THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH

By-law Number (1991)-13791
A by-law to regulate the supply of water in the City of Guelph and to repeal By-law (1979)-10230 and to adopt Municipal Code Amendment Number 64 which replaces Chapter 291

THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH
ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1.(1) The City of Guelph shall control and direct the operation of all land and equipment required for the supply and distribution of water within the City of Guelph.

(2) Guelph Hydro is the authorised agent of the City of Guelph in respect of the reading of water meters, and all administrative matters including billing and collecting payment.

2.(1) All applications for turning on, and turning off, the supply of water to any premises, shall be made in writing and upon the authorised form, at the office of Guelph Hydro.

(2) Every person making an application for turning on the supply of water shall, at the time of application, pay the prescribed fee in advance. No water supply shall be turned on until such payment has been made.

(3) It shall be the responsibility of every person submitting an application under subsection 1 of this section to make arrangements with the Waterworks Department of the City of Guelph to allow access to the premises by employees of the said Waterworks Department.

3. Where the water supply to any premises has been turned off because of non-payment of the rates and charges levied or for any other reason pursuant to this by-law, the water supply shall not be turned on again until all rates and charges due in respect of the water supply to the premises have been paid, the prescribed fee for the turning on of the water supply has not been paid, and any other additional expenses incurred as a result of turning on or off the water supply have been paid.

4.(1) Every person requesting that the supply of water to his or her premises be turned off shall give notice in writing of such request to the office of Guelph Hydro.

(2) Rates and charges shall continue to be levied until such notice has been received by Guelph Hydro.

5.(1) Where the City Engineer detects any waste of water on any premises due to a leaky valve, a defective or improper pipe or defective or improper fixtures, the City Engineer shall notify the owner or occupant of the premises of the repairs or alterations needed to correct the waste of water.

(2) Where the repairs or alterations required by the City Engineer are not made within seven calendar days following such notification, the City Engineer is authorised to turn off the supply of water to the premises either by closing the curb stop or by detaching the service pipe from the main.
(3) Where the condition of any pipe or fixture is such that it causes a waster of water or damage to any property, the City Engineer is authorised to turn off the supply of water to the premises without notice, either by closing the curb stop or by detaching the service pipe from the main.

(4) Where the water supply had been turned off pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 herein, it shall not be turned on again until the repairs or alterations have been made, the condition of all pipes and fixtures is satisfactory, and all payments pursuant to Section 3 have been made.

(5) The City of Guelph shall not be responsible for any damages incurred to any property as a result of turning off the water supply to any premises pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 herein.

6.(1) The City Engineer shall, in every case, approve the service required, the size of the pipe to be used in supplying water to any premises and the location in the street in which such pipes shall be laid.

(2) No person shall install a pipe that is smaller than that approved, between the main and the water meter without the consent of the City Engineer.

7.(1) Any person who requests a service larger than that which exists to his or her premises may be supplied with a larger service, subject to payment of the cost thereof, and provided that such larger service will no adversely affect the water supply and distribution system.

(2) Every connection in such premises shall be detached from the existing service and attached to the new service forthwith. Where this is not possible, alternate arrangements for the water supply shall be made with the City’s Waterworks Department prior to any change in the existing connection.

8. Where any departure from the prescribed procedures is permitted in order to accommodate the needs of a water user, the water shall be charged with the expenses of making the change.

9. Any work required in connection with the supply of water carried out within any road allowance or municipal easement shall be carried out only by employees of the City of Guelph or persons authorised by the City Engineer.

10. Every premises shall be supplied through a separate service pipe from the main to the water meter equipped with separate stop and waste and curb stops of a type approved by the City Engineer for the purpose of shutting off the water supply. For the purpose of this subsection, an apartment building shall be considered to be one premises and a townhouse development shall be exempted if the internal distribution system is designed and constructed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer.

11.(1) Every stop and waste, shall be placed immediately inside the outer wall of the premises being supplied with water.

