

Leo Brown

From: Aaron James <aaron.james@h2oinnovation.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Leo Brown; Mayor Johnny Magee; Tony Wheat
Subject: Re: The Removal of the Water Meter

Good morning all,

As the designated water provider for the city, H2O Innovation agrees with all the points the Chief made about not enforcing the requirement for metering fire suppression systems on commercial properties. We, too, believe it to be an overall hinderance to public safety and an undue cost burden on the citizens. We are not aware of any other municipalities enforcing such a policy. We thank you for consulting us on this matter and we will also be happy to answer any questions regarding this policy update should the need arise.

Regards,

Aaron James
Project Manager
H2O - Laurel

From: Leo Brown <lbrown@laurelms.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 7:55 AM
To: Mayor Johnny Magee <jmagee@laurelms.com>; Tony Wheat <pwdirector@laurelms.com>; Aaron James <aaron.james@h2oinnovation.com>
Subject: The Removal of the Water Meter



City of Laurel Fire Department
314 Ellisville Blvd. Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-6597 Fax: 601-428-6483

Date: May 18, 2026

To: Mayor Magee , Tony Wheat and Aaron James
From: Chief Leo Brown

Ref: Request for Authorization to drop the requirement of a Water Meter for use with sprinkler system for determining water usage form the city ordinance.

By adopting the 2018 IFC codes: Chapter 5, Section 507 (507.2.1 Private fire water service mains.) pg.# 75 states they have to be installed accordance to NFPA 24 which NFPA 24 section 6.8 (Unauthorized

Water -Use Detection) Requires a means to detect unauthorized water use on the fire line. This in turns requires the city to require a Water Meter to be installed on sprinkler system.

I would like to submit a proposal that 6.8 of NFPA 24 not be enforced and a Water Meter not be required. A Water Meter does not bring any advantages to the sprinkler system on the fire safety side but what it does is decrease the amount of pressure going into the system this in turns hindering the full operation of the system. Secondly it is a tremendous unnecessary financial burden on the tax payer /business owner that could cause them from not opening their business or moving it to another City that don't require a meter. Lastly, we do not charge residential property owners for the use of water that's been used out of fire hydrants during fires so commercial business that operate in the city shouldn't be charged for water usage during emergency situations either just because they have a sprinkler system.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any details, requirements, or conditions you may wish to establish. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Leo Brown
Laurel Fire Chief
601-319-6467

Leo A. Brown, Jr.

Fire Chief

Laurel Fire Department
314 Ellisville Blvd
Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-6467
Cell: 601-319-6467
Email: firechief@laurelms.com

Leo Brown

From: Tony Wheat
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Leo Brown
Subject: RE: The Removal of the Water Meter

Public works also agrees with the Chief's proposal, in that it imposes an undue cost to business and does not enhance public safety.

Sincerely
Tony Wheat
Public Works Director

From: Leo Brown <lbrown@laurelms.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Tony Wheat <pwdirector@laurelms.com>
Cc: Mayor Johnny Magee <jmagee@laurelms.com>; Aaron James <aaron.james@h2oinnovation.com>
Subject: FW: The Removal of the Water Meter

Leo A. Brown, Jr.

Fire Chief

Laurel Fire Department
314 Ellisville Blvd
Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-6467
Cell: 601-319-6467
Email: firechief@laurelms.com

From: Leo Brown
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 7:55 AM
To: Mayor Johnny Magee <jmagee@laurelms.com>; Tony Wheat <pwdirector@laurelms.com>; Aaron James <aaron.james@h2oinnovation.com>
Subject: The Removal of the Water Meter



City of Laurel Fire Department
314 Ellisville Blvd. Laurel, MS 39440