facilities are incapable of meeting all daily water demands needed to protect public safety and health.  
(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07 )

**§ 56.04 STAGES OF WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE.**

The severity of the water shortage shall be determined primarily by the criteria set out in § 56.03, as it relates to the number of days of water supply remaining in the city’s system. It shall be the responsibility of the city’s General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources to monitor all components of the water supply system and determine when a shortage exists. The following stages are defined:

<i>Water Shortage Stage</i>	<i>Response Level</i>	<i>Days of Supply Remaining</i>
Stage 1	Voluntary	180
Stage 2	Mandatory	160
Stage 2A	Mandatory	130
Stage 3	Mandatory	100
Stage 4	Emergency	75
Stage 5	Rationing	50

(Ord. O-2010-01, passed 1-19-10)

**§ 56.05 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF WATER SUPPLY STORAGE.**

(A) In the event that a water shortage of any degree as defined herein occurs, the General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources shall notify the City Manager of said shortage. The City Manager is authorized and empowered, after communication to the Mayor and City Council, to give notice to the general public of the existence and severity of the water shortage. In order to protect the health, safety, and livelihood of the people supplied water by the City, the City Manager may place in effect the restrictive provisions hereinafter authorized. Notice shall be given by public press announcement and other means as deemed necessary and the terms of the notice shall become effective immediately.

(B) The General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources shall perform periodic review of the water supply status and notify the City Manager when the number of days water supply exceeds the upper threshold of the effective stage by more than ten days. In such event, the City Manager shall modify the shortage stage, or cancel the water shortage if appropriate.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02 ; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07 )

**§ 56.06 COMPLIANCE REQUIRED IN THE EVENT OF WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE.**

In the event that the City Manager issues a water shortage notice as described in this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to use or permit the use of water from the City's water system for any of the purposes hereinafter set forth until such time as this chapter is amended or repealed, or until the City Manager has declared such provisions no longer in effect.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

**§ 56.07 RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS DURING WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE.**

Upon declaration and notice by the City Manager of a water supply shortage, the following shall be in full force and effect:

(A) *Stage 1 Water Shortage.* The following voluntary water restrictions shall be requested:

(1) Voluntary, commercial, manufacturing, institutional and residential conservation measures will be strongly encouraged and recommended including the following:

(a) Inspect and repair all faulty and defective parts of faucets and toilets.

(b) Use shower for bathing rather than bathtub and limit shower to no more than five minutes. Turn off water while soaping up.

(c) Do not leave faucets running while shaving, rinsing dishes, or brushing teeth.

(d) Limit use of clothes washers and dishwashers and when used, operate fully loaded.

(e) Limit lawn watering to that necessary for plant survival. Recommend that all watering occur between sunset and sunrise.

(f) Water shrubbery the minimum required, reusing household water when possible.

(g) Limit vehicle washing.

- (h) Do not wash down outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, driveways, etc.
- (i) Install water flow restrictions in showerheads and other water saving devices.
- (j) Use disposable and biodegradable dishes where possible.
- (k) Install water saving devices in toilets such as early closing flapper valves.
- (l) Limit hours of water-cooled air conditioners.
- (m) Do not fill swimming, wading pools, or decorative ponds.
- (n) Do not allow children to play with water hose connected to the City water system.

(2) Water supply line pressure should be reduced where feasible to reduce water consumption if it will not adversely affect the operation of fixtures, equipment, public safety, or health devices.

(3) Conservation in public buildings, institutions, and similar facilities is encouraged by reducing pressure at plumbing fixtures and by installation of restricting devices.

(4) Water conservation should be followed during all phases of construction related activities. Where appropriate, water needed should be obtained from supplemental sources.

(B) *Stage 2 Water Shortage.* If the voluntary restrictions from Stage 1 are not sufficient, and the City water supply continues to decline, the mandatory water restrictions contained in Table 2 shall be imposed.

(C) *Stage 2A Water Shortage.* If the City water supply continues to decline after implementation of Stage 2 mandatory restrictions, the mandatory water restrictions shown in Table 2A, in addition to those from Stage 2, shall be imposed. In any situation where the terms and conditions of Stage 2A conflict with the terms and conditions of any other water shortage stage, the more restrictive shall apply.

