



City of Salem

In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four

An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance relative to Water and Sewers

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:

SECTION I: Chapter 46. Sec. 46-35. Meters is hereby amended by deleting paragraph (d) *Estimates of use of water* in its entirety and replacing it with the following paragraph:

“(d) Water Usage Estimates: In instances when an actual read is not being received due to reasons such as meter or MIU malfunction, but not excluding other causes, the water taker shall be billed based on the historical average. For commercial or industrial water takers, the water registrar will estimate the daily volume for billing purposes. In cases where actual readings are not available for the main meter but a deduct meter is getting actual reads, the estimate will be calculated based on the actual reads of the deduct meter and historical variances between the two meters.”

SECTION II. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

In City Council April 11, 2024

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs co-posted with the Committee of the Whole

ATTEST:

ILENE SIMONS
CITY CLERK



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Dominick Pangallo
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

April 11, 2024

Salem City Council
93 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Councillors,

Enclosed please find an Ordinance amending the section of our code relative to water meter readings. Specifically, the proposed language replaces, in its entirety, the paragraph of Section 46-35 regarding estimating the use of water for meter reading purposes.

This Ordinance is intended to clarify and provide more consistent guidelines for how estimated water usage is determined, based on historical averages of actual reads. Estimated readings are sometimes necessary when an actual reading is not possible. The proposed Ordinance here is intended to bring more fairness, accuracy, and transparency to the City's billing practices when estimated readings are needed.

I recommend adoption of the enclosed Ordinance and invite you to contact the Engineering Department's Business Manager/Water Registrar, Sam Mustafa, should you have any questions regarding it.

Sincerely,

Dominick Pangallo
Mayor
City of Salem