

CITY OF SEGUIN

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE SEGUIN CITY COUNCIL AMENDING SECTION 102-281 OF THE SEGUIN CODE OF ORDINANCES TO UPDATE THE CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION PLAN; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO PREPARE THIS ORDINANCE FOR SUBMISSION AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

WHEREAS, present regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require that every five years cities review and revise, if necessary, their water conservation plan; and

WHEREAS, during the review of the City's water conservation plan, city staff found that in spite of adopting later plans the City's Water Conservation Ordinance had not been revised since 1996; and

WHEREAS, city staff recommends that the City's Ordinance be updated to match the current water conservation plan adopted by the City Council.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Seguin, Texas:**

**SECTION ONE.** Section 102-281, Water Conservation Plan, of the Seguin City Code is amended as follows (underlining indicates added text, ~~striketrough~~ indicates deleted text):

- (a) *Introduction.* The City of Seguin is dedicated to conserving one of the world's greatest natural resources: Water. ~~The city consumes approximately 1,337,290,000 gallons of water each year. Based on 1995 water consumption statistics, water is consumed forty-six (46) percent residential and fifty-four (54) percent commercial usage. The City has 13,300 acre-feet of available water in its system for residential and industrial use, approximately 1/3 of which is used by the City each year.~~ To reduce consumption of water by all customers, the city promotes water conservation through education and information, water conserving landscaping (xeriscape), leak detection and repair, universal metering, rate structure, recycling and reuse, retrofit programs, plumbing codes, and implementation and enforcement.
- (b) *Education and information.* Water conservation will be promoted by informing water users about ways to save water inside homes and other buildings, in landscaping and lawn uses, and in recreational uses. ~~Appendix A to this ordinance (Ordinance No. 96-28), which has not been included herein but can be found on file for inspection in the city secretary's office, is~~ The City maintains a list of suggested ways that water can be saved daily in the home; bathroom, kitchen, laundry room, appliances and plumbing equipment, and out-of-door usage.

Methods of informing the public shall include:

(1) Radio spots:

- a. City personnel will provide radio spots on a weekly basis during peak demands. These radio spots will keep the citizens up to date on river conditions, total water used and encourage citizen support for conservation efforts.
- b. Conservation tips will be announced on the radio.
- c. The city will use a variety of radio spots, including ones developed successfully by other agencies.
- d. The city will encourage citizen participation by asking them to do radio spots on their best water conservation tips.

(2) Newspaper:

- a. Provide news releases on the water plant pumpage and river storage conditions.
- b. Provide articles and news releases on water conservation tips. ~~(See Appendix A for samples.)~~
- ~~c. Encourage citizen participation through contest and written conservation tips.~~

(3) Pamphlets:

- a. Pamphlets are available to the public on water conservation in City Hall, and will be made available at hardware stores and general merchandise stores.
- b. When a customer applies for new service, conservation tips will be made available for their reference.
- c. Utility bill messages and door hangers on conservation will be used periodically, as appropriate.
- d. The city encourages water conservation during community events such as the Guadalupe County Fair, Earth Day and National Drinking Water Week.

(4) Governmental Access Cable Channel, Webpage and Social Media Sites

- (a) Provide daily news releases to keep citizens informed on conservation on the local access cable channel.
- (b) Provide articles on water conservation tips.
- (c) Provide current information on the City of Seguin Webpage.
- (d) Provide current information and important notices through the City's social media sites.

(c) *Water conserving landscaping.* In order to reduce the demands placed on a water system by landscape watering, the city will encourage education and information on water conserving landscaping.

- (1) The city encourages landscape architects to use adapted, low-water-using plants and grasses and efficient irrigation systems in preparing all site and facility plans.
- (2) The city encourages licensed irrigation contractors to use drip irrigation systems when possible and to design irrigation systems with water conservation features, such as sprinklers that emit large drops rather than a fine mist and a sprinkler layout that accommodates prevailing wind direction.
- (3) The city encourages commercial establishments to use drip irrigation for landscape watering when possible and to install only ornamental fountains that recycle and use the minimum amount of water.
- (4) The city encourages nurseries and local businesses to offer adapted, low-water-using plants and grasses and efficient landscape watering devices, such as drip irrigation systems.
- (5) The city will provide water-conserving landscaping at a city facility or park to use as an example for the public. ~~Each type of plant shall be identified with signage and proper care will be listed.~~

(d) *Leak detection and repair.* The city currently has a leak-detection program which is maintained in the following manner:

- (1) The city has invested in an Automated Meter Reading water meter system to be able to monitor water use and to manage the system, including the detection of possible leaks. ~~Each month water meters are physically read by a meter reader. The meter readers examine the meters to see if there is any indication of a leak. If a leak is detected, it is immediately reported to the water distribution department for repair.~~
- (2) If the meter reading is abnormally high ~~or low~~, a recheck is made to determine if there is a possible leak on the customer service, and the meter is replaced if necessary.
- (3) Water/Sewer Maintenance Department personnel ~~plant operators~~ are on duty "on call" twenty-four (24) hours a day and constantly monitor the water level in all water storage tanks. Operators ~~They~~ can immediately recognize a major water main break. When this occurs, the water plant personnel notify the Water/Sewer Maintenance Department ~~water distribution staff by radio~~ so that immediate repairs can begin.
- (4) ~~Meter readers and water distribution staff continually monitor the system for leaks and abnormal conditions.~~
- (5) ~~Distribution system staff~~ Water/Sewer Maintenance Department personnel are ~~is~~ on call twenty-four (24) hours a day for repairs if needed. When a citizen suspects a water main break by observing water running down the street, they ~~[should]~~ are encouraged to call the Police Department Dispatcher so that the on-call personnel can be notified. ~~who in turn notifies the water distribution staff for immediate investigation and action.~~

