

**ILLEGAL TAKING OF WATER  
AND FAILURE TO HOOK UP TO WATER  
FROM THE CITY OF PETERSBURG**

**ILLEGAL TAKING OF WATER:**

There are two instances of taking water from the City that are illegal and will subject the violator to a fine.

The first instance is the taking of water from a fire hydrant. Section 13.03.003 of the Petersburg Code of Ordinances provides that it shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person, firm, or corporation to take water from any fire hydrant located within the city limits of Petersburg. The fine for doing so will cost you no less than \$25.00 or not more than \$200.00 for each violation . Each and every day that this section is violated is a separate and distinct offense.

Authorized city personnel and members of the Fire Department may take water for city use and from time to time you will also see city personnel or volunteers from the Fire Department flushing water from the hydrants. This is a normal maintenance item and is not prohibited by the Ordinance.

The second instance is when any person, persons, firm or corporation, who is not an employee of the City, opens a locked water meter or turns on a water meter to allow passage of water through the meter once water service has been shut off to a property. Additionally it is illegal for any person, persons, firm or corporation to tap into the water system of the City for any purpose without first obtaining written permission from the City. A violation of this section (13.03.056) of the Petersburg Code of Ordinances carries a fine not to exceed \$500.00 for each violation. Each day there is a failure to comply with the terms of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. Furthermore, the violator will be subject to arrest under the theft of service statutes.

Water utility services provided by the City shall be assessed a fifteen (15%) penalty as a late fee if payment is not received by the city before the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) day of the month. Water service shall be terminated if payment is not received by the City by 10:00 a.m. on the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of the month. Whenever the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month falls on a weekend or on a holiday the termination action will occur on the next business day following the weekend day or holiday.

Upon termination of water service the City may take one of the following actions:

- (1) The meter supplying the water may be removed,
- (2) The water meter may be locked in the off position,
- (3) The water meter cover may be secured, or
- (4) Any other action which may be reasonably necessary to ensure that the water utilities will remain disconnected.

Before a water meter is reinstalled or unlocked to serve a delinquent account, the customer must pay all delinquencies plus a thirty (\$30.00) reconnect fee. Additionally, the account must be brought up to the current \$100.00 deposit rate. The deposit shall be collected prior to water utility service being reconnected.

#### **FAILURE TO HOOK UP TO CITY WATER:**

Section 13.03.001 of the Petersburg Code of Ordinances requires that all residences in the City of Petersburg must be connected by a water pipeline to furnish water to the occupants of said residence for domestic purposes if the City has a water line which is contiguous to the residence in an alley, easement, or street.

A violation of this section will subject the person to a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$2,000.00 for each violation. Each and every day that this section is violated is a separate and distinct offense. Provided, however, no person whose account has been terminated for nonpayment shall be subject to this penalty provision until a time period of thirty (30) days has lapsed since a termination for non-payment of water services has taken effect.