
The Water Commission will meet in a regular session on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas. This is an open meeting, open to the public, subject to the Open Meetings Law of the State of Texas, and as required by law, notice is hereby posted providing time, place, date, and agenda thereof. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are provided. Requests for accommodations or interpretative services must be made to the City Secretary 48 hours prior to this meeting.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call**2. Pledge of Allegiance****3. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total**

Rules for Citizens' Participation: The Commission welcomes citizen participation and comments at all Commission Meetings. If you speak, you must follow these guidelines:

a) Respect and courtesy:

1. Direct your comments to the entire Commission, not to an individual member, nor to the audience.
2. Show the Commission the same respect that you would like to be shown.
3. End your speaking at the time allotted below.

b) Speaking:**1. First citizen comment period.**

- 1.1. You are required to sign up to speak and you are limited to one 3-minute period.

2. Second citizen comment period.

- 2.1. You are not required to sign up and you are limited to one 2-minute period.

3. State your name and address before your comments begin.**4. You are only allowed to speak once per topic, unless also speaking during a posted Public Hearing.**

NOTE: The Texas Open Meetings Act permits a member of the public or a member of the governmental body to raise a subject that has not been included in the notice for the meeting. However, any discussion of the subject must be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting and any response to a question posed to the Commission is limited to either a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.042.

4. Business Items

The following items are for discussion, consideration, and/or action.

a) Approvals

1. Approval of Minutes for August 19, 2025, Water Commission Regular Meeting.

b) Discussions/Reports/Updates**1. Utility Department Monthly Activity Report.**

- Water Pumping/usage from City wells, Water system infrastructure maintenance, repairs and/or projects, and Water and/or Drought Management (current Watering Stage).

2. Items applicable to the Water Commission discussed at City Council Meetings.**3. Wastewater Ordinance.****c) Recommendations**

1. Ordinance No. 61 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, establishing the Drought Management Plan for the City of Garden Ridge; establishing trigger conditions and demand reduction measures; providing a variance procedure; providing a penalty for violations of this Ordinance; providing a cumulative and savings clause; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.

- 1.1. Hold a public hearing.

- 1.2. Discuss and make a recommendation to City Council.



2. Ordinance No. 159 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, establishing landscape and irrigation system requirements for residential and commercial properties in the City of Garden Ridge for the purpose of water conservation; providing a variance procedure; providing a penalty for violations of this Ordinance; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.
 - 2.1. Discuss and make a recommendation to City Council.

3. Ordinance No. 210-102022 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, adopting board and commission policies and procedures; providing a cumulative and savings clause; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.
 - 3.1. Appointment of Water Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for one-year term effective October 2025.

d) Future Agenda Items

5. **Citizen Comment Period**

6. **Adjournment**

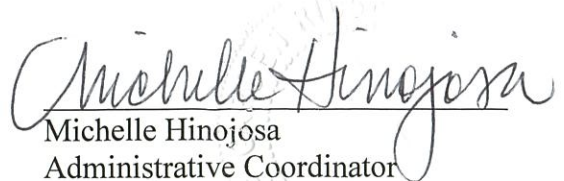
AGENDA NOTICES:

Decorum Required: Any disruptive behavior, including shouting or derogatory statements or comments may be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer. Continuation of this type of behavior could result in a request by the Presiding Officer that the individual leave the meeting, and if refused, an order of removal.

Action by Commission Authorized: The Commission may vote or act upon any item within this Agenda.

Attendance By Other Elected or Appointed Officials: It is anticipated that members of the City Council, other city board, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the other city boards, commissions and/or committees. Notice is hereby given that the meeting, to the extent required by law, is also noticed as a meeting of the City Council, other boards, commissions and/or committees of the City, whose members may be in attendance. The members of the boards, commissions and/or committees may participate in discussions on the same items listed on the agenda which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless such item and action is specifically provided for on an agenda for that board, commission or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

This is to certify that I, Michelle Hinojosa, posted this Agenda at 9:40 a.m. on September 9, 2025, on the bulletin board located at the entrance to Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas.


Michelle Hinojosa
Administrative Coordinator

Commissioners Present:

Chair William Pohl
Vice-Chair Nathan Dorsey
Commissioner Don Stone
Commissioner Keven Harshbarger
Commissioner Steven Stedman
Commissioner Dr. Richard Carmichael
Councilmember James Mueller, Ex-Officio

Commissioners Absent:

Vacant Position

City Staff, City Councilmembers, and Other Commissioners Present:

Ryan Rapelye, City Manager
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary
Michelle Hinojosa, Administrative Coordinator
Monica McCaslin, Utility Clerk
Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

With a quorum of the Water Commissioners present, Chair Pohl called the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge Water Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pohl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizen Comment Period

No one signed up to speak.

4. Business Items

The following items are for discussion, consideration, and/or action.

a) Approvals**1. Approval of Minutes for June 17, 2025, Water Commission Regular Meeting.**

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Stedman, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Carmichael, to approve the Minutes for the June 17, 2025, Water Commission Regular Meeting. The Commission voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Discussions/Reports/Updates**1. Utility Department Monthly Activity Report.**

Public Works Director Steven Steinmetz reviewed the monthly activity report and addressed questions from Commissioners.

2. Items applicable to the Water Commission discussed at City Council Meetings.

Chair Pohl provided the Commission with an update on items applicable to the Water Commission discussed at City Council Meetings.

3. Ordinance No. 61 – Drought Management Plan.

The Commission discussed possible revisions to Ordinance No. 61-Drought Management Plan.

4. Ordinance No. 159 – Landscape and Irrigation System Requirements.

The Commission discussed possible revisions to Ordinance No. 159-Landscape and Irrigation System Requirements.

c) Recommendations

1. Ordinance No. 210-102022 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, adopting board and commission policies and procedures; providing a cumulative and savings clause; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.

1.1. Discuss expiring terms (September 30, 2025) of Commissioner Dr. Carmichael and Commissioner Harshbarger.

Commissioner Dr. Carmichael and Commissioner Harshbarger expressed their desire to continue serving on the Water Commission.