~~(5.6) Most distribution system leaks are detected early because of the ground conditions, water travels to due to water on the surface and the AMR meters. Most leaks are discovered within an hour or up to three (3) days, and maintenance crews are able to repair immediately.~~

*(e) Universal metering:*

- ~~(1) All residential, commercial and industrial customers inside and outside city limits have metering devices which are read monthly by city staff. This provides an accurate accounting of water used throughout the system.~~
- ~~(2) A meter change-out program will be established, whereby defective meters will be replaced on a scheduled basis.~~
- ~~(3) The method to measure water plant production has been established using a Pitot tube system. These measurements are then used to calibrate the metering equipment to show actual flow from the water plant. This type of calibration will be done every three (3) to five (5) years.~~
- ~~(4) The city is under contract to calibrate its instruments at the water plant every six (6) months.~~
- ~~(5) Precise influent and effluent recorders and transmitters are installed at the wastewater treatment plants.~~

- (1) The City of Seguin accounts for water production and water loss by maintaining accurate master meters and a replacement program for distribution meters.
- (2) Master meters used to record water plant production, purchase of wholesale water, and delivery of water to major industrial users are calibrated semi-annually. The accuracy of these meters is plus or minus 2.0% accuracy of the manufacturer's maximum flow. Qualified technicians are contracted to check calibration and provide documentation to the City.
- (3). The AMR meters that are not working properly or have abnormally high or low readings are replaced. The City has in place a meter replacement program.
- (4) The City of Seguin meters all customers in their water distribution system. Meters have been installed on all City and recreational complexes to accurately account for all water used.

*(f) Rate structure.* The city has a conservation-oriented water rate structure which was adopted May 1, 1985. This structure has continued through the present date. ~~in October, 1990. This rate structure, attached to Ordinance No. 96-28 as Appendix B, has not been set out herein, but can be found on file for inspection in the office of the city secretary.~~

The city's rate structure encourages the wise use of water and discourages the peak demands placed on a water distribution system by lawn watering and other summer uses, primarily by the residential sector. This residential rate has been structured to discourage

excessive water usage while assuring that the rates will not place an excessive burden on ~~the poor or~~ fixed-income residents.

(g) *Recycling and reuse:*

~~(1) The city has two (2) wastewater treatment plants which return the effluent to the river.~~

~~(2) The water plant recycles water used in the treatment process.~~

~~(3) The city encourages industries to recycle or reuse their water during production.~~

(1) The City of Seguin Water Treatment Plant generates wastewater during the treatment process. Wastewater comes from the backwash process of cleaning filter and sludge removal in clarification units. The wastewater from the Seguin Water Plant is stored in sludge basins and is then pumped to the Starcke Park Municipal Golf Course to irrigate the golf course. This reuse water is also pumped to both the City of Seguin softball and baseball complexes. During a wet season when the golf course and baseball fields do not need to irrigate the wastewater is recycled through the treatment process of the water plant.

(2) The City of Seguin has two Wastewater Treatment Plants. The Walnut Branch Plant has a discharge greater than two million gallons per day. A portion of the wastewater effluent is pumped to the Rio Nogales Power Plant as reuse water for use in generating electric power. The Rio Nogales Power Plant also purchases potable water, but the wastewater effluent purchase by the Power Plant reduces the amount of potable water needed by approximately 200,000,000 gallons annually.

(3) The discharge from the Rio Nogales Power Plant flows to the Geronimo Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, where the discharge is treated. This discharge has a high concentration of minerals and if discharged back to the Walnut Branch Plant, it would reduce the amount of effluent capable of being reused by the power plant.

(h) *Retrofit programs:*

~~(1) The building official has required water-saving devices in new construction as well as remodeling of homes and businesses. The Building Codes adopted by the City of Seguin contain within their guidelines retrofit recommendations that the City Building Official is enforcing.~~

(2) All local plumbing suppliers and hardware stores in Seguin stock water-saving devices and encourage their use.

(i) *Plumbing codes.* The city has adopted the Standard Plumbing 2009 International Residential Code, the 2009 International Building Code and the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

(j) ~~Implementation and enforcement.~~ The city manager has the authority and means to implement and enforce the provisions of this program to achieve the goal of conserving water.

~~(1) Enforcement will be provided by designated city staff to administer and enforce the program.~~

~~(2) The building inspector will not certify new construction unless water-saving devices are installed according to the Standard Building [Plumbing] Code.~~

~~(3) The city will disconnect customers from its water system who abuse water consumption.~~

Coordination and Regional Planning Groups. The City of Seguin is a customer of a wholesale water provider. Water is purchased from the Schertz Seguin Local Government Corporation ("SSLGC"). The SSLGC has participated in the strategic water planning process by providing information to the South Central Regional Water Planning Group (initially designated and known as Region L). The City of Seguin has also participated in the South Texas Regional Water Planning Group by providing a copy of its Water Conservation Plan, data on water consumption and commenting on future population growth.

(k). Conservation Plan and Goals. The City's Water Conservation Plan and Water Conservation Goals shall be posted on the City's Website. Additionally a copy of the Conservation Plan and Goals shall be available in the office of the City Secretary.

**SECTION TWO.** If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions of this ordinance will continue in force if they can be given effect without the invalid portion.

**SECTION THREE.** All ordinances and resolution or parts of ordinances or resolutions in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

**SECTION FOUR.** City staff is authorized to prepare this Ordinance for submission as a supplement to the Seguin Code of Ordinances.

**SECTION FIVE.** This ordinance shall be effective upon ten (10) days following passage on second reading.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on first reading on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on second reading on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014.

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DON KEIL  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Thalia Stautzenberger  
City Secretary