



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: City Council
Date: October 21, 2025
Contact: Blake Neffendorf, Public Works Director
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2025-939- / 1.5

ITEM TITLE: Deliberation and possible action to consider an Ordinance on first and final reading and to adopt said Ordinance amending the City of Buda Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24 Utilities to create a violation and penalty pertaining to unauthorized connections to water or sewer utilities (Public Works Director Blake Neffendorf) [PUBLIC TESTIMONY]

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed amendments would create a violation and a penalty up to \$500.00 for the unauthorized use of a City utility.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The Texas Penal Code §31.04 states that “a person commits theft of service if, with intent to avoid payment for service that the actor knows is provided only for compensation (...) intentionally or knowingly secures performance of the service by deception, threat, or false token.” The statute states that theft of service for which the value of the service stolen is less than \$100.00 is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable in the municipal court, with a fine amount of up to \$500.00 per offense.

3. ANALYSIS

The adoption of the ordinance pertaining to theft of services is reasonable and necessary.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The statute states that theft of service for which the value of the service stolen is less than \$100.00 is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable in the municipal court, with a fine amount of up to \$500.00 per offense.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

EXCEPTIONAL CITY SERVICES

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Maintain a fiscally responsible City property tax and competitive fee structure.

7. PROS AND CONS

The City currently lacks a method to address unauthorized utility bypass connections. Adoption of the ordinance would provide staff the necessary means and authority to address the offense.

8. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks the Council's direction to approve or deny the adoption of the Ordinance.

Attachments:

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