

**ORDINANCE TO
REPEAL AND RECREATE
CHAPTER §512 SECTION 34 “PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT SERVICE”
OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN GENERAL ORDINANCES**

**SPONSOR: ALDERPERSON PASCH
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, The Water Systems Manager having reviewed the City of Watertown Code having found significant deficiencies in the area of Chapter 512 Water and Sewers; and

WHEREAS, The Water Systems Manager has made recommendations to the Public Works Commission of ways in which to correct said deficiencies in the ordinance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, The Common Council of the City of Watertown does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 512 Section 34 of the Municipal Code of Watertown, is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

§ 512-34. Private fire hydrant service.

- A. Private fire hydrant service shall consist of a pipeline with hydrants on the same, ~~the existing manufacturer must be Waterous. For any new hydrant installation, the manufacturer and model shall be latter to have hose threads and operating nuts the same as on City hydrants~~ 5 ¼ Waterous Pacer Traffic Model WB67-250. Placement of private hydrants if required shall conform to Fire Prevention Code §303. All hydrants shall be closed and sealed and opened only in case of actual fire. When the seal is broken on any hydrant, the ~~Public Works Commission~~ Watertown Water Utility must be notified in writing at once, and hydrants will be sealed ~~and inspected~~ by the Department.¹
- B. Operation and maintenance.
- (1) For any private fire hydrant to be considered for inclusion in the Water Department's operation and maintenance program, the following minimum conditions shall be met:
- (a) The department has deemed this hydrant as necessary to maintain for the sole purpose of water quality improvement.
- (b) Hydrant equipment shall comply with current requirements of the City of Watertown standard specification.
- (c) Hydrant installation shall be calendar year 2005 ~~–2020~~; or newer.
- (d) In lieu of requirements above, the hydrant owner shall provide records of minimum annual/biannual hydrant maintenance following installation. No hydrants will be considered if installed before 1990.

- (e) Unless looped in a continuous flow back to the public watermain, the fire line will be considered a private hydrant lead. The Department will not accept the maintenance of hydrants on dead end mains into private property with underground tap(s) coming off the fire line for potable water use.
- (f) Hydrant owner shall provide written easement for a width of 20' centered over the main leading to the private hydrant in a form as approved by the City Attorney. An easement is required to the property for the sole purpose of flushing and oiling the hydrant itself. There will be no liability of the department to assume responsibility for defective hydrant parts, water main, or lateral connections nor maintenance thereof on private property.
- (2) Prior to including a private hydrant in its normal operation and maintenance program, the Water Department will inspect the location and condition of the hydrant and determine if it is functional. The hydrant owner will be notified whether the hydrant is acceptable under this policy or if repairs or modifications are necessary before the hydrant can be included. The owner will also be notified of possible concerns related to property damage that could result from flushing.
- (3) Hydrant location shall be accessible for Fire Department use as determined and approved by the Watertown Fire Department.
- (4) Hydrant shall be painted yellow for identification as a private hydrant.

C. Operation and maintenance of private hydrants.

- (1) Flushing shall occur yearly and be consistent with the Water Department's policies. ~~Department's normal program. Flushing frequency and schedule will be determined by the Water Department and may vary year to year. As much as possible, private hydrant owners will be notified in advance of the approximate flushing schedule. Private hydrant owners are specifically notified herein that water system flushing may be conducted during overnight hours, from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., or as determined to best provide system service.~~
- (2) The Water Department will take reasonable precautions to control the flow of water while flushing. The Water Department will not be responsible for damages to property that result from flushing private fire hydrants.
- (3) In the event normal operation and/or flushing results in failure or required maintenance of a private fire hydrant, the hydrant owner shall be responsible for replacement of, or repairs to, the hydrant. The Water Department will inform the hydrant owner immediately of deficiencies identified during operation and/or flushing. The hydrant owner may hire ~~the Water Department~~ or a qualified contractor to complete the work needed to restore the hydrant.

(4) Charges for the Water Department to ~~replace or~~ complete maintenance on private hydrants shall be based on the cost ~~maintain~~ said hydrants.

~~D.—No future private hydrant services shall be allowed. Hydrants to be located on private property shall be the property of the Water Department. The property owner shall provide a minimum twenty-foot easement centered over the water main and hydrant.~~

~~E.—Operation and maintenance of private hydrants:~~

~~(1) Department's normal program. Flushing frequency and schedule will be determined by the Water Department and may vary year to year. As much as possible, private hydrant owners will be notified in advance of the approximate flushing schedule. Private hydrant owners are specifically notified herein that water system flushing may be conducted during overnight hours, from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., or as determined to best provide system service.~~

~~(2) The Water Department will take reasonable precautions (diffusers, splash boards, etc.) to control the flow of water while flushing. The Water Department will not be responsible for damages to property that result from flushing private fire hydrants.~~

~~(3) In the event normal operation and/or flushing results in failure or required maintenance of a private fire hydrant, the hydrant owner shall be responsible for replacement of, or repairs to, the hydrant. The Water Department will inform the hydrant owner immediately of deficiencies identified during operation and/or flushing. The hydrant owner may hire the Water Department or a qualified contractor to complete the work needed to restore the hydrant.~~

~~(4) Charges for the Water Department to replace or complete maintenance on private hydrants shall be as follows:~~

~~(a) Hydrant replacement. One crew day (four people) of labor and equipment plus actual cost of new hydrant and required parts.~~

~~(b) Hydrant maintenance. Minimum of two crew hours (two people) of labor and equipment or actual time (whichever is less) plus actual cost of required parts.~~

~~F.—No future private hydrant services shall be allowed. Hydrants to be located on private property shall be the property of the Water Department. The property owner shall provide a minimum twenty-foot easement centered over the water main and hydrant.~~

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force the day after its passage and publication.

Adopted April 20, 2021
Signed – Elissa Friedl – Clerk Treasurer

Approved April 20, 2021
Signed – Emily McFarland – Mayor

Ord #21-19