(D) *Stage 3 Water Shortage.* If the City water supply continues to decline after implementation of Stage 2A mandatory restrictions, the mandatory water restrictions shown in Table 3, in addition to those from Stage 2A, shall be

imposed. In any situation where the terms and conditions of Stage 3 conflict with the terms and conditions of any other water shortage stage, the more restrictive shall apply. Usage exceeding that defined in § 56.08 shall be subject to surcharge.

(1) It shall be unlawful to:

(a) Violate any water restriction shown in Table 3.

(b) Exceed the following water usage mandate: All residential customers shall comply with the allowable use quantities in § 56.08. All non-residential customers shall reduce their water usage by 10% of their average usage during a corresponding or comparable billing period, in which no Stage of this ordinance was in effect. If no meter readings are recorded or otherwise available for a customer's billing period, an average of similar users will be established for the customer by the Water Resources Director. Nonresidential customers include governmental, commercial, industrial, multi-family, institutional, public, social, and all other such users. It is the primary responsibility of each non-residential customer to meet its mandated water use reduction in whatever manner possible, including limitation of operating hours, or days, if necessary.

(c) Each customer shall provide access to City personnel for the purposes of meter reading and monitoring compliance with this ordinance. If the mandated reduction in water usage cannot be obtained without threatening health or safety, or if there has been a significant change in the customer's circumstances, the customer may apply to the City Manager, or his or her designee, for a variance to the mandate.

(E) *Stage 4 Water Shortage.* If the City water supply continues to decline after implementation of Stage 3 restrictions, the emergency water restrictions shown in Table 4, in addition to those from Stage 3, shall be imposed. In any situation where the terms and conditions of Stage 4 conflict with the terms and conditions of any other water shortage stage, the more restrictive shall apply. Usage exceeding that defined in § 56.08 shall be subject to surcharge.

(1) It shall be unlawful to:

(a) Violate any water restriction shown in Table 4.

(b) Exceed the following water usage mandate:

1. All residential customers shall comply with the allowable use quantities in § 56.08. All non-residential customers shall reduce their water usage by 25% of their average usage during a corresponding or comparable billing period, in which no Stage of this ordinance was in effect. If no meter readings are recorded or otherwise available for a customer's billing period,

an average of similar users will be established for the customer by the General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources. Nonresidential customers include governmental, commercial, industrial, multi-family, institutional, public, social, and all other such users. It is the primary responsibility of each non-residential customer to meet its mandated water use reduction in whatever manner possible, including limitation of operating hours, or days, if necessary.

2. Each customer shall provide access to City personnel for the purposes of meter reading and monitoring compliance with this ordinance. If the mandated reduction in water usage cannot be obtained without threatening health or safety, or if there has been a significant change in the customer's circumstances, the customer may apply to the City Manager, or his or her designee, for a variance to the mandate.

(F) *Stage 5 Water Shortage.*

(1) If the City water supply continues to decline after implementation of Stage 4 restrictions, the rationing water restrictions shown in Table 5, in addition to those from Stage 4, shall be imposed. In any situation where the terms and conditions of Stage 5 conflict with the terms and conditions of any other water shortage stage, the more restrictive shall apply. Usage exceeding that defined in § 56.08 shall be subject to surcharge.

(2) It shall be unlawful to:

(a) Violate any water restriction shown in Table 5.

(b) Serve food or beverages in restaurants, cafeterias, and other commercial food establishments to customers using anything other than disposable plates, saucers, cups, utensils, napkins, and tablecloths.

(c) Exceed the following water usage mandate: All residential customers shall comply with the allowable use quantities in § 56.08. All non-residential customers shall reduce their water usage by 50% of their average usage during a corresponding or comparable billing period, in which no Stage of this ordinance was in effect. If no meter readings are recorded or otherwise available for a customer's billing period, an average of similar users will be established for the customer by the General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources. Nonresidential customers include governmental, commercial, industrial, multi-family, institutional, public, social, and all other such users. It is the primary responsibility of each non-residential customer to meet its mandated water use reduction in whatever manner possible, including limitation of operating hours, or days, if necessary.