1.2. Make recommendations to City Council for consideration of reappointment.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Stedman, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey, to recommend to City Council the reappointment of Commissioner Dr. Carmichael and Commissioner Harshbarger to serve another term on the Water Commission with terms expiring September 30, 2027. The Commission voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Future Agenda Items

Chair Pohl stated the Commission will continue discussing possible revisions to Ordinance No. 61-Drought Management Plan and Ordinance No. 159-Landscape and Irrigation System Requirements.

Commissioner Dr. Carmichael and Chair Pohl requested to discuss a Wastewater Ordinance.

5. Citizen Comment Period

No one wished to speak.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Tuesday, August 19, 2025, Water Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. by Chair Pohl.

William Pohl
Chair

ATTEST

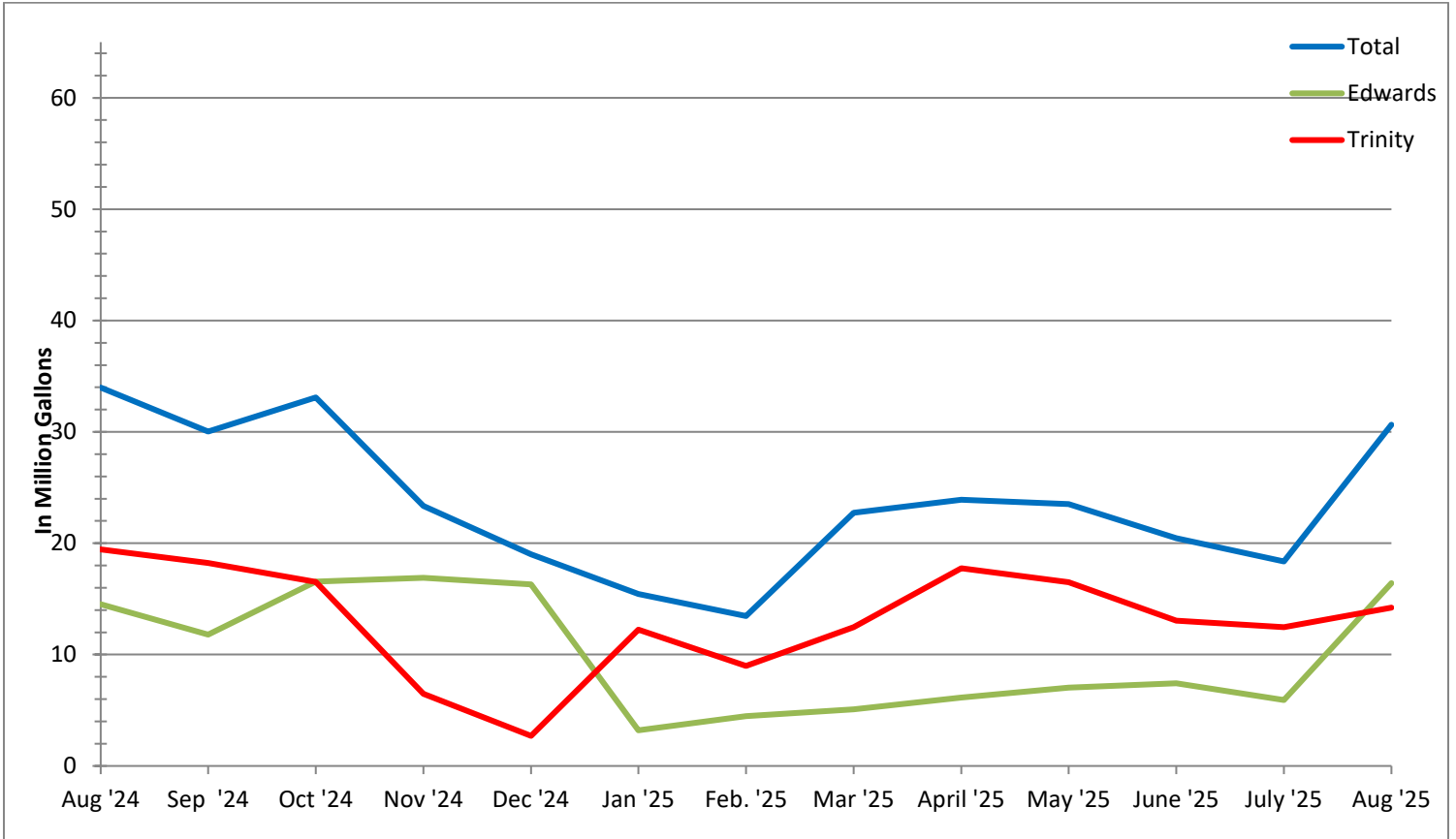
Michelle Hinojosa
Administrative Coordinator



