

**ORDINANCE NO. 3829**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15 ARTICLE 1 SECTION 105 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF OSAWATOMIE, KANSAS**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 15, Article 1 addresses a number of general provisions of our utility operations for the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Specifically, 15-105 makes theft of utility services and tampering with meters illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, we have experienced increases in damage to transmitters in water meter pits which causes us to manually read these meters; and

**WHEREAS**, manually reading meters is far more time consuming than reading them remotely.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF OSAWATOMIE KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Chapter 15 Section 105 of the code of the City of Osawatomie is hereby amended by adding subsection (d) below:

**15-105.**

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to obtain utility services from the city by deception, threat, coercion, stealth, mechanical tampering or use of false token or device.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to break the seal of any meter, to alter the register or mechanism of any meter, or to make any outlet or connection in any manner so that the water or power supplied by the city may be used or wasted without being metered. It shall be unlawful for any person except an authorized employee of the city to turn any curb cock on or off.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, other than duly authorized city officials or employees to turn water on or off at the water meter or curb cock shut off, with a key or in any other manner.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to tamper, alter, or damage any remote meter reading equipment. If equipment is altered or damaged and can no longer be used to remotely read the meter, fees to manually read meters may be levied upon the property owner or persons responsible for damage or alterations. Such manual meter read fees may be set by the Governing Body by separate fee resolution.*

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force after one publication in the official City newspaper.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Governing Body of the City of Osawatomie, Kansas, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023, a majority voting in favor of.

**APPROVED** and signed by the Mayor.

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Nick Hampson, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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Tammy Seamands, City Clerk