(d) Make any new service connections to the City water system except for public and other schools satisfying the compulsory education

requirements of the laws of the State of North Carolina, public facilities for sheriff, police, fire protection, hospitals and emergency medical services, and facilities of public service companies regulated as public utilities under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

(G) The General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources shall utilize water production and customer billing data to evaluate the effectiveness of water use restriction and actual water savings.

(H) Requests from water customers for a variance from the stated water restrictions shall be sent in writing to the General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources. The request shall outline the basis and justification for the variance request including, but not limited to, the number of persons in the home, medical conditions, severe economic hardship, and the like. Each request shall also outline the conservation measures that have been adopted by the customer and an acknowledgment of receipt of all public information items regarding water conservation provided by the City. The General Manager shall review each request and send a recommendation to the City Manager. The City Manager's decision related to each request shall be final.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07; Am. Ord. O-2010-01, passed 1-19-10)

**§ 56.08 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE RATES AND SURCHARGES.**

(A) During a declared water supply shortage it shall be necessary to impose temporary water rate increases to ensure adequate operating revenue and to encourage conservation. The following table shows the magnitude of rate increase to be imposed, above the prevailing fee schedule, for the volumetric usage charge per 1,000 gallons. This shall apply to all customer classes. Monthly customer charges shall not be increased by these percentages. Increases shall be prorated over the billing period based on the effective date of the water shortage declaration.

<i>Water Shortage Stage</i>	<i>% Increase</i>
Stage 1	None
Stage 2	None
Stage 2A	5%
Stage 3	15%
Stage 4	30%
Stage 5	50%

(B) During a declared water supply shortage it shall also be necessary to impose additional fees for excessive water use. For residential accounts the allowable use shall be based on a fixed monthly allowable volume as shown below. For residential accounts having both a domestic and irrigation metered service, allowable use shall be based on the consumption for both meters. Fines for unauthorized taking of water as defined in Chapter 53 of this Code, shall be doubled

during any declared water shortage. For non-residential accounts, allowable use shall be based on a required percentage reduction from their average usage during the most recent 12 months in which no water shortage declaration was in effect. For example, a 10% reduction will result in an allowable use of 90% of previously demonstrated usage from the previous 12-month period. If no meter readings are available for a customer's billing period, an average of similar users will be established for the customer by the General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources. Such customers shall include governmental, commercial, industrial, institutional, public, multi-family, and all other such users. The following table shows the allowable usage quantities and the excessive usage charge.

<i>Water Shortage Stage</i>	<i>Allowable Use Quantity</i>		<i>Excessive Use Fee (Per 1,000 Gallons)</i>
	<i>Residential</i>	<i>Commercial</i>	
Stage 1	N/A	N/A	None
Stage 2 and 2A	N/A	N/A	None
Stage 3	6,000 Gal	90%	5 Times Existing Rate
Stage 4	5,000 Gal	75%	5 Times Existing Rate
Stage 5	4,000 Gal	50%	10 Times Existing Rate

(C) It is the primary responsibility of each non-residential customer to meet its mandated water use reduction by utilizing whatever means necessary, including limitation of operating hours, days, etc. Each customer shall provide access to City personnel for the purpose of meter reading and monitoring compliance with this ordinance. If the mandated reduction in water use cannot be obtained without threatening health or safety, or if there has been a significant change in the customer's circumstances, the customer may apply to the City Manager or his or her designee, for a variance to this mandate.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

**§ 56.09 COMPLIANCE.**

Compliance with the provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by personnel of the Water Resources Department, the City of Monroe Police Department, and other such personnel as designated by the City Manager. Failure to comply with any of the regulations of this chapter shall be unlawful and a violation of the ordinance and all remedies authorized by G.S. § 160A-175 for noncompliance with the ordinance, including the issuance of a civil penalty or criminal citation, and actions for injunctive relief to enjoin or restrain violations. It shall be unlawful to fail to act in accordance therewith or to use water in any manner or attempt to evade or avoid such water restrictions.

**§ 56.10 ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PENALTY.**

(A) *Residential users.* Any residential user who shall violate any provision of this chapter shall be subject to civil penalties recoverable in the nature of a civil debt.

(1) Civil penalties for a violation of Stage 2, 2A and 3 mandatory restrictions shall be as follows:

- (a) A warning for the first offense;
- (b) A civil penalty in the amount of \$100 for the second offense; and
- (c) A civil penalty in the amount of \$200 for the third and successive offenses.

