

Chapter 52: Electricity

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General Provisions

§52.00 Definitions

Customer classifications - Rate classes - Chapter 38 - Utility Rates

Primary voltage - any voltage in excess of 480 volts

Secondary service - single phase or three phase voltage from 120 volts to 480 volts

Point of service - the closest part of the structure to existing utility facilities where the metering system is installed and utility responsibility for service ends.

§52.01 Ownership

The Board of Public Works or its designated agent shall have the direct management and control of the city electrical system and shall faithfully carry out the duties of its office. The Board of Public Works shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the safe and efficient management of the electrical system, subject to the supervision and review of the Board of Public Works.

(Ord. 1687, passed 8-12-99; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

§52.02 Connections

Under no circumstances shall connections be made between the wires of the electrical distribution system of this city and the meter of the consumer, except by an employee of the city or a licensed electrician authorized to do so by the Board of Public Works or its designated agent. The consumer may have wiring done by any competent licensed electrician from the meter to the points of distribution. All wiring, equipment, and apparatus shall be installed according to the electrical code duly adopted by the city. All installation shall be done under the supervision and strictly in accordance with the rules, regulations, and specifications for such installation prescribed by the City Council, or its designated agent, and Building Inspector.

(Neb. RS 17-902, 19-1404) ('72 Code, § 3-904) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02) Penalty, see § 10.99

§52.03 Restricted Use

The city electrical system does not guarantee the delivery of electric current over the lines of the distribution system except when it has sufficient power, current, equipment, and machinery to do so. The Board of Public Works, or its designated agent, has the power and authority to disconnect or discontinue such service for any good and sufficient reason without liability. The Utility shall use due care and reasonable diligence to provide and supply uninterrupted service to consumers,

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but shall not be liable for damages resulting from interruption of service due to causes over which the city has no control and the city expressly reserves the right to discontinue or disconnect any consumer's service without preliminary notice. *(Neb. RS 17-902, 19-1404) ('72 Code, § 3-910) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)*

§52.04 Inspections

The Board of Public Works or its designated agent shall have free access at any reasonable time to each premises and building to or in which electricity is supplied; provided, that in the event of an emergency, such inspections may take place at any time.

(Neb. RS 17-902) ('72 Code, § 3-915) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

§52.05 Occupation Tax

The city electrical system shall pay to the General Fund of the city an occupation tax of .002 multiplied by KWh metered at Electrical Plant. This occupation tax shall be determined and paid monthly for the prior monthly period. Such funds shall go to general expenditures of the city. The funds shall be charged to all customers except those which may be designated by the City Council of the city as city government customers. *(Ord. 1687, passed 8-12-99)*

§52.06 Operation and Funding

The city owns and operates the City Electrical Department through the Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works or its designated agent shall have the direct management and control of the Electrical Department and shall faithfully carry out the duties of the office. The Board of Public Works shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the safe and efficient management of the Electrical Department subject to the supervision and review of the Mayor and City Council.

§52.07 Service Changes

If the customer is making a service revision and the meter is located inside the house, it is the customer's/contractor's responsibility to move the meter from the interior of the house to the outside of the house. During a utility rebuild, the utility may elect to move the meter from the inside to the outside of the house at no expense to the customer.

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The inspecting authority will approve the service change and then notify the utility when the service is ready for the connection. If required by the customer, it is the contractor's responsibility to maintain service. Jumpering of the meter socket and unmetered service is not permitted. Utility service not passing through an authorized meter is a violation of State statutes. If the service cannot be temporarily connected and metered safely, the electrical contractor should notify the Utility and obtain metering and assistance. By prior arrangement with the inspector and the Utility, a connection can be made prior to the inspection. The contractor is liable for the incurred expenses of return trips if the service is disconnected or altered by order of the inspector or if the service was not ready at the time indicated by the electrical contractor.

The Utility reserves the right to change the location of the service in order to improve the distribution system. Do not start a service change until the Utility has been contacted for a service spot.

When service relocation is necessary because of an addition to a home or building, the electrician shall move the meter socket and provide the point of attachment. Arrangements shall be made with the utility to relocate the drops.

§52.08 Residential Drops

The City of Wahoo Utilities requires all residential overhead services that are being repaired or upgraded to be served by an underground drop, unless it is determined by the Utilities General Manager, to be unreasonable to do so.