Utilities Department Report

As of August 31, 2025

City of Garden Ridge Aquifer Usage

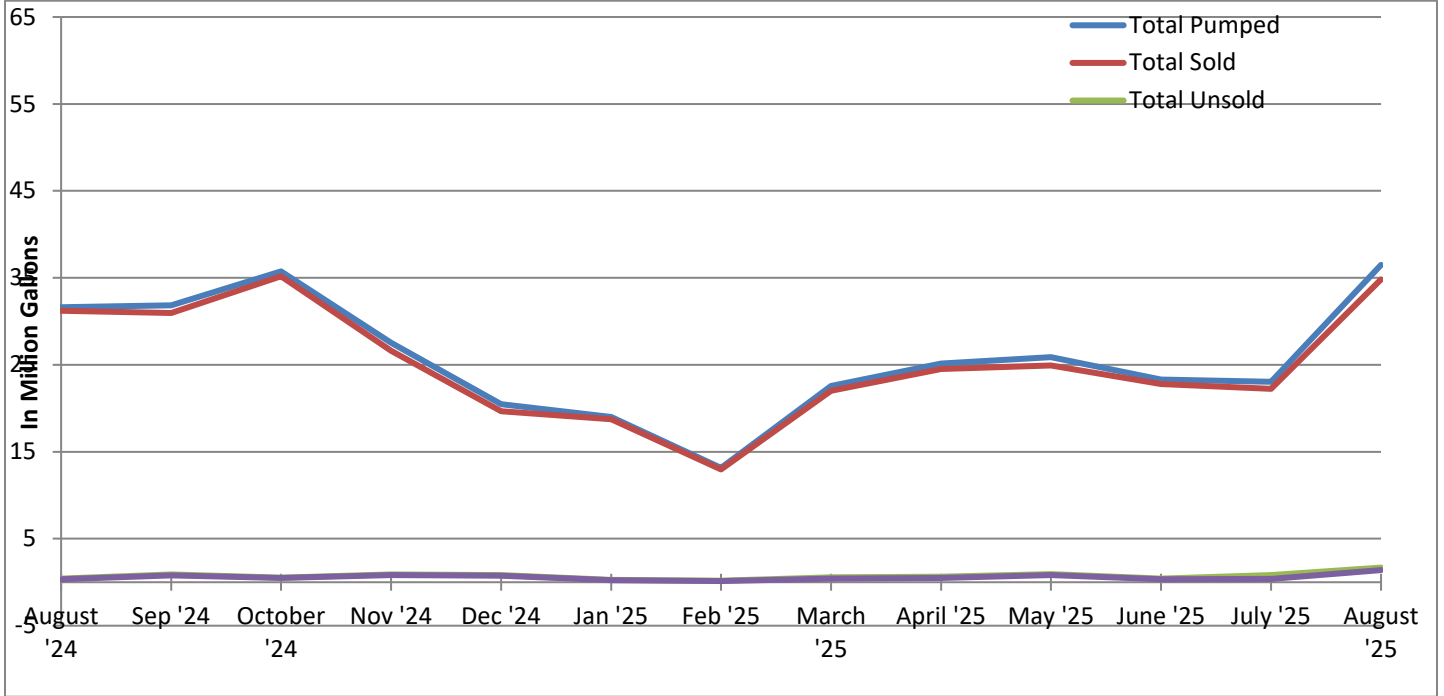


	Month:	Year:	Available:	Stage:
Edwards Well Usage AC/FT:	50.35	170.85	313	4
Trinity Well Usage AC/FT:	43.64	346.24	N/A	0

Water Quality

Bacteriological Samples:	Due:	Missed:	Passed:	Failed:
Distribution samples:	6	0	6	0
Chlorine Residual test:	31	0	31	0
Special Samples:	1	0	1	0

2024 – 2025 Pumping Report



	Total Pumped (Thousands)	Total Sold (Thousands)	Total Unsold (Thousands)	Unaccountable Unsold (Thousands)	Unaccountable Unsold %
August '24	31,637	31,223	404	328	1.0%
September '24	30,972	31,860	888	792	2.5%
Oct '24	35,730	35,186	544	484	1.4%
Nov '24	27,536	26,636	900	813	2.9%
Dec '24	20,478	19,657	821	734	3.6%
Jan '25	19,014	18,175	269	219	1.2%
Feb '25	13,146	12,971	175	135	1.0%
March '25	22,577	22,021	556	407	1.8%
April '25	25,154	24,512	642	506	2.0%
May '25	25,864	24,932	932	832	3.2%
June '25	23,291	22,784	420	333	1.8%
July '25	23,057	22,229	828	390	1.7%
August '25	36,490	34,809	1,681	1,395	3.8%
Yearly Average	25,765	25,153	697	567	2.1%
	Yearly national average				16%

Utilities Department Monthly Activities:

New Installed Meters	1	Work Orders	316
Meter Replacements	2	Locates	37
City Owned Leaks	0	Irrigation Permits Issued	0
Meters Read	1701	Total Rebates	0
Meter Tests	0		0

AMI Information

Total Portal Customers: 927 up 7 from July

Meter Daily Readability Percentage: 99.35% for 1,689 assigned meters (current bill cycle)

Main Breaks/City Repairs: none found.

Estimated Water Loss:

Location:

Explanation:

Leak Adjustments

New Requests	0	Waiting for Customer	0	Approved	0	Amount Approved	\$	Denied	0	Sent to Water Commission	0
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Employee Training/Certifications

Proposed Changes to Ordinance 61 - Drought Management Plan

These are the goals for this revision -

1. Add an expedited variance approval process allowing for increased irrigation system use during drought stages to establish new landscaping and for cleaning driveway and other hard surfaces.
2. To clarify the drought stage wording and adjust requirements.
3. To add and improve the definition of terms used in the ordinance.
4. Clarify how the city determines when it is in a drought stage condition.
5. Separate the meanings and actions of drought caused water demand reduction measures vs. emergency water use reduction.

Proposed Changes to Ordinance 159 - Landscape and Irrigation System Requirements

These are the goals for this revision -

1. Further describe the requirements for low water use landscaping - xeriscaping and add information on xeriscaping ideas and methods.
2. Add requirements for topsoil under new turf grass.
3. Changed requirements for what constitutes landscape repair from replacement.
4. Added and reworded definitions to support the above changes.

The resources used in this work included - citizen feedback and requests, similar ordinances and programs used in neighboring communities and plant growth information from local gardening organizations and Texas universities.

