

ORDINANCE NO. 28-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32, "UTILITIES", ARTICLE VI, "WATER CONSERVATION PLAN" OF THE ABILENE MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 32-141 "AUTHORIZATION", SECTION 32-142 "APPLICATION", SECTION 32-143 "REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS; PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION", AND SECTION 32-145 "WATER CONSERVATION STAGES", AS SET OUT BELOW; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING A PENALTY

WHEREAS, Article VI of Chapter 32 of the City Code of Ordinances regulates and restricts the delivery and consumption of water as necessary to minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortages or other water supply emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality describe the minimum elements to be included in Water Conservation Plans and Drought Contingency Plans; and

WHEREAS, Article VI does not adequately address procedures to be followed for the initiation or termination of each drought response stage, including procedures for notification of the public; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

PART 1: That Chapter 32, "Utilities", Article VI "Water Conservation Plan" be amended by amending Section 32-141, Section 32-142, Section 32-143, and Section 32-145 as set out in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part of this ordinance for all purposes.

PART 2: That if the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not effect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this ordinance.

PART 3: That any person, firm, or corporation violating the provisions of this Ordinance, shall be subject to escalating enforcement actions and schedule of penalties described in this Article VI.


Said ordinance, being a penal ordinance, becomes effective ten (10) days after its publication in the newspaper, as provided by Section 19 of the Charter of the City of Abilene.

PASSED ON FIRST READING this 9th day of July, A.D., 2020.


A notice of the time and place, where and when said ordinance would be given a public hearing and considered for final passage was published in the Abilene Reporter-News, a daily newspaper of general circulation in the City of Abilene, said publication being on the 19th day of July, 2020, the same being more than 24 hours prior to a public hearing being held in the Council Chamber of City Hall in Abilene, Texas, at 4:30 p.m. on the 23rd day of July, 2020, to permit the public to be heard.

PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this 23rd day of July, A.D., 2020.

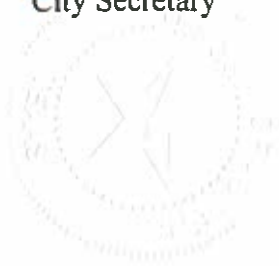
ATTEST:



City Secretary



Mayor



APPROVED:



City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

CHAPTER 32 UTILITIES

ARTICLE VI. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

DIVISION 1 GENERALLY

Sec. 32-141. Authorization

The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, or the City Manager, if so designated, is hereby authorized, consistent with the Charter of the City of Abilene, Sections 21 and 22, to exercise those powers considered to be reasonable or necessary for the protection of persons or property in assessing the current state of our water supply and directing the City Manager to implement or terminate any stage, phase, or portion of the Water Conservation Plan. In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section 32-145 of the Plan have been met for Stage 3-Water Emergency, or Stage 4- Water Crisis water shortage conditions, the City Manager is hereby authorized to initiate allocation of water supplies on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code §11.039. Implementation and termination of any stage may occur, but is not mandated to occur, when conditions warrant.

Sec. 32-142. Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to persons, customers, and property utilizing the Abilene Water Utility System wherever situated, including customers such as water supply corporations, and any others that receive water from the City of Abilene on a contract basis. The City shall include a provision in every wholesale water contract entered into or renewed after adoption of this Plan, including contract extensions, that in case of shortage of water in the City's water supply, the water to be distributed shall be divided by the City in accordance with Texas Water Code §11.039 among all users pro rata, according to the amount each may be entitled to, so that preference is given to no one and everyone suffers alike.

The City of Abilene utilizes a variety of alternative water sources including an extensive nonpotable reuse program, and an indirect potable water reuse system. The City encourages its customers to utilize alternative water sources during periods of water shortage. These water use restrictions do not apply to the utilization of alternative water sources including nonpotable water and groundwater (well water). Customers using water from private groundwater wells on days other than those designated in this plan, or those watering from private groundwater wells during the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., must post a sign stating "WELL WATER." The sign must be properly sized and posted so it is visible from the street. The city strongly encourages the use of alternative water sources from groundwater for landscape purposes.

These water use restrictions do apply to those persons without a reclaimed water contract who divert raw surface water from Lake Kirby or Lake Fort Phantom Hill for landscape irrigation. Whenever the term or reference to water, or potable water or similar and like words are used in this "water conservation plan," it shall be understood to include the use of raw surface water from Lake Kirby and Lake Fort Phantom Hill for landscape irrigation.