(2) In Stages 4 or 5, there shall be no warnings given for violations by residential users of the mandatory restrictions of these Stages and the penalties shall be \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense and successive offenses.

(B) *Non-residential users.* Any non-residential customer, who violates any provision of this chapter, shall be subject to a civil penalty recoverable in the nature of a civil debt except as provided in section (D) below. Civil penalties for a violation of any mandatory restriction of any Stage of this ordinance shall be as follows:

- (1) A warning for the first offense;
- (2) A civil penalty of \$200 for the second violation;
- (3) A civil penalty of \$500 for the third violation; and
- (4) A civil penalty of \$1,000 for the fourth and successive offenses.

(C) *Accumulation of violations.* Violations shall be accumulated by all customers so long as this ordinance, in any of its Stages, is continuously in effect and until no Stage of this ordinance has been in effect for a period of one calendar year. Violations of any of the mandatory restrictions of any Stage shall accumulate with violations of other Stages. Should a customer move, or cease and renew service, during the period described herein, the customer's violations shall continue to accumulate as if such move or cessation had not occurred.

(D) Civil penalties for excessive water use. Excessive use water rates imposed upon users by Stages 3, 4 and 5 constitute the sole monetary penalty for such excessive use. Other violations by such users shall be subject to the civil penalties and other enforcement measures set out herein. Other enforcement procedures shall apply to such users for excessive use and other violations. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

#### **§ 56.11 CRIMINAL FINES.**

Upon a fourth or subsequent violation of this ordinance a criminal warrant may be issued to the offending person. Any violations of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a term of imprisonment and by a fine as provided by G.S. § 14-4. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

#### **§ 56.12 DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE.**

The City Manager shall have the authority to discontinue, or restrict, water service to any person or structure in the event of a violation of the provisions of this chapter during a Stage 2, 3, 4, or 5 water shortage period. Prior to such termination, written notice of intent to terminate or restrict shall be given. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

#### **§ 56.13 CONTINUING AND SEPARATE VIOLATIONS.**

Each day's continuing violation of this chapter shall be a separate and distinct criminal or civil offense. Each violation of the ordinance shall be a separate offense even if occurring on the same day. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

#### **§ 56.14 SEVERANCE PROVISION.**

If any section, subdivision, clause, or provision of this chapter shall be judged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to such section, subdivision, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this chapter shall be declared valid and effective. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

#### **§ 56.15 APPLICATION OF CHAPTER.**

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all such persons using public water both in and outside the City, regardless of whether any such person using water shall have a contract for water service with the City. (Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

**§ 56.16 TERMINATION OF DECLARED EMERGENCY.**

Termination of any phase of the emergency provisions of this chapter shall be determined by the City Manager when he or she finds that the water supply of the City water system is no longer so low as to constitute a water emergency. Upon termination of any emergency declared under this ordinance, all fines or penalties incurred by any person or customer shall remain in effect until paid. Upon such termination, discontinued users may have their service restored upon payment of the regular cut-on fees except for those users cut off without notice.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

**§ 56.17 REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES.**

All ordinances and clauses of ordinances in conflict herewith are stayed while any Stage of this ordinance is in effect. Such conflicting ordinances and clauses shall become effective upon termination of such Stages.

(Ord. O-2002-51, passed 8-20-02; Am. Ord. O-2007-35, passed 12-4-07)

**§ 56.18 TABLES.**

**Water Shortage Stage 2**

<i>Table 2</i> <i>Type of Watering or use</i>	<i>Residential</i>		<i>Commercial/Industrial</i>	
	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>
Automatic irrigation system	Yes	(5)	Yes	(5)
Sprinkler watering	Yes	(5)	Yes	(5)
Hose watering	Yes	(5)	Yes	(5)
Hand watering	Yes	None	Yes	None
Non-potable water	Yes	None	Yes	None
Vehicle washing (1)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Washing down of streets, sidewalks, buildings etc.	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling or topping off pools (2)	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling of topping off fountains or ponds (2)	No	Not allowed	No	See footnote
Pressure washing (3)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Health and safety needs (4)	Yes	None	Yes	None

*Footnotes.*

(1) Commercial car washes or business must be permanently located.

