

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, temporarily suspending City of Ellensburg utility account late fees and temporarily amending the collection and disconnection process for certain delinquent City of Ellensburg utility accounts.

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-23 imposed mandatory prohibitions on investor-owned utilities, prohibiting disconnection of utility services, and prohibiting charging late or reconnection fees for nonpayment due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Proclamation 20-23.2 extended the order to apply to all local government public utility service providers retroactively to March 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Proclamation 20-23.2 was subsequently amended several times, which extended the order through its effective rescission date of September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Proclamation 20-23.2, as subsequently amended, city management issued an order offering repayment plan options for city utility customers to accept within sixty (60) days of rescission of Governor's order (November 30, 2021) allowing customers to repay any accounts in arrears over a six (6) month repayment period; and

WHEREAS, the governor's utility moratorium order ended September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the period for City of Ellensburg utility customers with accounts in arrears to return a signed repayment agreement ended November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,650 utility customers are more than 30 days in arrears and scheduled for disconnection due to nonpayment for active accounts and referral to a collections agency for closed accounts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington, as follows:

Section 1. All late fees that are or will be due and owing for City of Ellensburg utility accounts, as set forth in Chapter 2.12 of the Ellensburg City Code, for the period December 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 are hereby waived.

Section 2. All City of Ellensburg utility accounts with balances that are thirty (30) days or more past due on September 30, 2021, and that are still outstanding on February 7, 2022 will have their December 31, 2021 balances referred to a collection agency, with the exception of the accounts that have a City-approved repayment agreement that is received by the City by December 31, 2021.

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Section 3. The City of Ellensburg Finance Director is hereby allowed to extend or amend repayment arrangements on an as needed basis for up to two (2) additional months for City of Ellensburg utility customers that had returned a signed City-approved repayment agreement received by the City by December 31, 2021.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg this 3rd day of January, 2021.

Attest:


Nancy J. Kilkenny
Mayor


Beth Leades
City Clerk