

ITEM #:	37
DATE:	02-24-26
DEPT:	W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE MODIFYING WATER METER SETTING REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND:

On February 10, Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance that would amend Chapter 28 of *Municipal Code* to clarify and standardize water meter installation requirements in support of the City's transition to the new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system.

The new telemetry system requires the installation of a signal wire to allow a radio to be mounted on the outside of a home or business in new neighborhoods, due to their distance from the data collection units. The data collection units are located within the service territory of the Ames Electric Utility, and water meters outside that area require the radios to be mounted on the outside of the structure.

Having the wire installed as a part of the original construction of the property allows for a neat, clean installation. The signal wires will not be required for existing meter installations, and customers with an existing water meter will not be impacted by this ordinance change.

The attached ordinance prepared by the Legal Department fulfills that direction. Staff is requesting that Council approve the ordinance on first reading.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Prior to seeking Council direction earlier this month, staff sent letters and emails to all plumbers and home builders who had applied for a plumbing permit in the past twelve months, informing them of the proposed changes. That same letter invited them to attend an informational open house on February 2, where they had an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns about the proposed revisions. There were no attendees at that open house.

On February 18, staff sent a second round of letters and emails, informing the recipients that Council had started the process to adopt the Code change. Staff has received no inquiries or concerns regarding the proposed change.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve on first reading an ordinance revising Chapter 28 Division II to conform to the installation requirements of the new Automated Metering Infrastructure.
2. Do not approve on first reading and provide further direction to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The new Aclara metering system being adopted by both Electric and Water requires a signal wire to be run between the water meter and the radio that will transmit the meter reading

signal. The proposed changes would reinstate a requirement for a signal wire to be installed at the time of initial construction. Including the language in the *Municipal Code* will clarify the requirements and standardize water meter installations. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1 as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ordinance Section 28.209\(2\) New Water Meters.PDF](#)