- (2) Allowable only to maintain aquatic life.
  - (3) Commercial pressure washers may continue to operate if activity required for health and safety.
  - (4) Requires documentation of health and safety needs.
  - (5) 6:00 am to 10:00 am and/or 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- \*\* Commercial companies regularly engaged in the sale of plants may water as needed to maintain plant life.

*Definitions.* For the purpose of this table the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM.** Any system that performs landscape irrigation or watering via a timer, controller or other device, which operates independent of onsite supervision or control.

**HAND WATERING.** Watering from hand-held can or container, not connected to or filled from a hose or outside spigot.

**HOSE WATERING.** Watering from a garden or other type of watering hose connected to an inside or outside spigot or faucet.

**NON-POTABLE WATER.** Water from any source other than the potable drinking water supply system. Does not include “grey” water as defined by the Health Department.

**SPRINKLER WATERING.** Watering from a hose connected sprinkler or from sprinklers connected to an irrigation system, with fixed heads that may or may not include an automatic timer control.

### Water Shortage Stage 2A

<i>Table 2A</i> <i>Type of Watering or use</i>	<i>Residential</i>		<i>Commercial/Industrial</i>	
	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>
Automatic irrigation system	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Sprinkler watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hose watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hand watering	Yes	None	Yes	None
Non-potable water	Yes	None	Yes	None
Vehicle washing (1)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Washing down of streets, sidewalks, buildings etc.	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling or topping off pools (2)	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling of topping off fountains or ponds (2)	No	Not allowed	No	See footnote

Pressure washing (3)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Health and safety needs (4)	Yes	None	Yes	None

*Footnotes.*

- (1) Commercial car washes or business must be permanently located.
  - (2) Allowable only to maintain aquatic life.
  - (3) Commercial pressure washers may continue to operate if activity required for health and safety.
  - (4) Requires documentation of health and safety needs.
- \*\* Commercial companies regularly engaged in the sale of plants may water as needed to maintain plant life.

*Definitions.* For the purpose of this table the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM.** Any system that performs landscape irrigation or watering via a timer, controller or other device, which operates independent of onsite supervision or control.

**HAND WATERING.** Watering from hand-held can or container, not connected to or filled from a hose or outside spigot.

**HOSE WATERING.** Watering from a garden or other type of watering hose connected to an inside or outside spigot or faucet.

**NON-POTABLE WATER.** Water from any source other than the potable drinking water supply system. Does not include “grey” water as defined by the Health Department.

**SPRINKLER WATERING.** Watering from a hose connected sprinkler or from sprinklers connected to an irrigation system, with fixed heads that may or may not include an automatic timer control.

### Water Shortage Stage 3

<i>Table 3</i> <i>Type of Watering or use</i>	<i>Residential</i>		<i>Commercial/Industrial</i>	
	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>
Automatic irrigation system	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Sprinkler watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hose watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hand watering	Yes	None	Yes	None
Non-potable water	Yes	None	Yes	None
Vehicle washing (1)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Washing down of streets, sidewalks, buildings etc.	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed

Filling or topping off pools (2)	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Fire hydrant meter accounts	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Dust control or earth compaction	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling of topping off fountains or ponds (2)	No	Not allowed	No	See footnote
Pressure washing (3)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Health and safety needs (4)	Yes	None	Yes	None

*Footnotes.*

- (1) Commercial car washes or business must be permanently located.
  - (2) Allowable only to maintain aquatic life.
  - (3) Commercial pressure washers may continue to operate if activity required for health and safety.
  - (4) Requires documentation of health and safety needs.
  - (5) Excessive use surcharges apply.
- \*\* Commercial companies regularly engaged in the sale of plants may water as needed to maintain plant life.

Definitions. For the purpose of this table the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM.** Any system that performs landscape irrigation or watering via a timer, controller or other device, which operates independent of onsite supervision or control.

**HAND WATERING.** Watering from hand-held can or container, not connected to or filled from a hose or outside spigot.

**HOSE WATERING.** Watering from a garden or other type of watering hose connected to an inside or outside spigot or faucet.

