

ORDINANCE NO.: O-25-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF EAGLE LAKE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 16, UTILITIES, ARTICLE V. BILLING PROCEDURES, FEES AND DEPOSITS, SECTION 16-142 AND SECTION 16-144; ESTABLISHING A FEE TO SET UP AND MAINTAIN PAYMENT PLAN FOR UTILITY ACCOUNTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Eagle Lake provides water and sewer services to customers within the territorial boundaries of the City and within its Chapter 180 service area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eagle Lake has experienced a significant increase in amount of utility accounts and an associated increase in customer service requests to establish payment plans under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission deems it in the best interest of the City to establish a fee for accounts for which a payment plan is established to defray the cost of providing City staff and resources necessary to accommodate such customer requests; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Commission of the City of Eagle Lake, Florida, as follows:

1. Section 16-142 of the Code of Ordinances shall be amended and shall read as follows (~~striking through~~ language deleted, underline language added):

Sec. 16-142. – Customer billing, administration, inspection and service fees.

The following fees are hereby imposed:

- (1) A fee of \$3.00 per month on each user of utility services, including water, sewer and garbage collection, provided by the city. This fee will be charged regardless of whether a customer uses all of the utility services provided and shall be included as part of each customer's monthly bill. This fee will be charged monthly regardless of usage or non-usage of any service to defray the costs for the preparation of the monthly billing statement including the reading of the water meter, and applies to all customers of the utility system including those that area on a temporary hold for any reason.
- (2) A fee of \$3.00 per month for customers with separate irrigation meters on each monthly irrigation meter billing statement during months where there is usage. The fee shall be to

defray the costs for the preparation of the monthly irrigation meter billing statement and reading of the irrigation meter.

- (3) A one-time administration fee of \$20.00 for new account set-up which shall be included on the customer's first billing statement. If a customer establishes a separate irrigation meter account and/or hydrant meter account then the one-time administration fee shall also be charged on each of these accounts and included on the customer's first monthly billing statement for such accounts.
- (4) A one-time commercial administration fee of \$45.00 for new commercial account set-up which shall be included on the customer's first monthly billing statement. If a customer establishes a separate irrigation meter and/or hydrant meter account then the one-time administration fee shall also be charged on each of those accounts and included on the customer's first monthly billing statement for such accounts.
- (5) A fee of \$25.00, along with an application for service, to have water turned on for a 24 hour period for inspection purposes.
- (6) A fee of \$75.00 to have services turned on or off after 3:00 p.m. on any city business day. In the absence of payment of said fee, service connections and/or reconnections shall be made the following business day if the payment required therefor is received after 3:00 p.m.
- (7) A three percent (3%) fee on an outstanding account balance will be imposed on accounts for which a payment plan is established. Payment plans may be authorized at the discretion of the City Manager for unusual circumstances, such as a water leak that results in a higher-than-normal utility bill.

3. It is the intent of the City Commission that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become codified and made a part of the City of Eagle Lake Code of Ordinances. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered, reformatted or re-lettered to accomplish such intention.

4. All ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

5. Should any section, paragraph, clause, sentence, item, word or provision of this Ordinance be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole, or any part hereof, not so declared to be invalid.

6. This Ordinance shall take effect _____, 2025.

INTRODUCED on first reading this ____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED on second reading this ____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, FLORIDA

CORY COLER, MAYOR

ATTEST

CITY CLERK, DAWN WRIGHT

Approved as to form:

CITY ATTORNEY, HEATHER R. MAXWELL