

Saturday, May 15, 2004

Revised ordinance limiting watering times goes into effect in city today

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AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Beginning today a Lubbock ordinance prohibits home and business owners from watering lawns or landscaped areas between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The time restriction is in place until the end of daylight-saving time the last Sunday in October.

It also is illegal to water during periods of rain, and, this winter, it will be illegal to water when the temperature is below 35 degrees.

City Council members passed the amendments to an existing ordinance, hoping to conserve water.

Exceptions are allowed when irrigating newly planted grass or landscaping, using soaker hoses or when watering by hand.

New commercial irrigation systems must be installed on a separate water meter and include rain and freeze sensors. The maximum penalty is a \$500 fine.

The ordinance applies to landscape irrigation and does not apply when residents wash their cars.

At one point, the council had considered fining homeowners for allowing a certain volume of water to run into the street. However, council members agreed that several houses could contribute to one large puddle, making it too difficult to verify a violation.

Water conservation has become a priority since city officials were advised last year that a main supply of water, Lake Meredith north of Amarillo, could become unusable in two to six years.

Council members are planning to develop increased production from groundwater sources.

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