(2) The owner of every premises shall be responsible for turning off the stop and waste where damage could occur as a result of the premises being vacant.
12. Where the owner or occupant of a premises requests a service main of a diameter of 3.84 cm.(1.5 inches) or larger, he or she shall provide a meter by-pass to the specification of the City Engineer. This by-pass shall be a type which can be sealed in a closed position by an employee or authorised agent of the City.

13. No person, other than an employee or authorised agent of the City, shall break a by-pass seal.

14. Every service pipe shall be provided with curb stop, of a type approved by the City Engineer, placed at the property line.

15. (1) No connection for water supply, other than a fire protection system, shall be made to a fire protection piping system.

   (2) Notwithstanding subsection 1, the normal supply line may be connected to a fire protection piping system on the street side of the fire protection line when so approved by the City Engineer. In such a case, a curb stop shall be installed on the other line at the property line or at a distance from the building it serves approved by the City Engineer. The stop shall be of a type approved by the City Engineer.

16. Every service connection shall be laid in such a manner to ensure that there is a ground cover depth of at least 168 cm. (five feet, six inches) at all locations, depth being measured from the ground surface. In every case where a connection pipe is laid across another excavated area, measures shall be taken to ensure minimal settlement.

17. No person other than an employees or authorised agent of the City shall operate any water supply appurtenance or fire hydrant within a road allowance or municipal easement without the written permission of the City Engineer.

18. Material used in the construction of water supply services from the street line to the building shall correspond in all particulars with that used by the City.

19. No connections, other than for authorised fire protection use, shall be made on the street side of the City’s water meter.

20. (1) The owner or occupant of a premises in which a water meter has been placed shall take all the reasonable precautions to protect such meter and its connections from injury by frost or otherwise, and shall at all times allow free access to such meter and connections by employees and authorised agents of the City to perform their duties.

   (2) Where any meter or its connections has been injured or interfered with, the owner or occupant shall be liable for the cost of putting the same in proper order and condition and the cost of so doing shall be immediately due and payable to the City, and may be recovered by any action in court.

   (3) Every meter shall remain the property of the City.

   (4) There shall be ample clearance from walls and other obstacles to allow the installation of a meter without any changes being made to the service pipe.
21. Where new water piping work is installed in a premises, and where any repairs are made to an existing water piping system, such work shall comply with all municipal and provincial plumbing codes, and shall be subject to inspections and tests by the municipal plumbing inspector.

22. When so requested in an emergency situation by the City Engineer or his or her representative, every water consumer shall limit or discontinue the use of water as requested.

23. Where the City of Guelph fills with water any tanker or swimming pool from a water hydrant, the owner of the tanker or pool shall pay the required rate.

24.(1) No person shall allow the once through use of water for the purpose of cooling, with the exception of makeup water for recirculation systems and boiler blowdowns. Bypasses will be permitted for emergency uses.

(2) No person shall use or allow the use of water for manufacturing purposes unless the amount and application have first been approved by the City Engineer.

25. Every owner and occupant of a premises supplied with water from the City’s water supply shall grant access at all times between the hours of 08:00 a.m. and 04:00 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, to employees and authorised agents of the City for the purpose of meter reading, inspecting, altering and repairing water lines, meters, fixtures or appurtenances. Failure to allow such access following reasonable requests for same may result in the water supply to that premises being turned off without notice.

26.(1) Where a self-generating meter with a remote read-out is installed in any premises, the owner of the premises shall take all reasonable precautions to protect the remote read-out and the wire connecting it to the meter within the premises from any injury.

(2) Where any such meter with a remote read-out or its connecting wire has been injured or interfered with, the owner or occupant shall be liable for the cost of putting the same in proper order and condition and the cost of so doing shall be immediately due and payable to the City, and may be recovered by action in any court.

