

City of Tamarac
Interoffice Memorandum
Public Services Department

To: Michael C. Cernech, City Manager
Thru: Jack Strain, Public Services Director
From: Troy Gies, Budget and Contracts Manager
Date: June 8, 2020
Re: Temporary Ordinance #2433 – Revising Chapter 22.300 of the City Code of Ordinances “Water Conservation Regulations” – June 24, 2020 Commission Mtg.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the Mayor and City Commission adopt the proposed revision to Chapter 22, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tamarac, entitled “Water Conservation Regulations”.

Issue:

The proposed revision to Chapter 22, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tamarac, entitled “Water Conservation Regulations” is necessary to update the language to reflect Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures.

Background:

The stated intent of Chapter 22, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tamarac, entitled “Water Conservation Regulations” is to “...Protect the water resources of the City of Tamarac and allocate available water supplies by assisting the South Florida Water Management District in the implementation of its water shortage plan.”

Currently, the Code of Ordinance provides for water use restrictions and other water conservation measures upon declaration of a water shortage or water shortage emergency by the South Florida Water Management District. The proposed changes implement procedures to protect the water resources of the City of Tamarac and to promote water conservation through the efficient use of landscape irrigation and consistency with the South Florida Water Management District’s (District) mandatory year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures under Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.). This Code will increase water use efficiency; prevent and curtail wasteful irrigation practices by providing mandatory landscape irrigation conservation measures; and prohibit the operation of irrigation systems in a manner causing water to be wasted.

The proposed changes to City Code allows for variances. The purpose of the variance is to allow flexibility in scheduling, not to allow additional days (bear in mind, irrigation is meant only to supplement natural rainfall). Below are the three most likely scenarios where a variance is most appropriate:

1. A place of worship has their irrigation day fall on a day of worship and they would rather not irrigate on the day their followers attend.

2. A large property cannot, due to limitations in pumping capacity, irrigate the entire property in one day. So, they would irrigate half of the property on one day and the other half on the next day.
3. A property owner installs a 'Smart' weather-based irrigation controller capable of deciding which two days per week irrigation is needed (or if it is not needed at all).

The Ordinance would take effect sixty (60) days upon passage, to provide the opportunity to inform and educate residents of the water conservation measures.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact to this proposed Ordinance. The City currently has the authority via the existing City Ordinance to level penalties of \$50.00 per the First Violation and for fines not to exceed \$250.00 and/or imprisonment in the County Jail not to exceed 60 days. The proposed Ordinance provides for the following penalties:

- First Violation Warning (written)
- Second Violation \$50.00
- Third and subsequent violations \$100.00