

ORDINANCE NO 13- 6-2

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 51.08
OF THE
CITY CODE TO PROVIDE FOR ACCESS
TO
GAS METERS BY CITY EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Benton, Kentucky believe it to be in the best interest of the customers of the Benton Gas System to enact an Ordinance regulating accessibility to the gas meters by the City employees and utility workers;

WHEREAS, inaccessibility due to gates, fences and animals on the premises make it difficult for the City's employees and utility workers to perform their duties and provide accurate meter readings for billing for utility services provided by the City to its natural gas customers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Benton, Kentucky that Section 51.08 of the Benton City Code be amended to add a new sections to be designated as Section 51.08(B) 8 – 12 to read as follows:

8. No person shall prevent free access to a City gas meter at any time. Should any meter be inaccessible due to a locked gate, overgrown foliage and trees, yard debris, vegetation, construction materials, vehicles, vicious animals or any hazardous condition deemed by the City Council or its employees to have prevented access to the meter by a City employee for reading purposes, the City may impose a fine for this offense.

9. If the City's gas meter is deemed to be inaccessible for reading purposes the property owner/customer will be fined \$25.00 for each offense. Each attempt made by the City's employee to obtain a reading from the meter shall be considered a separate offense.

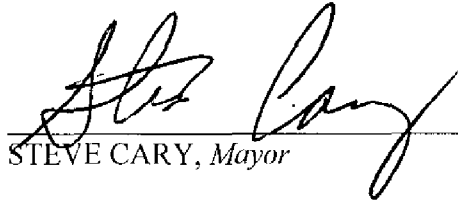
10. A \$25.00 fine will be assessed each time the City's employees return to the property to read the meter or repair or maintain same and is prevented from performing their duties due to the inaccessibility of the meter.

11. If the fine for having an inaccessible meter is not paid within sixty (60) days of the date of the City's issuance of the fine, the charge shall be deemed delinquent and same can be added as a charge against the property owner's customer account and enforced by termination of service or by legal proceeding before the City Code Enforcement Board.

12. In addition to the fine provided herein if the city's employees are unable to access the City's meter for reading purposes the utility usage at that location will be estimated and any inaccuracies resulting from an estimated bill must be adjusted within sixty (60) days or same will be considered final and not subject to an adjustment.

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance as amended/and or repealed.

Passed this the 17th day of June, 2013.


STEVE CARY, Mayor

ATTEST:


MICHELE EDWARDS, City Clerk

FIRST READING: May 20, 2012
PUBLICATION: 6/25/2013
Second Reading June 17, 2013

VOTE

CHARLES EDMONDS
STANLEY HOLLAND
BILLY THORPE
CHRIS FREELAND
RITA DOTSON
JOSH HENDRICKSON

AYE

NAY

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