

Utility Collection Policy -

The City of Northfield uses special assessments as the primary form of delinquent utility bill collection. The collection action will be accomplished by certification to Rice and Dakota Counties of the charges against the property for collection in the manner of a tax or assessment. Nonetheless, the City reserves the right to discontinue or disconnect water service to properties for non-payment of the utility bill under this policy and the Northfield Minnesota City Code, Part II - Northfield Code, Chapter 82, Article III, Sec. 82-109. - Accounting, billing and collecting of rates, Sub-Section (c) Delinquent accounts.

Instances where water discontinuance or disconnection may be utilized:

Vacant properties, properties that have been discontinued or disconnected from gas or electric during the cold weather rule months, properties where the owners have failed to respond to maintenance requests, properties presenting the potential of a backflow condition that will introduce contaminants into the public water system, thus jeopardizing the health of the Public.

Properties presenting an emergency, (for example: where a broken pipe is causing significant damage to property), water will be immediately discontinued or disconnected to preserve the property until the owners are contacted and the problem is resolved.

If a property is deemed “uninhabitable” by City staff, and the meter is removed by the City Water Department, the property will no longer incur water, sewer, or garbage charges. Storm water drainage charges will still be billed.

If a property is deemed “uninhabitable” by City staff, but the meter remains intact, the utility charges will be decided on a case by case basis. Example: house fire, meter removal by a third party.

Any company licensed to do business in the City of Northfield that also has a delinquent utility bill, may be subject to water shut off. In addition, the above mentioned company may become ineligible for renewal of their City license under Northfield City Code Article II, Licenses and Permits, and may be subject to license revocation.

The City of Northfield does not “reconnect” utility services. In the event utility services have been disconnected by the City, or a private individual, it is the responsibility of the property owner to reconnect service. Upon reconnection, the water division must inspect the service and meters.