

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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New water meter replacement program starts on September 21

New meters will change way meter reading is done in Cleburne

CLEBURNE, Tx. - The City of Cleburne will begin work on September 21 to replace or upgrade water meters to all city water customers.

Work to replace the meters will occur between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Workers will wear navy blue shirts marked with the logo "Siemens/PVI Meter Team". The work teams will use trucks with the same logo markings during meter swap outs.

The meter replacement should take approximately 30 minutes. In an effort to make this as painless as possible, customers will get a notice, either by door hanger, letter or in person, telling them when they can expect to get their new water meter. Anyone having special needs for water should notify the Utility Billing Office at 817-645-0919.

City Manager Chester Nolen says every water customer will get a new meter that will not have to be read by a "meter reader" who is paid to make recordings. The meters will be tied to a computer system downtown that will record a customer's water usage, and then calculate the bill.

Nolen says that will allow the city to record water usage on the same day every month for every city water customer.

A lot of customers will not see a change in their water bill, Nolen says. But those who have old water meters may see a substantial change in their water usage. He says it's not because they are using more water.

"Meters do not speed up; they slow down the longer they have been in the ground. So instead of having their bill calculated on 30 to 40 percent of use, they will start getting a bill based on about 98 percent of usage when the new meters go into the ground," Nolen said.

This is all part of an overall efficiency program the city is enacting that will play a big role in reducing energy costs for the city. It will affect everything from operations at the water and sewer plant to how city-owned buildings use electricity, including air conditioning.

"The total program cost is \$10 million. The new meters are a big part of that and will cost over \$5 million. We have some new construction costs to put in better pumps, motors and blowers at the water and wastewater plants," Nolen said. "All of the lights in all of the city offices will change to a more efficient system, including air handling systems for heaters and air conditioners. So it is a fairly substantial operation that will occur."