ORDINANCE NO. 61- **DRAFT**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING THE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE; ESTABLISHING TRIGGER CONDITIONS AND DEMAND REDUCTION MEASURES; PROVIDING A VARIANCE PROCEDURE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE AND SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Garden Ridge (the City) is a Home Rule City located in Comal County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Edwards Aquifer Authority is a regional authority managing water pumped out of the Edwards Aquifer by the City of Garden Ridge and has set standards for the Emergency Water Use Reduction Program in the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Garden Ridge uses both water from the Edwards Aquifer and from the Trinity Aquifer and potentially other sources to provide water to residents of the City of Garden Ridge as well as persons residing within the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) of the City of Garden Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the Trinity Aquifer is currently an unregulated water source; and

WHEREAS, the level of the Trinity well affects the ability of the city to provide unrestricted water sources; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 54 of the Local Government Code, the City is authorized to adopt such ordinances necessary to preserve and conserve its water resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the proposed revisions promote the health, safety and welfare of the City and Ordinance No. 61 is amended as contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The findings set out herein are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the City Council and made a part of this Ordinance for all purposes.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

The following words and terms, when used in this ordinance, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Act is the Act creating the Edwards Aquifer Authority, namely the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act of May 30, 1993, 73rd Leg.R.S. Ch. 626, 1993 Texas General Laws 2353, as amended.

Aesthetic Use is the use of water for fountains, waterfalls, and landscape lakes and ponds where such use is entirely ornamental and serves no other functional purpose.

Agricultural Irrigation means irrigation for the purpose of growing crops commercially for human consumption or to use as feed for livestock or poultry.

Bucket means a hand held bucket or other container holding five gallons or less.

Commercial and Industrial Use is the use of water integral to the production of primary goods and services provided by industrial or commercial facilities. Industrial facilities include facilities which perform such process-specific activities as cooling, boiler feed, cleaning and washing, pollution control, extraction and separation of desirable material from products and waste materials and the incorporation of water into final products. Commercial facilities include, but are not limited to, food service facilities, hotels, retail facilities and plant nursery operations.

Commercial and Industrial User is a water user whose use of water meets the definition of commercial and industrial use.

Commercial and Industrial Well User is a user who owns one or more wells that produce water used for commercial and industrial use.

Connection is a metered or unmetered delivery point to a customer or other receiver of water from an organized water distribution system.

Conservations are those practices, techniques, and technologies that will reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water, or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a water supply is made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer is any of several types of consumers of water as defined in Ordinance 54.

Demand Reduction Measures are specific actions to be taken to reduce the usage demand on the Edwards Aquifer, the Trinity Aquifer and other sources during a drought.

Domestic Type Use is the use of water, other than uses in the outdoor category, for personal, household or commercial purposes, such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation or cleaning.

Drip irrigation means an installed irrigation system (drip, porous pipe, etc.) designed to emit water at low pressures directly onto or below the soil surface without airborne streams or droplets.

Drought is a period of shortage of precipitation of seasonal or longer duration.

Edwards Aquifer means that portion of an arcuate belt of porous, water-bearing limestones composed of the Edwards Group Limestone and Associated Formations trending from west to east to northeast through Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal and Hays Counties.

Emergency Water Use Reduction means actions taken by the City of Garden Ridge due to a sudden, significant and unpredicted change or failure in water availability, water quality, water demand or water system infrastructure.

Hand-Held Hose is a hose held or attended by an individual. It must be fitted with a manual or automatic shutoff valve and may be equipped with a spray nozzle. It must be 3/4 inch or less in diameter and connected to the user's water system without additional pumps.

Healthcare Facility is any hospital, clinic, nursing home or other healthcare or medical research facility.

Impervious Surface Area is any exterior structure, street, driveway, sidewalk, patio, or other surface area covered with brick, paving, tile or other impervious material.

Irrigator is a well owner who uses water to irrigate land for growing commercial crops.

Irrigation System - a fixed underground or above ground system of pipes, fittings and sprinkler heads which when in operation dispenses water in the air onto lawns and landscape.

Landscape Watering means the application of water to grow and maintain landscape plants.

Landscape Plant or Landscaping is any member of the plant kingdom, including any tree, shrub, vine, herb, flower, succulent, ground cover or grass species that grows or has been planted out-of-doors and is used for aesthetic purposes or for the support of intensive recreational areas such as playgrounds and playing fields.

Livestock is cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, poultry, horses and game, domestic, exotic and other animals and birds, including zoo animals, held for commercial or personal purposes.

Livestock Use is the use of water for drinking by or washing of livestock.

MSL is mean sea level.

Municipality is a city or other governmental unit with the authority to make and enforce ordinances.

Order is a written order of the City Council or Mayor of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas.

Other Outside Use means the use of water outdoors for the maintenance, cleaning and washing of structures and mobile equipment, including automobiles and boats, the washing of streets, driveways, sidewalks, patios and other similar areas.

Person is any individual, association, firm, corporation, entity, political subdivision, or governmental agency.

Pervious surface means any surface which can absorb water or allow it to pass through.

Portable Sprinkler means any moveable hose connected device that is designed to operate unattended to spray water in the air over landscaping.

Reduction Goal means the amount of reduction in pumping volume, expressed as a percentage from baseline pumping volume for each drought stage.

Reuse is the use by any user of Edwards Aquifer, Trinity Aquifer and potentially other water sources that has been recycled or reclaimed for any beneficial purpose, after such water has been previously used for any beneficial purpose, whether or not any treatment of such groundwater may be required in connection with such recycling or reclamation.

Soaker hose means a portable porous hose that emits water along its length directly onto plants or soil.

Stage means one of the five designated drought stages, which may be declared by the City or the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Supplier is any person who supplies water to customers for residential, commercial, industrial, military or other uses, including a public or private water company, water supply corporation, municipality and water district.

Temporary Service Customer is a consumer who will receive water service for a limited period of time. Temporary service can be a metered or a non-metered sale. It is usually for the purpose of road or building construction, or for seasonal service.

Trigger Conditions means those specific conditions of rainfall amounts, Edwards Aquifer water level elevations, spring discharges and water quality which the Edwards Aquifer Authority will monitor and use as indicators of the occurrence of drought conditions for purposes of declaring the various stages of the Edwards Aquifer.

Trinity Aquifer Well is a source of water for the City of Garden Ridge which is located in the Cow-Creek formation of the Trinity Aquifer.

Use for a Beneficial Purpose means water which is used, without regard to priority, for:

- a) agricultural, commercial, domestic, gardening, industrial, manufacturing, mining, municipal, pleasure, recreational, or livestock raising purposes; or
- b) exploring for, producing, handling, or treating oil, gas, sulfur, or other materials; or
- c) any other purpose that is useful and beneficial to the user.