These water use restrictions do apply to the time for the use of treated wastewater (reclaimed water) for landscape irrigation. Use of reclaimed water or raw water under a reclaimed water contract for landscape irrigation is only allowed during the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m., and from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight. All other uses of reclaimed water shall be in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, chapter 210 and the City of Abilene's Authorization No. R10334-004, as amended.

Sec. 32-143. Regional Water Planning Groups and Public Involvement and Education

Sec. 32-143.1 Coordination with Regional Planning Groups

The service area of the City of Abilene is currently located within the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Area. The City of Abilene will cooperate and provide information regarding the Plan as needed to all Regional planning area groups.

Sec. 32-143.2 Public Involvement

The adoption of this Plan and any amendments will provide for public input at a public hearing held in conjunction with one of the readings of said ordinance enacting the Plan or amendments thereto.

Sec. 32-143.3 Public Education of Action on Water Conservation Stages

In conjunction with Section 32-141, the initiation and termination of any drought response stage (Water Conservation Stage) shall be announced to the public and wholesale customers at a media conference, and shall become effective immediately upon such announcement. In addition to public announcements of initiation and termination of a Water Conservation Stage and Year Round Water Use Management information, continuing public education and information regarding the Plan shall be publicized via posting on the City’s website.

DIVISION 2 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN PROCEDURES

Sec. 32- 145. Water Conservation Stages

WATERING DAYS

- 1. During Water Conservation Stages, a customer’s watering day is determined by the last digit of the house number or property address. Multi-unit properties will use the lowest address number. Customers on rural routes will use the last number of their post office box number or their route number if they do not have a post office box number. Customers at Ft. Phantom Lake will use the last number of their lake lot. Customers in trailer parks will use the last number of their lot number.

If a residential customer's last number is:	Customer's watering day is:
7 or 8	Sunday
9	Monday
0	Tuesday
1	Wednesday
2	Thursday
3 or 4	Friday
5 or 6	Saturday

For example: If an address is 555 Walnut Street, the last number is five (5) and the watering day is Saturday.

For purposes of this section only, residential usage includes single-family residences, multifamily residences and apartment complexes. Non-residential customers shall follow the above

schedule with the exception of the following changes:

7 or 8	Wednesday
5 or 6	Tuesday

2. Bi-weekly watering as prescribed in Stage 2 will occur according to location in East or West sides of the City, bounded on the north side of the City by Grape St. and then Pine St. to the north City Limits (north of Grape St.) and on the south side of the City by Sayles Blvd. to Buffalo Gap Road and then Buffalo Gap Road to the south City Limits.
3. Entities with large, open spaces (e.g., schools, universities, city parks, golf courses) using potable water may submit alternate watering schedules to the Director of Water Utilities except as otherwise prohibited in this ordinance. Upon his/her written approval acknowledged by the entity in question, these entities may follow the approved schedule rather than the calendar system, and will be held responsible for all the provisions of this article, based on the approved schedule.

STAGE 1 WATER ALERT

Implementation Criteria:

Combined treatment plant pumpage in excess of 49.5 MGD for two (2) consecutive days; or, continually falling water storage facility levels which do not refill above fifty (50) percent overnight; or, depletion of the Ft. Phantom Reservoir to the elevation 1625.9 (ten (10) feet below spillway) if Hubbard Creek Reservoir is at sixty (60) percent capacity or less or 1624.9 (eleven (11) feet below spillway) if Hubbard Creek Reservoir is at greater than sixty (60) percent of capacity, or any unforeseen conditions that may occur that cause the City Manager to recommend implementation to the Mayor.

Upon announcement and implementation by the City of Stage 1 Water Alert, the following restrictions shall apply to all persons during Stage 1 Water Alert:

1. Landscape Irrigation
 - a. Irrigation by all commercial, industrial, (including agricultural irrigation), and residential customers utilizing individual sprinklers, or sprinkler systems, of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs or other plants is prohibited except on a designated day which shall be once every seven (7) days and then only during the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight.

Provided, however, irrigation of gardens, flowerbeds, trees and shrubs is permitted at any time of day if:

- i. A garden hose is used and is held in the hand during the duration of the irrigation event, or
- ii. A faucet-filled container of five (5) gallons or less is used, or
- iii. A drip irrigation system such as soaker hose, deep root water system, or bubbler is used. For the purpose of this section a drip irrigation system is defined as an irrigation device or system designed to emit water at low volumes and low pressures directly onto

soil surface or below soil surface without airborne streams or droplets.

