

ORDINANCE NO. 712
City of Groton, South Dakota

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending Ordinances No. 680, "Definitions for Municipal Electric Customers; Sections 8-1-6, 8-4-10 and 8-5-1 in Ordinance No. 587"

Be it ordained by the City of Groton, South Dakota that Ordinances No. 680 be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1: Definition of Terms

Residential Customer - One who lives in at least 75% of the location where utility service is provided or provides long term living space for others (apartment houses).

General Service Customer - Any customer who is not a residential customer, such as operation of a business, care services, place of worship, storage structure, etc.

Electric Demand Customer - Any general service customer who uses 25 KW or over demand during any monthly billing period for that period.

Methods of Changing Utility Rates - All future utility rates for the City of Groton shall be changed by resolution rather than ordinance.

Be it further ordained by the City of Groton, South Dakota that Ordinances No. 597 Sections 8-1-6, 8-4-10, and 8-5-1 be amended to read as follows:

8-1-6 Budget Payment Plan. Residential and general service consumers may participate in the Budget Payment Plan under the conditions and terms outlined below for the paying of utility bills. Once a residential or general service consumer has twelve months of continuous city utility usage history, he, she or it may elect to participate in this Budget Payment Plan. The residential or general service consumer must execute a written agreement at the city finance office in order to participate. The residential or general service consumer must be current with their past utility bills with the city and have not discontinued a previous Budget Payment Plan with the city within the last twelve months. The city finance officer, when application is made, shall calculate the monthly Budget Payment Plan amount by dividing the cumulative total of the last twelve months of utility billings for the residential or general service consumer by 12. The city finance officer shall review each residential or general service consumer account at six month intervals from the election to participate in the plan and make any adjustments necessary by either increasing the average monthly payment in the case of a debit balance or decreasing the monthly balance in case of a credit balance. On the anniversary date of the election to participate in the plan, a residential or general service consumer at their option may choose to have an actual account credit balance refunded to them in cash or apply the credit against the next annual Budget Payment Plan or in the case of a debit

balance due on that account, the residential or general service consumer shall pay the debit balance in full before being allowed to participate in the Budget Payment Plan for the following year. Each monthly payment under the Budget Payment Plan must be paid by the 25 of the month when due in order to avoid a penalty on the previous month's charges. Each residential or general service consumer must participate in the Budget Payment Plan for one full year at a time and may not terminate the plan within that year unless that residential or general service consumer is discontinuing utility service in which case the residential or general service consumer must balance his account with the city finance officer either by seeking a credit balance refund or paying the full amount of the debit balance on that account. All other provisions of Chapter 8-1 shall remain in full force and effect.

8-4-10 Meter Reading. All water meters shall be read by a person designated by the city council and at all times meters must be accessible to reading. All meters will be read on or about the first (1st) day of each month. After the reading of the meters, the readings shall be delivered to the city finance officer, who shall compute and prepare consumer's bills, a copy of which shall be mailed to the consumer. If the bill is not paid in full by the 25 of the month, a ten (10) percent penalty shall be computed and added to the consumer's bill.

8-5-1 Collection of Bills. All electric meters shall be read on or about the first (1st) day of each month. After the reading of the meters, the readings shall be delivered to the city finance officer, who shall compute and prepare consumer's bills, a copy of which shall be mailed to the consumer. If the bill is not paid in full by the 25 of the month, a ten (10) percent penalty shall be computed and added to the consumer's bill.

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Scott Hanlon, Mayor



Hope Block, Finance Officer