User is a person, business public or private, who produces, distributes, or uses water from an Edwards Aquifer well or from the Trinity Aquifer well or from any other source.

Variance is an authorized exception from compliance by the user with any provision of the Rules granted by this Ordinance.

Vehicle as defined for this Ordinance is a personal use car, truck, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, golf cart or all-terrain vehicle domiciled at a residence.

Waste or Wasting Water is:

- a) The flowing or producing of groundwater from wells in the Edwards Aquifer, Trinity Aquifer or any other source if the water flowing or produced is not used for a beneficial purpose by any user,
- b) The unreasonable loss of groundwater through faulty design or negligent operation of a well or water delivery or application system; or
- c) Using quantities of water in excess of quantities reasonably necessary for that purpose.
- d) Allowing water to run off onto a gutter, ditch, drain, into the street, or failing to repair a controllable leak.

Water Utility Use is water used for withdrawal, treatment, transmission, and distribution by potable water systems.

SECTION 3. DEMAND REDUCTION MEASURES.

The demand reduction measures for Garden Ridge Stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are set out in Appendix A. For clarification, certain permitted and exempt water uses are also listed. For reference, Table 1 lists the Edwards Aquifer trigger conditions for the various stages of the Edwards Aquifer Drought Management Plan.

The Edwards Aquifer Reduction Stages and other factors including condition of current water supplies, pumping trends, current and forecast precipitation, and other relevant data will be considered when implementing a demand reduction measure for Garden Ridge. The Mayor of Garden Ridge is authorized to order, by proclamation, implementation of demand reduction measures and activation of Stages 1 through 5 of the City of Garden Ridge Drought Management Plan.

TABLE 1	
Reduction Stage	J-17 Well Level
1	660' (10 day rolling average)
2	650' (10 day rolling average)
3	640' (10 day rolling average)
4	630' (10 day rolling average)
5	625' (10 day rolling average)

a) Public Issuance of Drought Stage Declaration: The Declaration of a drought stage will be publicly issued by the City of Garden Ridge. Such declaration shall be placed on the City sign, distributed through the Garden Ridge Emergency Alert System, posted on the City's website, posted on the City's social media pages, and/or published in the official City newspaper of record.

b) Restricting the Use of Water:

1. Upon declaration of a drought stage by the City of Garden Ridge, compliance with the demand reduction measures shall be required by all users within two (2) weeks of the declaration.
2. Demand reduction measures are attached as Appendix A and are herein incorporated for all purposes.
3. Upon declaration of a drought stage by the City of Garden Ridge, the sale of water to a temporary service customer for use outside the City shall be prohibited. The sale of water to a temporary service customer for use within the City up to an amount of 50,000 gallons shall be at the discretion of the Public Works Director. This provision may not be used to fill new swimming pools in drought stage 3-5.

e) Water Rate Surcharges:

1. Critical Period Surcharges will be implemented and billed in the monthly billing cycle in accordance with the following schedule:
 - i. Stage 3: Customers will be charged the current water rate plus a 100% surcharge for use over 40,000 gallons.
 - ii. Stage 4 and 5: Customers will be charged the current water rate plus a 200% surcharge for use over 40,000 gallons.
2. Water rate surcharges will remain in effect only so long as the City is in Stages 3, 4, or 5 of the Drought Management Plan.
3. Water rate surcharges shall coincide with the normal monthly billing cycle of the Garden Ridge Water Department. Surcharges shall be applied to the next billing cycle following the implementation of Stages 3, 4, or 5.
4. Surcharge revenue shall be deposited in the Water Fund and such revenue is to be used for Water Company Operations.

f) Modification of Current Demand Reduction Measures:

The demand reduction measure may be changed at the discretion of the Mayor of Garden Ridge when the conditions and factors creating the current measure have changed.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY WATER USE REDUCTION.

The Mayor of Garden Ridge is authorized to order, by proclamation, immediate implementation of provisions of Stages 1 through 5 of the City of Garden Ridge Drought Management Plan or other measures necessary to respond to an emergency water use reduction. Likewise, the Mayor is authorized to rescind these actions. Users shall be required to comply immediately with the provisions of the proclamation and are subject to the penalties specified in Section 5.

SECTION 5. PENALTIES.

- a) A person who knowingly or intentionally violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor offense and upon conviction be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000). Each day's violation constitutes a separate offense. Compliance may also be sought through injunctive relief in the District Court.
- b) No violation, definition, or penalty under this section shall have bearing on any violation, definition, or penalty under any other section of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT.

- a) Applicable to Resident and Non-Resident Customers: The enforcement provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to all persons and property utilizing water purchased from and provided by the City. For purposes of this Ordinance, it shall be presumed that any person, in whose name a water meter connection is registered with the City of Garden Ridge Water Company, has knowingly made, caused, used, or permitted to use the water received from the City and that use of said water in a manner contrary to the provisions of Ordinance No. 61, or in an amount in excess of the use permitted by the conservation stage in effect, is considered a violation of Ordinance No. 61 by that person. Proof that the particular premises have a water meter connection registered in the name of the defendant named in a complaint issued under the auspices of Ordinance No. 61 shall constitute in evidence a prima facie presumption that the person in whose name such water connection was registered was the person who permitted the illegal use of water to occur on the premises.

SECTION 7. VARIANCES.

