

(First Published in the Columbus News Report \_\_\_\_\_, 2017)

**ORDINANCE NO. 1404**

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS, TO REVISE POLICY AND PROCEDURE REGARDING ADJUSTMENTS OF WATER BILLS AND SEWER BILLS RESULTING FROM UNDETECTABLE WATER LEAKS.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS.

SECTION 1: That Ordinance 1253 and the Code of the City of Columbus, 2014, Chapter XV, Section 15-232 shall be revised regarding undetectable water leaks and water and sewer bill adjustments.

SECTION 2: Revised City Code Section 15-232. The following policy and conditions shall control water bill and corresponding sewer bill adjustments.


- (a) Excessive water bills caused by leaks are eligible for adjustment only when the leaks are undetectable. Leaks such as faucets, toilets and water heaters are considered detectable and are not eligible for water bill adjustments.
- (b) The water customer must present to the City Clerk's office a written description of the leak location and the cause of the leak and proof that the leak was repaired before an adjustment can be considered.
- (c) The City Clerk's staff is authorized to determine the amount of adjustment. The adjustment shall be calculated by subtracting the average usage from the actual usage and dividing the balance by 2, resulting in the City bearing the expense of one-half of the excess usage.
- (d) The corresponding sewer bill will be reduced to the amount of the customer's average monthly usage calculated from the same time period as the water usage adjustment.**
- (e) The water customer may accept or reject the adjusted water bill.
- (f) Any adjustment of a water bill and corresponding sewer bill due to leakage attaches to the property where the leak occurs, and the property will become ineligible for any subsequent adjustments for **three (3)** years, regardless of any change in ownership or tenancy of the property. Documentation of all adjustments for water leaks shall be maintained in the City Clerk's office.
- (g) A customer may appeal the decision of the City Clerk's office regarding a water bill adjustment by making a written request and personally appearing before the Water Committee. The Water Committee will schedule a meeting as soon as

practicable to consider the appeal and prepare a recommendation to the City Council.

SECTION 3: All ordinances and resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed in so far as they conflict herewith.

SECTION 4: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage and publication in the official City newspaper.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Governing body this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.

  
William Schaiff, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

