

FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

a. SERVICE CHARGE FOR SERVICE

All customers are required to pay a service charge of Fifty Dollars (*\$50.00*) for services.

b. **SECURITY DEPOSIT**---A security deposit of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (*\$150.00*) is required to begin service. The deposit can be waived with a letter of credit from a different utility company. The account has to be in good standing for the previous 12 months with no late fees or disconnects. The deposit will be refunded back to the customer's account after 12 months with no late fees or disconnects. The deposit is credited to the customer's account in the amount of \$25 per month for 6 months. Security deposits shall be held without payment of interest as long as any City Services are continued if there are late fees and/or disconnects. The security deposit may be applied to any unpaid balance owed to the City. At any time City Service is discontinued, the security deposit will be applied to any unpaid balance. Any remaining credit amount will be issued to you the following month after your final bill is produced.

c. **PAYMENTS**---All payments, including online payments, are due and payable on or before the 15th day of each month. If the 15th falls on a weekend, payments are due the Friday prior to the 15th by 4:30pm.

d. **RETURNED CHECKS**---There is a fee of thirty-five dollars (*\$35.00*) added to your account for any returned check. The amount due plus the (*\$35.00*) fee must be paid in cash or money order immediately to avoid any legal action or interrupted utility service.

e. **LATE FEE**---Any payment, including online payments, not received by the end of business on the 15th (if the 15th falls on a weekend payment is due on the Friday prior to the 15th by 4:30pm) is subject to a late fee of Fifteen Dollars (*\$15.00*).

f. **RE-CONNECT FEE**---There is a Fifty Dollar (*\$50.00*) charge to reconnect your water during regular business hours. All disconnections are made on the morning of the 23rd of each month unless the 23rd falls on a weekend then it is at the discretion of the City of Merkel. All information is printed on the monthly bill. Re-Connection after hours will be Seventy-Five Dollars. (*\$75.00*) Your account balance including the afterhours fee must be paid by money order for your services to be reconnected.

g. **METER TAMPERING**---Your meter will be pulled and a fee of Seventy-Five Dollars (*\$75.00*) added to your account for tampering with our water meters. You may also be required to appear before the City of Merkel's Municipal Judge and a possible Five Hundred Dollar Fine (*\$500.00*). **(DON'T TAMPER!)**

h. **TRANSFER FEE**---All customers who would like to transfer an account will be required to pay a Twenty-Five Dollar (*\$25.00*) transfer fee. This fee will be on the first bill at the new location.

i. **METER TESTING FEE**---At the request of a customer, we will test your meter for accuracy. A ¾" and 1" meter will cost One Hundred Dollars (*\$100.00*), and a 1 ½" and 2" meter will cost Two Hundred Dollars (*\$200.00*). These fees will be waived if the meter test results in a faulty meter.

j. **CONFIDENTIAL ACCOUNT**---The Texas Open Records Act governs all records of this utility. If you so desire you may request that certain information is kept confidential upon payment of a Three Dollar (*\$3.00*) fee.

k. **LEASE AGREEMENT**---The City may require that you provide a lease agreement from your landlord when renting, in order to obtain services.