



CITY OF WASILLA

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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM NO. 96-76

OVERDUE FINES FOR LIBRARY MATERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 96-36

August 6, 1996

FROM: Mary Ellen Emmons, Library Director
THROUGH: Mayor John Stein

Attached is a copy of Ordinance No. 96-36. City Code enables the collection of overdue fines for library material, and this ordinance amends the Code to specify fines and administrative fees for overdue, lost or damaged library and the collection schedule. City Attorney, Richard Deuser, has recommended the Wasilla City Code reflect the overdue fines / fees, in accordance with Title 29, in addition to Administrative Policy NO. 96-07, which was included in the July 25 Council packet.

Currently, Wasilla Public Library collects overdue fines for videos and a \$2.00 fee *per patron* for items overdue more than 3 weeks. The late return of library material has steadily increased over the years, resulting in higher costs for notification and reduced access to resources by other patrons. The Palmer Public Library began daily fines (25 cents) in 1992, after a drastic budget cut. The Matanuska Susitna Borough libraries will be collecting fines according to a schedule similar to that outlined in the attached ordinance.

Public notice of the overdue fines and administrative fees has been initiated with signage, and bookmarks to each patron borrowing material. Announcements will appear in the local newspaper. Patrons are being urged to return all late material prior to September 1, since the fines will calculate on a retroactive basis. Library staff are being instructed to allow for a transition period during the first two months, allowing patrons every benefit of knowing about the new policy.

The Palmer and Matanuska Susitna Libraries agree to honor the fines of all network libraries, and a reciprocal collection system is being established.