- a) **Request For Variance:** A person may file a written request for a variance from these rules with the City of Garden Ridge. The request must contain the following information:
 1. The specific nature of the variance requested; and
 2. A detailed explanation of why the person believes they should be granted the variance, including any supporting documentation; and
 3. A signed statement that the facts contained in the request are true and within the person's personal knowledge.
 4. During Drought Stages 1, 2 and 3, Appendix B provides special variance allowances, criteria and instructions for the purposes of establishing new landscape planting and washing of impervious surface areas. Approval or disapproval of these special variance requests or any limitations on water volume or other conditions will be based on the City Manager's assessment of the ability of the water system to support this additional water usage and that this usage will not be a substantial burden on other customers. The format

- of the instructions may be modified by the city as required to suit print, online or other application request methods.
5. The city may charge an administrative fee to defray the costs of processing any variance request.
- b) Additional Information:** The City of Garden Ridge may request the variance requester to provide additional information, which must be filed within ten (10) calendar days of the request or as otherwise directed in the request.
- c) When Variance May Be Granted:** A variance may be granted only when the variance is not contrary to the public interest and is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this Ordinance so that the public health, safety, and welfare may be secured and that substantial justice may be done. The Water Commission shall recommend to City Council a variance from these regulations when, due to special conditions, an undue hardship or unique situation will result from requiring compliance. The City Council is the final authority on variances. The variance, if granted, would be the minimum necessary relief required to alleviate the undue hardship or unique situation with the following considerations:
1. That the requested variance does not violate the intent, purpose or spirit of the drought regulations; and
 2. That the relief sought will not cause significant harm to any other person or group of persons or result in the City of Garden Ridge being in violation of regulatory requirements; and
 3. That the hardship is not the result of a situation or condition caused by the applicant's own actions.
- d) Terms and Conditions of the Variance:**
1. The City Council may grant a variance for such a term and in accordance with any conditions they deem appropriate.
 2. It shall be a condition of every variance granted by the City or City Council that the variance may be rescinded based on changed circumstances, new information, or failure of the holder of the variance to abide by the terms and conditions of the variance or to comply with these rules or any other order or rule of the City of Garden Ridge.
 3. The City Council may require a person granted a variance to file reports with the City of Garden Ridge containing such information as the City Council believes relevant to monitoring the continuing appropriateness of the variance
 4. The City Manager shall provide a summary to City Council on the disposition of all variance requests as pending, approved, denied or forwarded for Water Commission recommendation. Details will be provided as requested by City Council.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part of any provision thereof other than the part so decided to be invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage, approval, and publication according to law.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON this XXth day of XX, 20XX.

XXXXXXXXXX

Mayor

ATTEST:

Marisa Spencer
City Secretary

APPENDIX A
DEMAND REDUCTION MEASURES

Unless modified by specific stage requirements, the following general requirements apply.

Watering by an irrigation system or portable sprinkler is permitted any day only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Watering with a hand-held hose, bucket, drip irrigation system or soaker hose is permitted any day, any time.

Washing vehicles and impervious surface areas is permitted any day at any time. Where possible, water must run onto a pervious surface. Any hoses used must have an automatic shut-off nozzle.

There are no water use restrictions relating to the permitting, construction and filling of residential swimming pools.

Stage requirements do not apply to non-potable water, gray water, or treated effluent.

Wasting water is prohibited.

STAGE 1

1. Watering with an irrigation system, or portable sprinkler is permitted only once per week on the designated watering day during the hours of 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Last Digit of Address	Day
0	Monday
1&2	Tuesday
3&4	Wednesday
5&6	Thursday
7&8	Friday
9	Saturday

Areas without a street address such as medians, neighborhood entryways, or common areas water as if their address ended in 0.

2. Watering with hand-held hose, bucket, drip irrigation or soaker hose is permitted any day, any time.
3. Washing impervious surfaces is prohibited except as approved by special variance described below.

Stage 1 restrictions continue until there is a announcement that the Stage level has been changed.

STAGE 2

1. Watering with an irrigation system, or portable sprinkler, is permitted only once a week on the designated watering day during the hours of 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Designated watering days shall follow the schedule listed in Stage 1.
2. Watering with a handheld hose, bucket, drip irrigation or soaker hose is permitted any day during the hours of 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 12 a.m.
3. Washing impervious surfaces is prohibited except as approved by special variance described below.

Stage 2 restrictions continue until there is an announcement that the Stage level has been changed.

STAGE 3

1. Watering with an irrigation system, or portable sprinkler is permitted every other week beginning on the second Monday after Stage 3 has been declared and only on a designated watering day from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Designated watering days shall follow the schedule listed in Stage 1.
2. Watering with a handheld hose, bucket, drip irrigation or soaker hose is permitted during the hours of 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
3. Washing impervious surfaces is prohibited
4. Aesthetic use of City provided water is not permitted.
5. Filling new swimming pools with city supplied water is prohibited. Filling of new pools with city supplied water may continue for pools with building permits issued either during a period of no drought declaration or during drought stages 1-2.
6. Water customers are subject to a 100% surcharge for use over 40,000 gallons per monthly billing cycle.

Stage 3 restrictions continue until there is an announcement that the Stage level has been changed.

STAGE 4

1. All restrictions in Stage 3.
2. Water customers are subject to a 200% surcharge for use over 40,000 gallons per monthly billing cycle.
3. The Mayor may establish interim restrictions until the City Council is able to meet to establish additional restrictions.

Stage 4 restrictions continue until there is an announcement that the Stage level has been changed.

STAGE 5

1. All restrictions in Stage 4.
2. Any other conditions including public health and safety as directed by the Mayor and City Council.
3. Notwithstanding any provision of these rules, water may be used when and to the extent it is necessary to prevent danger to public health, safety, or welfare or to the extent required by State or Federal law.

Stage 5 restrictions continue until there is an announcement that the Stage level has been changed.

APPENDIX B
SPECIAL VARIANCE REQUEST
FOR WATERING NEW LANDSCAPE PLANTING OR WASHING IMPERVIOUS
SURFACES

For Stages 1, 2 and 3, the City Manager or their designated representative, following the criteria described below, may directly approve a special variance for the purposes of establishing new landscape plants.

1. From November through April, daily watering using an irrigation system or portable sprinkler for up to three (3) consecutive weeks is allowed for for the establishment of new landscape plants.

