Notice

Date: 2-21-2020

To: Commercial Construction Permittee
Cc:

From: Owatonna Public Utilities Engineering Department

RE: OPU Utility Requirements for Construction

OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES
208 South Walnut Ave. P.O. Box 800, Owatonna, MN 55060
507.451.2480, Fax-507.451.3695

Dear Permittee,

During the course of your construction you may complete work adjacent to, or in conflict with OPU's Water, gas and electric facilities. These facilities may include the meters, service lines, pipelines, cables, transformers and junction cabinets among several other items. OPU has certain requirements that you must follow to maintain these facilities in a safe, code compliant, accessible and reliable condition. We have outlined requirements that you must follow for each of the water, gas and electric facilities below. It is the customer's responsibility to adhere to these baseline requirements. If it is found that any of these requirements have been by-passed it will be the customer's responsibility and cost to correct the situation. Failure to follow these requirements may result in a discontinuance of service for that utility.

Water –

1) **The Owner shall keep the meter in a dry, frost free and readily accessible location that allows for free and unencumbered pipe fitting. The meter shall not be built into an enclosure or behind an access panel. The meter shall be installed in a horizontal position and installed with a minimum clearance of 6" from the wall and to a height of 18" +-3" from the floor elevation. See the OPU attached installation detail for more information. If an installation does not meet the above requirements the relocation shall be the responsibility of the owner.**

2) **The Owner shall not place trees, bushes, driveways or landscaping within 5ft of a water hydrant or valve and in such a way to limit access or visibility.**

3) **The owner should not plant trees within 5ft of their curb stop box. Planting trees adjacent to the curb stop box may cause future maintenance and access issues.**

4) **The owner should keep their curb stop box (outside water shutoff valve) in a readily accessible location that allows for free and unencumbered operation. The curb stop box should be brought flush with the final ground elevation. In instances that the curb stop box is located in concrete or pavement; to help prevent heaving of the box above grade the customer should consider installing the curb stop box in a die cast clean out access cover such as those manufactured by Tenz Alloy or Schier.**

Natural Gas –

1) **The Owner shall maintain ready access to the meter location, to allow for free and unencumbered access to the meter and appurtenances (minimum 3' working space in front of the meter). The meter shall not be built into an enclosure or behind an access panel. If an installation does not meet the above requirements the relocation shall be the responsibility of the owner.**

2) **The meter must be a minimum of 3' from all sources of ignition (such as air conditioning units) and 3' from any opening into the structure including operable windows, combustion air intakes, and air-to-air heat exchangers.**

3) **The meter must be protected from physical damage from vehicles and from ice and snow accumulations. The need for meter protection will be at the discretion of the Owatonna Fire Department and costs for proper protection will be at the property owners expense. Proper placement of protection will follow Section 312 of the Minnesota State Fire Code.**

SECTION 312

VEHICLE IMPACT PROTECTION

312.1.
Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts that comply with Section 312.2 or by other *approved* physical barriers that comply with Section 312.3.

312.2
Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch (381 mm) diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object.

312.3 Other barriers.

Physical barriers shall be a minimum of 36 inches (914 mm) in height and shall resist a force of 12,000 pounds (53 375 N) applied 36 inches (914 mm) above the adjacent ground surface.

603.9 Gas meters.
Above-ground gas meters, regulators and piping subject to damage shall be protected by a barrier complying with Section 312 or otherwise protected in an *approved* manner.

4) **Grade may not be altered over the path of the service line.**

5) **If these requirements cannot be met, contact Josh Prokopec, Gas Design Engineer @ (507) 451-2480 Ext. 5420**

Electric –

1) **The Owner shall keep the meter in a readily accessible location that allows for free and unencumbered access to the meter (minimum 3' working space in front of the meter). The meter shall not be built into an enclosure or behind an access panel. If an installation does not meet the above requirements the relocation shall be the responsibility of the owner.**

2) **The owner shall maintain a minimum working clearance of OPU equipment (10' in front of door on transformers & 3' for secondary pedestals).**

3) **Owner shall not place fences or other structures directly over flush mounted pedestals or within the working clearance of the doors for OPU equipment (10' in front of door on transformers & 3' for secondary pedestals).**

4) **Swimming pools shall not be placed under overhead electrical lines or within seven feet of underground lines.**

5) **Owner shall not build any structure under overhead power line without maintaining a minimum clearance of four feet from closest secondary wires and 13 feet from closest primary wires.**

If you have any questions in regards to these requirements please contact OPU at the below numbers to discuss.

Owatonna Public Utilities – Engineering Department

Josh Prokopec – Gas/Water Design Engineer (507) 451-2480 Ext. 5420

Ronnie Johnson – Electric (507) 451-2480 Ext. 5437