When the service size is not increased, the customer is required to pay the utility expenses for the service modifications. On underground services, the utility will trench, install, and connect the new cable at the owner's expense. The customer may elect to provide the trench. Stripping of sod, backfilling, and tamping of the ditch are the owner's responsibility.

If an existing service is increased in ampacity, the customer shall be responsible for the cost of the meter socket. In lieu of the replacing the overhead drop, the utility shall install the new underground drop at no charge.

Regulations

§52.25 Posting Signs

It shall be unlawful for any person to post, tack, or fasten to the poles, structures, fixtures, or equipment of the city electrical system any sign, poster, advertisement, or banner without written permission from the Board of Public Works.

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(Neb. RS 19-1404) ('72 Code, § 3-913) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02) Penalty, see § 10.99

Cross reference: *Posting, posted advertisements, see § 130.09*

§52.26 Trimming Trees

Any person desiring to cut or remove trees or branches thereof in close proximity to the lines of the city electrical system shall, before doing the said work, give reasonable written notice to the Board of Public Works and shall follow any and all rules and regulations which it may prescribe for doing such work. It shall be unlawful for any person felling or removing such trees or branches to disrupt or damage the lines. Whenever it becomes necessary to protect the lines or property of the electrical system, the Board of Public Works shall have the power to order cut and remove any overhanging branches, or limbs of trees so that the lines will be free and safe.

('72 Code, § 3-914) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02) Penalty, see § 10.99

§52.27 Temporary Connections

(A) Temporary services shall be removed when the permanent connection is installed.

(B) Temporary services shall not be connected until after the approval of the inspecting authority.

§52.28 Stands, Booths, Trailers, Signs, Poles and New Construction Use

(A) Temporary services shall not be connected until after the approval of the inspecting authority.

(B) The deposit shall be refunded after consumption & fees are paid.

(C) All services mounted on non permanent structures shall be classified as a temporary connection.

(D) Permanent structures are buildings with permanent foundations and are not readily removable.

Charges; Rates

§52.40 Installation Expense

(A) General responsibilities - The city, by the Board of Public Works, shall provide electric service to any customer in its service area. The city shall be responsible for all labor, material, and equipment necessary for the installation of

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residential electrical service up to the point of attachment and including the electrical meter. However, the customer shall be responsible for the installation of the meter socket, (which must be supplied by the city), transformer pads, and mast (overhead service) or conduit, (underground service), subject to the subsequent terms and conditions herein. The mast and/or conduit are to be supplied by the customer.

(B) Primary service - should the customer or developer desire electrical service either single or three phase, at a location that does not have the requested electrical service, then the customer or developer shall pay the city the amount of the facilities investment cost in excess of three times the estimated annual electric rate revenue of the customer or the development at completion.

(C) All nonresidential customers shall provide & install conductors from the service equipment to the utilities secondary voltage subject to approval of the utilities and inspectors authority. Maintenance/repair of conductors shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

(D) Secondary service - for a General Service Two customer, the customer shall pay the city a fee equal to 50% of the total facilities investment cost.

(E) For purposes of determining the fees, the electric customers with electric water and space heat which is supplemented by solar energy shall be considered all electric.

('72 Code, § 3-905) (Am. Ord. 1401, passed 7-23-92; Am. Ord. 1409, passed 8-27-92; Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

§52.41 Commercial

(A) All service entrance locations (point of attachment) shall be subject to the approval of the utility's staff. The point of attachment is generally located so it is accessible from the public right-of-way and the drops do not cross other private property. The lot corner nearest the existing power is generally the preferred source. Three phase, three wire, 240 or 480 volts is the normal voltage. Three phase, four wire, 120/208 volts and three phase, four wire 277/480 volts are optional voltages available only with prior approval of the utility. Due to transformation requirements, these voltages must meet minimum demand requirements.

(B) When the service is to be terminated on bus tubes/bars, the electrician shall provide the connectors for the customer wiring, and the bus tubes/bar supports. The utility will provide the transformer secondary.

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Overhead: If an overhead service is not possible from the lot corner, the utility will build in on the property or along the lot line to within drop distance, which is 150 feet.

Underground:

(A) The Department of Utilities does not provide or install commercial underground secondary.

(B) In most instances, services over 400 amps demand will be supplied from a pad mounted transformer through special arrangements with the utility.

(1) The customer will provide a pad according to the Utility's specifications with the location subject to the Utility's approval.