2. The variance request must be completed using the included form and be approved prior to installation of landscaping. Plant and turf types and ground preparation and other actions must follow the requirements of Ordinance 159 in effect at the time. Work must occur during either the drought stage in effect when the variance was approved or a lower or no drought stage

3. Preparatory work such as removal of old landscaping, addition of new soil or installation of irrigation systems can be done before variance request approval, however, these actions are separate from obtaining variance request approval.

4. Watering must follow the daily watering times for the current demand reduction stage and usage will be charged at the rates, including surcharges in effect for that stage.

5. In Stage 3, the variance will only permit irrigation system or portable sprinkler watering for a maximum of 7,500 square feet.

6. If the special variance is not approved by the City Manager, a person may submit a Variance Request as described in Section 7 of this Ordinance.

For Stages 1 and 2, the City Manager or their designated representative, following the criteria described below, may directly approve a special variance for the purpose of washing impervious surfaces. This type of washing is primarily for aesthetic reasons or for preparing a surface for subsequent work.

1. The variance request must be completed using the form shown in Appendix B. and be approved prior to start of work.

2. Runoff where possible must go onto a pervious surface.

3. Usage will be charged at the rates in effect for that stage.

4. If the special variance is not approved by the City Manager, a person may submit a Variance Request as described in Section 7 of this Ordinance.

SPECIAL DROUGHT VARIANCE REQUEST FORM

Property Owner _____

Property Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

New Landscaping Planting -

Reminder - Plant and turf types to be installed, ground preparation and other actions must follow the requirements of Ordinance 159 in effect at the time. Read this ordinance before proceeding.

Type of Landscape Planting - Attach sketch of area where variance is requested

Approximate total square footage of installed Irrigation System _____

Approximate total square footage of New Landscape Planting _____

Washing Impervious Surfaces -

Type of Washing to be Performed

Requested date for variance to start _____ Time Frame for work to be performed _____

Owner signature _____ Date submitted _____

City acknowledgment of receipt _____ Date _____

City approval - Yes__ No__ Signature _____ Date _____

City approved variance Start date _____ End Date _____

City comments and additional actions _____

The detailed requirements for this Special Drought Variance Request are contained in Ordinance 61 - Drought Management Plan Appendix B and Ordinance 159 - Landscape and Irrigation System Requirements. Please review these and contact the City if you have questions.



LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WATER COMMISSION

The Water Commission of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to consider revisions to Ordinance No. 61 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, establishing the Drought Management Plan for the City of Garden Ridge; establishing trigger conditions and demand reduction measures; providing a variance procedure; providing a penalty for violations of this Ordinance; providing a cumulative and savings clause; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.

The City encourages citizen participation, and the public is invited to attend the public hearing in person to provide oral comments on this matter. Alternatively, written comments on this matter may be submitted in advance in accordance with the *Notice of Procedures for Written Comments during Public Hearings* posted on the City's Website at: <https://www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/292/PublicLegal-Notices>.

The meeting can be viewed live on the City of Garden Ridge YouTube Channel and will be archived on the City's Website for on demand viewing. Please feel free to contact City Hall at 210-651-6632 if you need additional information on this matter.

This is to certify that I, Marisa Spencer, posted this Notice at 11:00 a.m. on September 4, 2025, on the bulletin board located at the entrance to Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas.

Marisa Spencer

Marisa Spencer
City Secretary



ORDINANCE NO. 159- DRAFT

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF WATER CONSERVATION; PROVIDING FOR VARIANCES AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF SAID ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the City of Garden Ridge is a Home Rule City located in Comal County Texas; and,

WHEREAS, one water source from which the city pumps water from is legislatively regulated and therefore over pumping from the water source can result in significant fines and levies; and,

WHEREAS, due to weather conditions in south Texas droughts are common and can result in mandatory drought and water conservation restrictions and rules which limit the amount and times at which water can be used by residents and businesses in the city; and,

WHEREAS, lot sizes in Garden Ridge are commonly $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and larger and landscape and sprinkler systems consume approximately 50% *or more* of the water metered at residences and businesses in the city and therefore the city has determined that there are means by which this type of water usage can be reduced; and,

WHEREAS, implementing water conservation standards for landscaping and irrigation systems are necessary to preserve and protect the health and safety of the city's residents to ensure an ample water supply for the City of Garden Ridge.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the proposed revisions promote the health, safety and welfare of the City and Ordinance No. 159 is amended as contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE, TEXAS:

Section 1. Definitions.

Ground cover vegetation – means perennial vegetation that spreads along the ground that is adaptive to traffic and requires minimal maintenance and irrigation.

Irrigation - the practice of applying controlled amounts of water to land to help grow crops and landscape plants.

Irrigation system - an underground or above ground fixed system of pipes, fittings and water spray or drip emission devices which when in operation dispenses water onto a landscape area.

Natural state – means an area or areas of a property on which trees, grasses and other vegetation have remained in their unimproved state

New landscape or landscaping plants - means any plant or seed planted in or transplanted to an area within such period of time as to accomplish a reasonable establishment and maintenance of growth. This definition includes the removal and replacement of existing landscape plants and turf grass with new landscape plants or turf. Periodic maintenance of existing landscaping including application of grass seed, mulch, soil top dressing or fertilizer is not considered new landscaping.

State licensed irrigator – an individual licensed by the State of Texas to design and install irrigation systems

Summer Dormancy – means the ability of turf grass to survive without water for a period of sixty consecutive days during the months of May through September

Turf grass - means perennial grasses that are adapted to regular mowing and traffic through management

Variance - means an exception to any provisions of this ordinance

Xeriscape or xeriscaping – is the concept and process of landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation. This process utilizes a combination of drought resistant and low water use plants, native plants, pervious hardscape, soil preparation and irrigation system design. Turf grass, and other ground cover, when used, is of a drought tolerant variety. Further guidance on and examples of xeriscape landscaping can be found at resources such as - Comal Master Gardener (comalmg.org) and Texas A&M University (tamu.edu).

Section 2. Drought Tolerant Grasses and Ground Cover.