(3) It is the responsibility of the owner to check periodically the reading of the outside remote read-out against the inside meter. In the case of a discrepancy, payment shall be made in accordance with the inside meter.

27. No person other than an employee or authorised agent of the City shall alter, damage, interfere with, remove the seal of, or remove any water meter.

28. During the construction of, or alteration to, a building requiring the issuance of a building permit, the owner and the contractor shall ensure that a two conductor wire is installed to facilitate the installation of a meter with a remote read-out. This wire shall extend from the point where the water meter is to be installed inside the building to a point on the inside or outside of the building where the electric meter is to be installed. In cases where the distance does not exceed 30 meters (100 feet), the wire will be composed of a two conductor 22 gauge solid copper and sheathed wire. If the distance exceeds 30 meters, the wire size will be
increased to 18 gauge solid copper and sheathed wire. These conductors shall be capable of carrying a voltage of approximately 6 to 8 volts. The wire shall be installed in such a fashion so as to leave a loose loop of approximately one third of a meter in length at the point of exit to allow for reconnection in case of breakage.

29. In no case shall any private water supply system be connected to the City’s water supply system.

30. Every owner of a large boiler or of a premises where water supply is essential shall install holding tanks to retain an ample supply of water to provide for situations where the City deems it necessary to shut off the water supply.

31. Where the City of Guelph deems it necessary, the City of Guelph may shut off water supply in an emergency, or impose water restrictions to safeguard the supply of water, and in any such case, the City shall not be held liable for any damages incurred as a result, provided that the City has made a reasonable effort to notify affected users.

32. Any water user having doubts as to the accuracy of the water meter installed on his or her premises may request that the meter be tested by the City subject to payment of the applicable deposit. If the meter is found to be accurate within five percent (+ or -), the deposit will be forfeited to the City. If not, the deposit will be returned and adjustments will be made to the subject account. The deposit shall be in accordance with the City’s rate schedule in effect at the time.

33. (1) Every owner of any premises upon which is situated an industrial, commercial or institutional building which is supplied with water from the City’s water supply system shall ensure that under no condition shall there be any backflow of unpotable or contaminated water into the potable drinking water lines on said premises or into the City’s water supply system. Where air gaps are not possible in the connecting of the potable water supply onto contaminated systems, backflow preventers designed to the degree of contamination shall be installed.

(2) Backflow preventers shall be installed, tested and maintained by qualified persons only.

(3) An employee or authorised agent of the City may enter any premises at any reasonable time to request a test of the functionality of the backflow preventer.

(4) Every owner shall ensure that backflow preventers are checked annually to ensure their reliability, and the results of such inspections shall be forwarded forthwith to the City’s Waterworks department.

34. Where any premises contains a water service pipe in excess of 45 meters (150 feet) from the property line, the City may from time to time require that this pipe be checked for leakage.

35. No person shall install a lawn sprinkler system without the written permission of the City Engineer.
36. (1) Every person who contravenes any provision of this by-law is guilty of an offence, and shall be liable upon conviction of a fine of $5,000.00 exclusive of costs.

(2) A contravention of any provision of this by-law may result in the water supply being turned off, if deemed necessary in the circumstances by the City Engineer for purposes of protecting the waterworks or preserving the purity of the water supply.

37. By-law Number (1979)-10230 is hereby repealed

38. Chapter 291 of the Municipal Code is hereby deleted, and this By-law substituted therefor, being Municipal Code Amendment Number 64.

PASSED this SECOND day of APRIL, 1991.
By-law Number (1991)-13791

A By-law to regulate the supply of water in the City of Guelph and to repeal By-law (1979)-10230 and to adopt Municipal Code Amendment Number 64 of which replaces Chapter 291.

Read a first and second time at 9:49 o’clock p.m., April 2nd, 1991.

Read and passed at Committee at 9:50 o’clock p.m., April 2nd, 1991.

Read a third time and passed at 9:51 o’clock p.m., April 2nd, 1991.