

**CITY OF WRENS  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
TITLE 5  
CHAPTER 3**

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**Gas**

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Sec. 5-3-1 Specifications for system construction.

The standard specifications of the *City of Wrens Operation and Management Manual* for the construction of natural gas systems shall be complied with unless other procedures, or methods or specifications are specified by City ordinance or this chapter. A copy of such standard specifications shall be maintained on file in the offices of the City Clerk and City building inspector.

Sec. 5-3-2 Initial service.

- a. Every person, firm, partnership or corporation who can be served by the City at a profit will be served natural gas under the City's rules, regulations and charges. The size of the service and appurtenances used to serve each customer, shall be such that they will render efficient service to the customer.
- b. Prospective average customers who desire gas service where the City has an existing main will be furnished up to 75 feet of service line and the necessary fittings, valves, meter and regulator for such charge as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council. In the event the customer's inlet is over 75 feet from the City's main, an additional charge per lineal foot of 3/4 inch service line will be made by the City for that amount of the service line exceeding 75 feet.
- c. Any prospective average customer who desires gas service where the City does not have a main available will be furnished 200 feet of 2 inch main free of charge. For any additional main in excess of 200 feet the City will charge such rate per lineal foot as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council, with the above charges as set forth in subsection (b).
- d. Subsections (b) and (c) apply to an average customer. Any prospective customer who is over or under the average will be served by the City on a basis consistent with this chapter or as the City may decide for special cases.
- e. Each prospective customer must apply with the City for the service the customer desires. Each prospective customer must grant the City an easement over the property where the service will be installed, permitting the City to use this property to lay the gas line service and permitting the City ingress and egress to the property for purposes necessary for the operation thereof. Each customer shall sign a service contract and an easement.

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- f. Each average prospective domestic customer must make a deposit with the City as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council at the time of signing an application for service. However, any owner of premises who occupies those premises shall have the option of: (1) allowing the deposit to be credited on his gas bill at any time after 90 days from date of the deposit, and conveying to the City a lien on said property for any unpaid gas owned by said owner, which lien shall apply against such property, said owner, and his assigns or heirs; or (2) allowing said deposit to remain as a deposit and not conveying any lien against said property to the City. Any deposit made by any customer shall be refunded to the customer at the time service to that customer is discontinued, provided the customer has paid all amounts due the City, and provided same has not been optionally credited as outlined above in the case of owners of property.

Sec. 5-3-3 Rates; billing.

- a. Rates for domestic and commercial gas service shall be as established from time to time by the mayor and council. A current schedule of rates shall be kept on file in the offices of the City Clerk and City Gas Superintendent.
- b. Each individual industrial customer shall be sold gas on a contract separately negotiated between the City and the customer.
- c. Each customer will be classified into that rate structure that will enable the customer to buy gas at the most advantageous price to the customer.
- d. The City's retail gas rates shall be increased or decreased pursuant to the recommendation of the City's gas marketer based on the incremental increase or decrease in the wholesale rates for natural gas charged by the City's natural gas supplier.
- e. The effective date of change shall be the first billing cycle subsequent to the effective date of change by the supplier.
- f. The application of this purchased gas adjustment shall be to the nearest whole cent per MCF (thousand cubic feet).
- g. All of the City's retail natural gas rates shall be subject to this adjustment with the exception of the rates for service to customers whose rates already contain a purchased gas adjustment (PGA) by contract.
- h. As the City purchases natural gas on a two- part rate schedule, the incremental increase or decrease shall be the sum of the difference of the old and new demand charges divided by 9.15 plus the difference of the old and new commodity charges.
- i. Any customer who desires to have his service temporarily disconnected will be charged no fee for turning gas off, but a reconnection fee as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council will be charged for turning the gas back on. This rule

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applies under all conditions except where a new gas line is installed and a new customer is being served gas the first time.

- j. Meters shall be read and bills to customers for gas service shall be mailed out on the last day of the month in which service was provided and the amount due as shown by said bill shall be payable by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month, and if not paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month a penalty of 10 percent of the amount of the bill shall be added thereto and collected. If the amount of the bill, including the penalty, is not then paid by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the following month, the gas service shall, without any further grace period, be disconnected; provided gas service shall not be terminated until the customer receives notice and has an opportunity to be heard concerning the delinquent account. If the customer's bill is not paid when due and is disconnected, no charge shall be made for such disconnection, and the deposit so made shall be used and applied against the amount owed by the customer and any balance shall be returned to the customer. The full amount of any deposit held by the City will be returned to the customer only in the event gas service is disconnected and the customer's bill has been paid in full. Should such customer thereafter wish to be reconnected to the gas system the deposit hereinabove provided for will be required before reconnection and in addition a reconnection charge as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council shall be collected.

Sec. 5-3-4 Gas appliances.

All gas appliances hereafter installed shall be of a design and construction approved as to safety by the American Gas Association, except such apparatus of said association does not accept for test and approval which said apparatus not so accepted must be of a design and construction as set forth in specifications of Bureau of Standards of the United States Department of Commerce, or of the Southern Gas Code. Used appliances may be re-installed when, in the opinion of the building inspector and Gas Superintendent they may be used without danger.

Sec. 5-3-5 Service lines and services.

- a. Meters shall be located in a readily accessible place and in a place where possible damage to the meter is minimized. No regulator or meter shall be located in a closed, unventilated place. Meters shall be installed in such a manner that they are easily available for reading and servicing by the City.
- b. All service lines shall be installed in such a manner that they will drain from the meter to the main, if possible. The minimum cover on the service line shall be nine (9) inches.
- c. All services installed shall be installed in accordance with the standard specifications of the *City of Wrens Operations and Management Manual* in Section 5-3-1.

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- d. Any line customer receiving gas service will be required to pay such charge as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council for the installation of a high pressure regulator set. From the downstream connection of the high pressure regulator set, the line customer will receive the same service as the customer served from the City distribution system. If more than one line customer is served by a single high pressure regulator set, the cost of the regulator set may be prorated among the line customers being served by it.

Sec. 5-3-6 Penalty for violation.

Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be punished as provided in Section 1-1-5 of this code.