Irrigation of LAWNS is permitted at any time on any day if:

- i. A garden hose is used and is held in the hand during the duration of the irrigation event, or
- ii. A faucet-filled container of five (5) gallons or less is used.

A Drip Irrigation System SHALL NOT be used to irrigate LAWNS except on designated days and at designated times.

- b. New lawns that have been seeded (not to include re-seeding or overseeding existing turf), sodded or mulched may be watered daily for eight (8) minutes once during each of the following periods: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and at regular intervals between 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. for a maximum of three (3) weeks. To qualify under this section, new lawns are those installed in conjunction with the construction of a new residence and for a period six (6) months thereafter or the re-tilling of an area equaling at least (50) percent of a new yard.

2. Vehicle Washing

- a. It is permissible to wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, and other types of mobile equipment at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station or at any location including a residence by using a five (5) gallon container and/or a hand held hose equipped with a quick shut-off nozzle for quick rinses.
- b. If the health, safety and welfare of the public depends upon frequent vehicle cleaning, as determined by the Director of Water Utilities or his/her designee, then washing of vehicles such as emergency vehicles, aircraft, garbage trucks, and vehicles used to transport food and perishables will be allowed.
- c. Charity car washes are prohibited.

3. Water may be added to swimming pools to sustain appropriate maintenance levels only on designated irrigation days.

4. Ornamental fountains are allowed if the fountain is equipped with a device for recycling water and water may be added to sustain appropriate maintenance levels only on the customer's regularly designated watering day.

5. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting activities or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare. By written approval from the Director of Water Utilities, businesses may purchase and draw water from fire hydrants for land development and building construction processes.

6. The following uses of water are defined as "waste of water" and are absolutely prohibited:

- a. Allowing water to run off a property through the street, gutter, ditch, alley, or drain for more

than seventy-five (75) feet from the downgrade of the property line;

- b. Failure to repair a controllable leak; including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet.
 - c. Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with:
 - i. A broken sprinkler head;
 - ii. A sprinkler head that is spraying over a street or parking lot because it is out of adjustment; or
 - iii. A sprinkler head that is misting due to high pressure.
 - d. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire, health and safety hazards, or to prepare an area for pavement repair or application.
7. Commercial and Industrial Users
- a. Commercial and industrial users of water shall, in addition to complying with other applicable articles in this ordinance, reduce their monthly consumption of water by a minimum of fifteen (15) percent compared to use during the same month of the previous year.
 - b. Industrial users may, in order to justify water use, present a conservation plan for approval by the Director of Water Utilities.
 - c. Golf courses will submit a conservation plan for approval by the Director of Water Utilities if potable irrigation water is to be used.

STAGE 2 WATER WARNING

Implementation Criteria:

Combined treatment plant pumpage in excess of 49.5 MGD for two (2) days; or, continually falling water storage facility levels which do not refill above fifty (50) percent overnight or, depletion of the Ft. Phantom Reservoir to the elevation 1618.9 (seventeen (17) feet below spillway); or, major line breaks, or pump system failure which causes unprecedented loss of capability to provide service, or any unforeseen conditions that may occur that cause the City Manager to recommend implementation to the Mayor.

Upon announcement and implementation by the City of Stage 2 Water Warning, the following restrictions shall apply to all persons during Stage 2 Water Warning:

- 1. Landscape Irrigation
 - a. Irrigation by all commercial, industrial and residential customers utilizing individual sprinklers, or sprinkler systems, of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs or other plants is prohibited except on a designated day which shall be once every two (2) weeks and then only during the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight.

Provided, however, irrigation of gardens, flowerbeds, trees and shrubs is permitted at any time of day if:

- i. A garden hose is used and is held in the hand during the duration of the irrigation event, or
- ii. A faucet-filled container of five (5) gallons or less is used, or
- iii. A drip irrigation system such as soaker hose, deep root water system, or bubbler is used. For the purpose of this section a drip irrigation system is defined as an irrigation device or system designed to emit water at low volumes and low pressures directly onto soil surface or below soil surface without airborne streams or droplets.

Irrigation of lawns is permitted at any time on any day if:

- i. A garden hose is used and is held in the hand during the duration of the irrigation event, or
- ii. A faucet-filled container of five (5) gallons or less is used.