- a) All new or replacement turf grass and other ground cover planted for residential and commercial properties and developments must utilize drought tolerant varieties that can withstand summer dormancy. Repair of existing turf grass using one pallet (typically 400-500 square feet) or less of turf grass is exempt from this requirement. Drought tolerant turf grasses are limited to:

St. Augustine varieties:	Floritam variety only
Bermuda varieties:	Celebration
	GN1
	Tex Turf
	Tifway 419
	Common
	Grimes EXP
	Tif Sport
Buffalo varieties:	All varieties
Zoysia varieties:	El Toro
	Empire
	Jamur
	Palisades

b) Turf Grass Soil Support

Under any new or replacement turf grass, there shall be a minimum of four (4) inches of soil including a minimum of .25 inches of Soil Organic Matter (SOM) laid or equivalent amount blended with the balance of the soil. Enriched topsoil or other enriched and finely screened landscaping material should be applied to meet the total depth and SOM requirement. Repair of existing turf grass using one pallet or less of turf grass is exempt from this requirement.

Section 3. Xeriscape Landscape.

- a) New residential and commercial properties and developments must use xeriscape landscaping on all areas not left in their natural state. Builders and developers are restricted to offering Xeriscape landscape plans which meet this ordinance. All new residential and commercial developments must incorporate xeriscape landscape requirements into subdivision covenants.
- b) Replacement or new landscaping projects on existing residential and commercial properties are not required but are recommended to use xeriscape landscaping.

Section 4. Irrigation Systems.

- a) No more than 15,000 square feet of the pervious ground cover can be irrigated, regardless of lot size. Irrigation systems installed prior to (date of enactment) are not subject to this limitation.
- b) See Ordinance 54 for additional standards and requirements related to irrigation systems
- a) Installation, whether by state licensed irrigator or by property owner:
New system, the replacement of existing systems and any extension of any existing system greater than 50 percent of the original system requires approval from the City Water Department prior to beginning installation.
- b) Approval Requirements:
 - 1. A scale (1" to 30') schematic and detailed plan of the proposed installation.
 - 2. All systems must comply with Texas Administrative Code Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 334, Subchapter C, paragraph (h) and this ordinance.
 - 3. Connection of the irrigation system to the water supply must be done by a licensed irrigator and the backflow device inspected by a licensed backflow tester.
 - 4. The plan must be designed according to Texas Administrative Code Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 344, Landscape irrigation, Subchapter F and include complete coverage of the area to be irrigated.
 - 5. The irrigation plan must include, at minimum, the following information:

- i. The irrigator's seal, signature and date of signing or the property owner's signature and date of signing.
 - ii. All major physical signatures and the boundaries of the area(s) to be watered
 - iii. A North arrow
 - iv. A legend
 - v. The zone flow measurement for each zone
 - vi. Location and type of controller and rain sensor
 - vii. Location, type and size of each
 - a. Water source, such as but not limited to, a water meter and point(s) of connection
 - b. Backflow prevention device
 1. Must be a minimum of 1" or size of meter if larger
 - c. Water emission device including, but not limited to, spray heads, rotary sprinkler heads, quick-couplers, bubblers, drip or micro sprays
 - d. Valves including, but not limited to zone valves, master valves and isolation valves
 - e. Pressure regulation component
 1. Must be same size as meter and rated for 15 – 150 psi (not 25 – 75 psi)
 - f. Main line and lateral piping
 - g. The design pressure, which cannot exceed manufacturer's recommendation
- c) The design of all new, refurbished or extensions of existing sprinkler systems should include water conservation features, such as sprinkler heads which emit large drops of water rather than a fine mist, the use of drip irrigation where possible and sprinkler system layouts that limit the impact of wind.
- d) Irrigation systems must comply with any and all other requirements for such systems as regulated through City of Garden Ridge Ordinance numbers 19, 54 and 61.
- e) Completion of Irrigation System
- (1) Upon completion of the irrigation system, there must be a final inspection with the installer, the City Water Department and, if possible, the home owner.
 - (2) The City is to be furnished a copy of the final plan, noting any changes, if any, from the original plan submitted.

Section 5. Gray Water Recycling Systems for Irrigation.

A Gray Water Recycling System, if used, MUST be installed per the International Plumbing Code and Texas Administrative Code, Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 285, On-Site Sewage Facilities, Subchapter H, Disposal of Gray Water, Subparagraphs 285.80 and 285.81

Section 6. Rainwater Harvesting.

Rainwater harvesting, if used, should follow the guidelines in the Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting by the Texas Water Development Board, most current edition.

Section 7. Variance.

A variance to the ordinance is available to any person or entity if they can demonstrate to the City of Garden Ridge City Council after recommendation from the City Water Commission that they possess an alternative plan and seek permitting for an alternative plan that does not meet the specifications of this ordinance but does have the same conservation impact to the property in question. The determination of what constitutes “the same conservation impact to the property in question” shall be in the sole discretion of the governing body and their determination shall be legislative in nature and final. Such determination of a variance shall be based on the information provided to the Council at the time of the requested variance. All such materials must be provided to the City at least 30 days prior to any requested action by the Commission, and after Commission action, shall be set for City Council consideration at its next meeting. If supplemental information is presented, such application for variance must return to the Commission for action, prior to Council Action.

Section 8. Penalty.

A violation of this ordinance by act, or omission, including the failure to comply with any requirement of this Ordinance shall be considered a Class C misdemeanor and the municipal court shall have jurisdiction over such offense. Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not less than one-hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. Each day such act or omission occurs, and each section of the ordinance violated constitutes a separate and independent offense.

In addition to misdemeanor prosecution, the City may seek civil penalties pursuant to Chapter 54 of the Texas Local Government Code for any violation and obtain injunction, attorney’s fees, costs of court and civil penalties of up to either \$1,000 per day or \$5,000 per day as provided by State Law. Civil penalties are cumulative to criminal penalties.

Section 9. Severability.

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part of any provision thereof other than the part so decided to be invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage, approval and publication according to law.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS XXXXXXX.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Secretary