**NON-POTABLE WATER.** Water from any source other than the potable drinking water supply system. Does not include “grey” water as defined by the Health Department.

**SPRINKLER WATERING.** Watering from a hose connected sprinkler or from sprinklers connected to an irrigation system, with fixed heads that may or may not include an automatic timer control.

### Water Shortage Stage 4

<i>Table 4</i> <i>Type of Watering or use</i>	<i>Residential</i>		<i>Commercial/Industrial</i>	
	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>
Automatic irrigation system	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Sprinkler watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hose watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hand watering	Yes	None	Yes	None
Non-potable water	Yes	None	Yes	None
Vehicle washing (1)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Washing down of streets, sidewalks, buildings etc.	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling or topping off pools (2)	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Fire hydrant meter accounts	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Dust control or earth compaction	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling of topping off fountains or ponds (2)	No	Not allowed	No	See footnote
Pressure washing (3)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Health and safety needs (4)	Yes	None	Yes	None

*Footnotes.*

- (1) Commercial car washes or business must be permanently located.
  - (2) Allowable only to maintain aquatic life.
  - (3) Commercial pressure washers may continue to operate if activity required for health and safety.
  - (4) Requires documentation of health and safety needs.
  - (5) Excessive use surcharges apply.
- \*\* Commercial companies regularly engaged in the sale of plants may water as needed to maintain plant life.

*Definitions.* For the purpose of this table the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

***AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM.*** Any system that performs landscape irrigation or watering via a timer, controller or other device, which operates independent of onsite supervision or control.

**HAND WATERING.** Watering from hand-held can or container, not connected to or filled from a hose or outside spigot.

**HOSE WATERING.** Watering from a garden or other type of watering hose connected to an inside or outside spigot or faucet.

**NON-POTABLE WATER.** Water from any source other than the potable drinking water supply system. Does not include “grey” water as defined by the Health Department.

**SPRINKLER WATERING.** Watering from a hose connected sprinkler or from sprinklers connected to an irrigation system, with fixed heads that may or may not include an automatic timer control.

### Water Shortage Stage 5

<i>Table 5</i> <i>Type of Watering or use</i>	<i>Residential</i>		<i>Commercial/Industrial</i>	
	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Time Restrictions</i>
Automatic irrigation system	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Sprinkler watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hose watering	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Hand watering	No	Not allowed		Not allowed
Non-potable water	Yes	None	Yes	None
Vehicle washing (1)	No	Not allowed	Yes	None
Washing down of streets, sidewalks, buildings etc.	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling or topping off pools (2)	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Fire hydrant meter accounts	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Dust control or earth compaction	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Filling of topping off fountains or ponds (2)	No	Not allowed	No	See footnote
Pressure washing (3)	No	Not allowed	No	Not allowed
Health and safety needs (4)	Yes	None	Yes	None

*Footnotes.*

- (1) Commercial car washes or business must be permanently located.
- (2) Allowable only to maintain aquatic life.
- (3) Commercial pressure washers may continue to operate if activity required for health and safety.
- (4) Requires documentation of health and safety needs.

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#### **§ 56.19 REVIEW AND REVISIONS TO ORDINANCE.**

The provisions of the ordinance codified herein shall be reviewed regularly and revised based on new circumstances and any time that emergency response restrictions are implemented. At a minimum, the ordinance codified herein shall be updated every five years. All revisions shall be approved by the City Council via published agenda, providing opportunity for public review and comment. The ordinance will be posted for 15 days at City Hall prior to City Council considering changes.

(Ord. O-2010-01, passed 1-19-10)

#### **§ 56.20 IRRIGATION METER REQUIREMENT.**

Pursuant to G.S. § 143-355.4 all new in-ground irrigation systems shall be supplied from a separate irrigation meter. The metered irrigation service may be connected by direct tap to the water main or by a split line off of the non-irrigation water service as determined by the General Manager of Energy Services and Water Resources. All installations shall be in accordance with all applicable regulations, policies, permits, and procedures.

(Ord. O-2010-01, passed 1-19-10)

**Section 2.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

Attest:

*Bridgette H. Robinson*  
Bridgette H. Robinson, City Clerk

*Robert A. Burns*  
Robert A. Burns, Mayor

