

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER**  
Ordinance No. 269

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 241 OF THE  
CODE OF THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER RELATING TO REQUIRING  
EXTERIOR INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Annotated Code of Maryland, Local Government Article, Chapter 9, Subtitle 7 of the Environmental Article, and Chapter 9 of the Charter of the Town of Manchester, authorize the Mayor and Council of the Town of Manchester to establish and from time to time amend a system and schedules for the creation of fees and other requirements regarding the public water system; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 241 of the Town Code, entitled "Water", in part governs the installation of water meters; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the citizens of the Town of Manchester to amend the Code to require installation of water meters on the exterior of houses or buildings going forward for ease of access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER:

**ARTICLE 1.** That Part II of the Town Code entitled "General Legislation", Chapter 241 entitled "Water", Article I entitled "Water Service and Rates", Section 241-11 entitled "Meters" be repealed and re-enacted as follows:

**§ 241-1. Meters.**

- A. All meters will be furnished by and remain the property of the Town, which reserves the right to stipulate the size, type and make of meter to be used as well as the location of the setting. Minimum meter size shall be 5/8 inch by 3/4 inch.
- B. The meter will be set ~~in the basement in~~ outside in a vault/pit close to the property line nearest the Towns water main but after the curb stop valve in a convenient place, the location to be provided and maintained by the owner. In the event the customer desires any change in the location or position of the meter, meter box or vault, such change in location shall be made by the Town or its representative at the cost and expense of the owner.
- C. All meters shall be maintained by and at the expense of the Town insofar as ordinary wear and tear are concerned, but the owner will be held responsible for damages as a result of freezing, hot water or other external causes when such damage results directly or indirectly from the negligence of the customer. When such damage occurs, the Town will furnish and set another meter to replace the one frozen or otherwise damaged, and the cost of such repairs, including replaced parts,

labor and transportation charges, shall be paid for by the owner.

- D. Owners shall install a pressure-reducing valve on the ~~inlet~~ outlet side of the meter and a suitable check valve in the service line on the outlet side of the meter in such manner as to prevent the return of hot water to the meter, and shall pay the cost of all repairs necessitated by failure to do so.
- E. The quantity recorded by the meter shall be taken to be the amount of water passing through the meter, which amount shall be accepted as conclusive by both the owner and the Town, except when the meter has been found to be registering inaccurately or has ceased to register. In such cases, the quantity may be determined by the average registration of the meter in a corresponding past period when in order or by the average registration of the new meter, whichever method is representative, in the opinion of the Town, of the conditions existing during the period in question.
- F. The Town reserves the right to remove and to test any meter at any time and to substitute another meter in its place. In the case of a disputed account involving the question of accuracy of the meter, such meter will be tested by the Town upon the written request of the applicant, provided that the meter in question has not been tested either by the Town or by the Public Service Commission.
- G. If a meter is found to be inaccurate, it shall be replaced at Town expense. However, if a meter is found to be accurate, the owner will bear all costs of replacement and related expense.
- H. The owner shall permit no one, except an agent of the Town or person otherwise lawfully authorized to do so, to remove, inspect or tamper with the meter or other property of the Town on his premises. The customer shall notify the Town, as soon as it comes to his knowledge, of any injury to or cessation in registration of the meter.

## **ARTICLE 2. Severability.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this chapter is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this chapter, it being the intent of the Town that this chapter shall stand, notwithstanding the invalidity of any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof.

## **ARTICLE 3. Section Headings, Chapter Headings, Titles.**

Section headings, chapter headings, titles, etc., are for the purpose of description or ease of use and do not form a part of the text of this Ordinance or any Code or test adopted hereby.

#### ARTICLE 4. Existing Liabilities.

This Ordinance shall not discharge, impair or release any contract, obligation, duty, liability or penalty whatever existing on the date of its enactment. All suits and actions, both civil and criminal pending or which may hereafter be instituted for causes of action now existing or offenses already committed against any law or ordinance affected by the adoption of this Ordinance shall be instituted, proceeded with and prosecuted to final determination and judgment as if this Ordinance had not become effective.

#### ARTICLE 5. Effective Date.

Introduced this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Passed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by a vote of \_\_\_\_ Council members in favor and \_\_\_\_ Council members opposed.

This Ordinance shall take effect on \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenn Miller, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly J. Baldwin  
Director of Finance

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melinda Smith  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly J. Baldwin  
Director of Finance

Approved as to form and legal  
sufficiency this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas V. McCarron,  
Town Attorney

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NOTE:       Matter in ~~strike through~~ is proposed for deletion from existing law.  
              Matter underlined is new material proposed to be added to existing law.