(2) The customer will furnish and install all secondary service wires from the service equipment to the point of termination. The Utility will make all connections on the transformer.

(3) When the Utility provides the primary cable, all locating and repair of said cable will be done by the Utility. All charges incurred for the repair work will be billed to the party responsible for the damage.

(4) The Utility is not responsible for services having a permanent structure over them. This includes driveways, patios, or buildings.

§52.42 Repairs

(A) Financial responsibility for repairs for utility property shall be the Utility's. Facilities on the load side of the point of delivery shall be the responsibility of the customer. However, should the customer request removal, replacement, or relocation of utility facilities, including, but not limited to replacing overhead service with underground, 50% of the associated cost shall be paid by the customer.

(B) Any damage to Utility facilities caused by recklessness, carelessness, or neglect, including failure to locate facilities, shall be paid by the customer.

(C) The Utility will not be held to any estimate for cost of installations or repairs. Best efforts will be made to provide estimates which are as accurate as possible. However, bills for repair and installation will be based on actual costs incurred by the utility.

('72 Code, § 3-905.01) (Ord. 1402, passed 7-23-92)

§52.43 Fees and Collections

The City Council has the power and authority to fix the consumption rates to be paid by the electric consumers for the use of electricity from the Electrical Department.

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All such rates shall be on file for public inspection at the office of the Utilities. No electricity shall be furnished to any customer at a rate other than that provided by ordinance. The City Council may, in its discretion, set a different uniform rate for nonresidents if it deems it advisable.

(Neb. RS 19-1404) (Ord. 1687, passed 9-12-99)

§52.44 X-Ray Machines & Other Non Recordable Demeed Equipment

Machines which require transformation greater than that is recordable with standard demand meters shall pay demand charges based on requested capacity, not demand meter recordings. The charges shall be based on transformer cost as determined by the Board of Public Works and approved by the City Council. The customer may be required to subsidize the cost of the transformer.

Air Conditioners

§52.60 Permit Required

(A) No person shall install an air conditioner within the city or its environs where supplied with electric current from the city electric system without first having procured a permit therefore from the Building Inspector, or to use such air conditioner during the period that a permit may be revoked.

(B) The person making an application for and procuring a permit shall thereby consent that the Board of Public Works or its designated agent may check and inspect any air conditioner and its electric connections installed under such permit at any reasonable time without request of the permit holder or previous notice to such permit holder.

('72 Code, § 3-9 17) (Am. Ord. 1340, passed 4-19-90; Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02) Penalty, see § 10.99

§52.61 Power Factor Correction Standards

(A) All new air conditioners installed in the city and its environs where the air conditioner is supplied with electric current from the electric distribution system shall comply with the following minimum standards as to power factor correction:

(1) Eighty percent for one-half ton size.

(2) Eighty-five percent for three-fourths of a ton size or larger.

(B) Compliance with power factor standards shall be factory installed or corrected by the owner as required. *('72 Code, § 3-918) Penalty, see § 10.99*

§52.62 Installation Requirements

No unit of three-fourths horsepower or larger may be installed on less than 240 volts service. No air conditioner with a motor exceeding three horsepower actual rating shall be connected to a single phase service unless a special permit is granted by Utility Board or its Agent. Any user requiring three phase power for an air conditioner shall be subject at all times to any and all regulations of the city applicable to other three phase electric power users. All central air conditioners installed after April 15, 1990 must have a load control device approved by the Utility connected and operating. The load control device must not be disconnected there from without prior permission of the Utility.

('72 Code, § 3-919) (Am. Ord. 1340, passed 4-19-90) Penalty, see § 10.99

§52.63 Emergency Regulations

During an emergency, the Board of Public Works may temporarily prohibit the use of any or all air conditioners.

('72 Code, § 3-920) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

§52.64 Defective Air Conditioner; Revocation Of Permit

(A) By reason of the fact that the public safety is involved, the user of any defective air conditioner, or one with a defective installation or defective electrical service, may be ordered by the Board of Public Works or its Agent to immediately discontinue the use of such air conditioner until such time as the defect is corrected. *('72 Code, § 3-921)*

(B) Any permit issued may be revoked by the Board of Public Works for cause, after notice and hearing as hereinafter provided. The notice shall be sent by registered mail to the holder of the permit and shall give the permit holder an opportunity to appear before the Council on a designated date, not less than five days from the date of the notice, to show cause why the revocation should not be ordered.

('72 Code, § 3-922) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)