A Drip Irrigation System shall not be used to irrigate LAWNS except on designated days and at designated times.

- b. New lawns may be watered daily for eight minutes once during each of the following periods: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and at regular intervals between 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. for a maximum of three (3) weeks. To qualify under this section, new lawns are those installed in conjunction with the construction of a new residence and for a period of six (6) months thereafter. Retilling or any replanting or reseedling of existing lawns shall NOT qualify for new lawn status in this section.

2. Vehicle Washing

- a. It is permissible to wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, and other types of mobile equipment at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station or at any location including a residence by using a five (5) gallon container and/or a hand held hose equipped with a quick shut-off nozzle for quick rinses.
 - b. If the health, safety and welfare of the public depends upon frequent vehicle cleaning, as determined by the Director of Water Utilities or his/her designee, then washing of vehicles such as emergency vehicles, aircraft, garbage trucks, and vehicles used to transport food and perishables will be allowed.
 - c. Charity car washes are prohibited.
3. Water may be added to swimming pools to sustain appropriate maintenance levels weekly, on the customer's regularly designated irrigation day.
 4. Ornamental fountains are allowed if the fountain is equipped with a device for recycling water

and water may be added to sustain appropriate maintenance levels only on the customer's regularly designated watering day.

5. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting activities or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare. By written approval from the Director of Water Utilities, businesses may purchase and draw water from fire hydrants for land development and building construction processes.
6. The following uses of water are defined as "waste of water" and are absolutely prohibited:
 - a. Allowing water to run off a property through the street, gutter, ditch, alley, or drain for more than seventy-five (75) feet from the downgrade of the property line;
 - b. Failure to repair a controllable leak; including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet;
 - c. Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with:
 - i. A broken sprinkler head;
 - ii. A sprinkler head that is spraying over a street or parking lot because it is out of adjustment; or
 - iii. A sprinkler head that is misting due to high pressure.
 - d. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire, health or safety hazards, or to prepare an area for pavement repair or application.

7. Commercial and Industrial Users

- a. Commercial and industrial users of water shall continue to maintain at least a fifteen (15) percent monthly reduction of water use compared to use during the same month of the previous year.

Individual allotments may be adjusted by the Director based on historical water usage conservation practices of customer. The other restrictions of Stage 2 still apply to commercial and industrial users.

- b. Industrial users may present a conservation plan for approval by the Director of Water Utilities.
- c. Golf courses using potable water will reduce consumption by thirty (30) percent of contracted amount.

STAGE 3 WATER EMERGENCY

Implementation Criteria:

Combined treatment plant pumpage in excess of 30 MGD for three (3) days and depletion of the Ft. Phantom Reservoir to the elevation 1614.9 (twenty-one (21) feet below spillway); or major line

breaks, or pump system failure which causes unprecedented loss of capability to provide service, or any unforeseen conditions that may occur that cause the City Manager to recommend implementation to the Mayor.

Upon announcement and implementation by the City of Stage 3 Water Emergency, the following restrictions shall apply to all persons during Stage 3 Water Emergency:

1. Landscape Irrigation

Irrigation of gardens, flowerbeds, trees and shrubs (Not Lawns) by all commercial, industrial, and residential customers is permitted at any time on any day only if:

- a. A garden hose is used and is held in the hand during the duration of the irrigation event, or
- b. A faucet-filled container of five (5) gallons or less is used, or
- c. A drip irrigation system such as soaker hose, deep root water system, or bubbler is used. For the purpose of this section a drip irrigation system is defined as an irrigation device or system designed to emit water at low volumes and low pressures directly onto soil surface or below soil surface without airborne streams or droplets.

Watering of Lawns is prohibited at any time. No new lawns may be installed.

2. Vehicle Washing

- a. It is permissible to wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, and other types of mobile equipment at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station.
- b. If the health, safety and welfare of the public depends upon frequent vehicle cleaning, as determined by the Director of Water Utilities or his/her designee, then washing of vehicles such as emergency vehicles, aircraft, garbage trucks, and vehicles used to transport food and perishables will be allowed.
- c. Charity car washes are prohibited.

3. Water may be added to swimming pools to sustain appropriate maintenance levels weekly, on the customer's regularly designated irrigation days. New construction of swimming pools is prohibited.

4. Ornamental fountains are allowed if the fountain is equipped with a device for recycling water and water may be added to sustain appropriate maintenance levels only on the customer's regularly designated watering day. New construction of ornamental fountains is prohibited.

5. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire-fighting activities or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare. By written approval from the Director of Water Utilities, businesses may purchase and draw water from fire hydrants for land development and building construction processes.

6. The following uses of water are defined as "waste of water" and are absolutely prohibited:
 - a. Allowing water to run off a property through the street, gutter, ditch, alley, or drain for more than seventy-five (75) feet from the downgrade of the property line;
 - b. Failure to repair a controllable leak; including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet;
 - c. Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with:
 - i. A broken sprinkler head;
 - ii. A sprinkler head that is spraying over a street or a parking lot because it is out of adjustment; or
 - iii. A sprinkler head that is misting due to high pressure
 - d. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire, health or safety hazards, or to prepare an area for pavement repair or application.

7. Commercial and Industrial Users

- a. Commercial and industrial users of water shall continue to maintain at least a fifteen (15) percent monthly reduction of water use compared to use during the same month of the previous year.

A surcharge rate will be assessed for any water consumption that does not comply with the required reductions. The surcharge in addition to regular charges is as follows:

	<u>First Occurrence</u>	<u>Subsequent Occurrence(s)</u>
First 5,000 gallons over allowed amount per 1,000 gallons	\$5.00	\$10.00
Next 5,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons	10.00	20.00
For higher usage per 1,000 gallons	20.00	30.00

Additionally, if a customer uses more than the allowed amount more than once at any time during Stage 3, the customer's water may be turned off and there will be a \$250.00 re-connect fee, in addition to the listed fees.

Individual allotments may be adjusted by the Director of Water Utilities based on historical water usage conservation practices of customer. The other restrictions of Stage 3 still apply to commercial and industrial users.

- b. Industrial users may present a conservation plan for approval by the Director of Water Utilities.

- c. Each golf course using potable water will reduce consumption by fifty (50) percent of contracted amount.

STAGE 4 WATER CRISIS

Implementation Criteria:

Loss of capability to provide water service or contamination of supply source, or any unforeseen/unexpected conditions that may occur that cause the City Manager to recommend implementation to the Mayor.

Upon announcement and implementation by the City of Stage 4 Water Crisis, the following restrictions shall apply to all persons during Stage 4 Water Crisis:

1. All outdoor irrigation of vegetation including lawns, using potable water is prohibited.
2. Only washing of mobile equipment in the critical interest of the public health or safety shall be allowed.
3. The filling, refilling or adding of water to swimming and/or wading pools is prohibited. The construction of new swimming pools is prohibited.
4. The operation of any ornamental fountain or similar structure is prohibited. The construction of new ornamental fountains is prohibited.
5. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting and related activities or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare. Water for domestic use only may be purchased from the bulk loading station.
6. The following uses of water are defined as "waste of water" and are absolutely prohibited:
 - a. Allowing water to run off a property through the street, gutter, ditch, alley, or drain for more than seventy-five (75) feet from the downgrade of the property line;
 - b. Failure to repair a controllable leak; including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet;
 - c. Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with:
 - i. A broken sprinkler head;
 - ii. A sprinkler head that is spraying over a street or parking lot because it is out of adjustment; or
 - iii. A sprinkler head that is misting due to high pressure.
 - d. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire, health or safety hazards.
7. Commercial and Industrial Users

- a. Commercial and industrial users of water (for other than drinking water and rest rooms) shall continue to maintain at least a 15 percent reduction of water use compared to use during the same month of the previous year.

A surcharge rate will be assessed for any water consumption that does not comply with the required reductions. The surcharge in addition to regular charges is as follows:

	<u>First Occurrence</u>	<u>Subsequent Occurrence(s)</u>
First 5,000 gallons over allowed amount per 1,000 gallons	\$10.00	\$20.00
Next 5,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons	\$20.00	\$40.00
For higher usage, per 1,000 gallons	\$30.00	\$60.00

Additionally, if a customer uses more than the allowed amount more than once at any time during Stage 4, then after each such overuse these surcharges will be added and the customer's water may be turned off and there will be a \$500.00 re-connect fee, in addition to the listed fees.

Individual allotments may be adjusted by the Director of Water Utilities based on historical water usage and conservation practices of the customer. The other restrictions of Stage 4 still apply to commercial and industrial users.

- b. Water used for industrial purposes not in the immediate interest of the public health, safety and welfare will be curtailed to the extent necessary to effectuate the needs and purposes of this plan.